



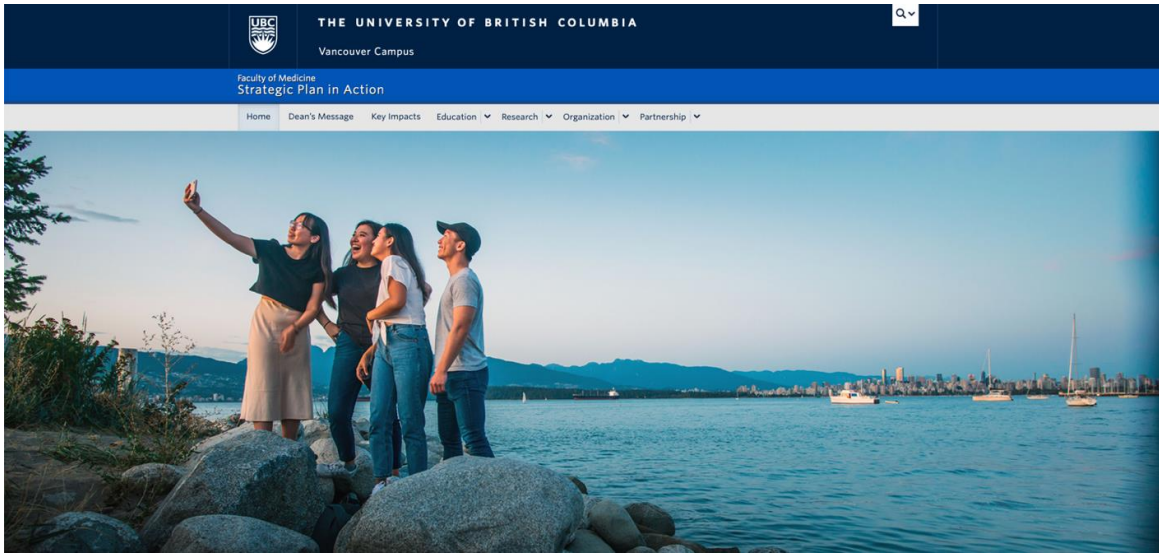
UBC Faculty of Medicine Report from the Dean Full Faculty Meeting

Date: May 14, 2024

Strategic Plan

Overview and general updates

- The Faculty of Medicine Strategic Plan Progress & Evaluation Report Year 2 is complete. Implementation across all Pillars is on track. Of the 137 projects associated with the strategic plan implementation, 69% of projects are underway and 31% have been completed.
- The Faculty of Medicine received 31 proposals for the 2023 Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) call. The level of competition was exceptionally high, with many excellent proposals making the selection process challenging. *For information on all the successful proposals, please click [here](#)*
- In addition to the SIF, funding has also been allocated to the Pillar-Initiated Projects (PIP) to advance pillar-specific strategic priorities that have not been addressed through the SIF program. These initiatives include the development of a faculty-wide strategy for shared research facilities, the introduction of new educational programs and student exchange opportunities, and the creation of tools and resources to support our organizational goals. The PIP program was launched last year with a new call issued for proposals for 2024.
- In recognition and celebration of the monumental progress we have made since the launch of the Faculty of Medicine's Strategic Plan, we are pleased to share a special 2024 mid-term report: "Strategic Plan in Action."
 - The online report will officially go live on Tuesday, May 14:
stratplan-in-action.med.ubc.ca
- Developed by the Office of Creative & Communications together with the Dean's Executive team, this special report showcases some of the many key impacts to date and features stories of how faculty, clinical faculty, staff and learners across the province are turning strategy into action and helping to transform health for everyone.



Strategic Plan in Action

Mid-term Report

Discover some of the many ways our faculty, staff and learners are turning the Faculty of Medicine’s strategic plan, **Building the Future: 2021-2026**, into action and transforming health for everyone.



Looking back, looking forward

A message from Dean Dermot Kelleher.



Creating a medical program that is equitable and accessible to all

How UBC’s Indigenous and Black Student MD Admissions Pathways are transforming medical education — and health.



Accelerating the development of lifesaving medicine

Faculty of Medicine researchers are setting a new tempo for biomedical innovation to save more lives, sooner.



Education

General Updates

- Advancement of the Education Pillar Strategy 1 work to identify how education FoM departments, schools, and programs are enhancing program accessibility, inclusion, and support services for current and future learners who identify as members of underrepresented groups. The overarching goals of this work are to increase enrollment in FoM programs of learners who identify as members of underrepresented groups (pre-admissions) and improve inclusion and support services available to learners who identify as members of underrepresented groups (post-admissions).
- UBC's enterprise system infrastructure modernization project continues with its next phase of delivering a renewed, reliable, and secure student information system – Workday Student. Launch 1 successfully completed in October 2023 and Launch 2 began in February 2024 with access for students set for May 21, 2024. Questions regarding IRP Student can be directed to the FoM IRP Student Project Team at med.irpstudent@ubc.ca.
- [UBC Vancouver Spring 2024 graduation ceremonies](#) will be delivered in-person on campus at the Chan Centre for the Performing Arts from Wednesday May 22nd – Thursday May 30th, 2024. Ceremony #1 and #2 on May 22nd are specific to the FoM.
- The Continuous Learning Advancement Fund (CLAF) supports the creation, renewal and expansion of non-degree learning opportunities at UBC Vancouver to help increase the university's capacity to serve continuous learners in British Columbia, as set out in UBC's Strategic Plan. The CLAF fund accepts proposals for non-credit offerings with preference given to proposals for fully online micro-credential non-credit programs serving continuous learners seeking to change (reskill) or advance (upskill) their careers in high-demand sectors. A total of \$400,000 is available in funding for the 2024/25 CLAF cycle. For more information & details, please visit the [Extended Learning website](#).

Undergraduate Medical Education (UGME)

- Following the [Government of BC's announcement to expand](#) the UBC's MD Undergraduate Program (MDUP) by 40 seats, the first increased intake of students began in Fall 2023, and were regionally distributed across British Columbia as follows:
 - Island Medical Program (IMP) will be increased by 8 seats (from 32 seats to 40)
 - Northern Medical Program (NMP) will be increased by 8 seats (from 32 seats to 40)
 - Southern Medical Program (SMP) will be increased by 8 seats (from 32 seats to 40)
 - Vancouver Fraser Medical Program (VFMP) will be increased by 16 seats (from 192 seats to 208)
- This expansion will be a phased approach over two years, the first intake of 18 students started on August 21, 2023 as part of the academic year (AY) 2023-2024. This includes an additional four students each in the IMP, NMP and SMP; and 10 students in the VFMP. These students will



enter Year 3 in Academic Year (AY) 2026-2027.

- The MD Student Affairs Office is in the process of hiring a Career Advising Officer and a Career Planning and Wellbeing Program Lead for MD Student Affairs to strengthen and enhance the services students receive for career advising and career planning as it relates to the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS) Standard 11, Element 11.2.
- The UBC FoM MD Undergraduate Program (MDUP) will undergo external review by CACMS in March – April 2025.

Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME)

- As part of the annual Resident Doctors of BC Appreciation Week (February 5-9, 2024), PGME shared some [highlights, information and spotlights](#) to celebrate UBC Resident Doctors and Postgraduate Medical Education Residency Training Programs.
- UBC Faculty of Medicine launches [new rural family medicine residency program](#). The Rural Immersion program will train UBC family medicine resident doctors in communities across northern B.C. Starting in July 2024, medical graduates will have the opportunity to further specialize in rural family medicine through UBC's new and innovative Rural Immersion program – the first of its kind in B.C. and one of the very few offered at medical schools across Canada.
- PGME has provides two websites to aid new residents in their onboarding journey. The [New Resident Registration Guide](#) is the official site from PGME which will lead residents through tasks needed to ensure they can begin training. The [Resident Insider](#) is a brand-new website written by residents for residents and will help with tips and tricks that residents can use to thrive.

Health Professions Programs

- The following UBC FoM Health Professions programs will undergo an accreditation review. Preparatory work is complete or currently underway:
 - **Master of Physical Therapy (MPT):** Accreditation of the Vancouver, Fraser, Prince George sites by the Physiotherapy Education Accreditation Canada (PEAC) - April 2024.
 - **Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT):** Accreditation of the Fraser site by the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT) - June 2024.
 - **Master of Science in Genetic Counselling (MSC):** Accreditation of the program by the Accreditation Council for Genetic Counselling (ACGC) - October/November 2024
- The Master of Physical Therapy program had an exciting start to the year with the Fraser Valley cohort officially moving into the new location in Surrey. The new Surrey campus features state-of-the-art teaching and learning spaces including plinths labs, and lecture theatre with video conferencing technology, as well as breakrooms and study spaces for students.



Graduate and Postdoctoral Education (GPE)

- The [FoM 2024 Building the Future- Research Trainee Day and Lecture Series](#) was held on March 7, 2024. This event brought members of the Faculty of Medicine together to share and learn the diverse and innovative research work of graduate students, fellows, and recent senior faculty distinguished researcher awardees. There were 75 presentations (poster and oral) and more than 95 people registered for this full-day event.

Faculty Development

- The inaugural Residency Program Leaders Hive session held in November was a success and well-received by participants. This new initiative is a collaboration between Postgraduate Medical Education and Faculty Development that aims to bring Program and Site Directors together to learn about common topics. More information on this event and upcoming sessions can be found [here](#).

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

- The Continuing Professional Development (CPD) unit will undergo an external review by the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Education (CACME) in November 25-26, 2024. Preparatory work for this visit is currently underway.

Centre for Health Education Scholarship (CHES)

- Throughout the fall of 2023, CHES invited applications for the 2024 cohorts of the Master of Health Professions Education (MHPE-Canada) and the Clinical Educator Fellowship Program (CEFP). This included the inaugural call for applicants to the Indigenous Stream of the Fellowship. More information on all three can be found [here](#); applications are now closed and final cohorts were determined in early February.
- The Centre for Health Education Scholarship will be hosting the 14th annual CHES Celebration of Scholarship on October 2, 2024. This event is an opportunity for the CHES community to showcase and share their work and celebrate the accomplishments of the health professions education scholarship network. [Click here to reference](#) the 2024 CHES Celebration of Scholarship event program.
- The Centre for Health Education Scholarship (CHES) have provided their annual summary of UBC's presence at this year's International Congress on Academic Medicine (ICAM) which happened this spring on April 11-15. The UBC community offerings included at least 26 oral presentations, 13 posters, and 7 workshops. The presenters from UBC included a wide variety of senior leaders, staff, learners and alumni. For a full listing of presentations known to be authored by UBC members, [click here](#).



Research

UBC-led Canada's Immuno-Engineering and Biomanufacturing Hub (CIEBH), funded by federal grant for pandemic preparedness:

- One of five national hubs funded by the federal government, CIEBH brings together a coalition of academic, health, industry, and not-for-profit sector partners to help position Canada as a global epicentre for the development and manufacturing of next-generation immune-based therapeutics
- With \$575 million available in funding as part of the integrated Canada Biomedical Research Fund (CBRF) and Biosciences Research Infrastructure Fund (BRIF) Stage 2 competition, CIEBH submitted a total of 17 proposals for this funding competition in fall 2023 (deadline September 7th, 2023).
- The funding decisions from this competition have been disclosed to the project team leads and their host academic institutions; however, this information is currently under embargo by the Federal government. The official Federal announcement of the results of the funding decisions is anticipated for May 6, 2024. This significant investment is expected to help advance the [Government of Canada's Biomanufacturing and Life Sciences Strategy](#) by strengthening the research capacity of Canada's biomanufacturing and life sciences ecosystem across Canada.

Leadership Searches

- Director, Centre for Blood Research (CBR)
 - Search is underway
- Director, Vancouver Prostate Centre (VPC)
 - Search is underway
- Director, Centre for Gender and Sexual Health Equity (CGSHE)
 - Search is underway
- Director, UBC Centre for Disease Control (UBC CDC)
 - Search is in final stages
- President's Excellence Chair in Precision Oncology
 - Search has been re-launched
- Sunny Hill BC Leadership Chair in Child Development
 - Search has been re-launched

Leadership Appointments

- Executive Director, Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI) & Associate Dean, Research VCHRI
 - Dr. Teresa Tsang has been appointed to the role until December 31, 2028
- Assistant Dean, Research, Southern Medical Program (SMP)



- Dr. Christopher West has been appointed to the role until March 31, 2025
- Director, Life Sciences Institute
 - Dr. Leonard Foster has been appointed to the role until June 30, 2029
- Director, Centre for Heart Lung Innovation
 - Dr. Don Sin has been re-appointed to the role until June 30, 2028
- Director, Centre for Chronic Disease Prevention and Management (CCDPM) and Reichwald Family UBC Southern Medical Program Chair in Preventative Medicine
 - Dr. Kathleen Martin-Ginis has been re-appointed to the role until June 30, 2027
- Interim Director, International Collaboration on Repair Discoveries (ICORD)
 - Dr. John (Kip) Kramer has been re-appointed to the role until June 30, 2024
- Interim Director, Centre for Blood Research
 - Dr. Ed Conway has been appointed to the role until June 30, 2024

Completed Centre/Institute Reviews

- Centre for Health Services and Policy Research (external) November 27 & 29 & December 11th & 15th, 2023
- Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health (external) January 25 & 26, 2024
- Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics (external) January 29 & 31, 2024
- Providence Health Care Research Institute (internal) February 20 & 23, 2024

Upcoming Centre/Institute Reviews

- External review of the BC Children’s Hospital Research Institute is expected to take place in fall 2024
- External review of the Centre for Advancing Health Outcomes is expected to take place in fall 2024

Awards

2024 National Research Awards

- Adjudication is underway for the Dr. Chew Wei Memorial Prize in Cancer Research Award, Margolese National Heart Disorders Prize Award and the Margolese National Brain Disorders Prize.

CFI Innovation Fund Awards

Seven projects led by FoM researchers have been awarded funding in the latest round of the CFI Innovation Fund and the British Columbia Knowledge Development Fund:

Drs. François Bénard and Arman Rahmim, Department of Radiology - *Infrastructure for Accelerated In Vivo Molecular Imaging and Theranostic Research*

- Dr. Janice Eng, Department of Physical Therapy - *SMART Labs*
- Drs. Leonard Foster and Honglin Luo, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine - *Transformative and Disruptive Systems Immunology*
- Drs. James Johnson and Elizabeth Rideout, Department of Cellular and Physiological Sciences - *Improved Pre-clinical modeling of metabolic resilience for novel diabetes and obesity therapeutics*



- Drs. Alexander Rauscher and Piotr Kozlowski, Department of Pediatrics and Departments of Radiology and Urologic Sciences - *Field Camera and Shim System for Precision MRI*
- Dr. Steven Jones (UBC Lead), Department of Medical Genetics - *CGEn – Canada’s national platform for genome sequencing and analysis*. Lead Institution: The Hospital for Sick Children
- Dr. Natalie Strynadka (UBC Lead), Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology - *TRaC: Therapies for Rare Cancers*. Lead Institution: University of Calgary

Canada Research Chairs

The following four researchers from the FoM are among UBC's newly announced Canada Research Chairs:

Tier 2 Canada Research Chairs

- Dr. Anna Blakney, School of Biomedical Engineering – *CRC in Nucleic Acid Bioengineering*
- Dr. Kamyar Keramatian, Department of Psychiatry - *CRC in Early Intervention in Psychosis/Bipolar Disorder*
- Dr. Yongjin Park, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine - *CRC in Integrative Causality Inference of Cancer Mechanisms*
- Dr. Carolina Tropini, School of Biomedical Engineering – *CRC in Quantitative Microbiota Biology for Health*

VPRI Call for Faculty CRC Proposals for Persons with Disabilities: The Office of the Vice President Research and Innovation (VPRI) has invited all UBC Faculties to propose Tier 2 Canada Research Chairs (CRC) based on their robust plans for recruiting or retaining leading researchers with disabilities.

Faculties may propose CRCs in one of the three tri-agency streams at the Tier 2 level. Two NSERC chairs, one SSHRC and one CIHR chair will be available through an adjudication process. The initiative is open to proposals from all Faculties on both UBC campuses.

The Faculty of Medicine can submit up to three proposals for this special call. To identify the top three proposals advancing to the VPRI stage of the competition, the Faculty of Medicine will conduct an internal application and adjudication process.

VPRI Call for Faculty CRC Proposals Timeline:

- March 6, 2024 – *FoM Launches Internal Call for Proposals*
- March 25, 2024 – *Deadline to consult Department/School finance managers for recruitment stream eligibility*
- April 6, 2024 – *Application Deadline for FoM Internal Call*
- April 23, 2024 – *Adjudication Committee reviews retention and recruitment applications*
- Mid-May 2024 – *Applicants notified of FoM Internal Call Results*
- Mid-May - May 30, 2024 – *FoM Dean’s Office works on applications with successful applicants*
- May 31, 2024 – *VPRI Submission Deadline*

CIHR Update

Fall 2023 Project Grant

- CIHR awarded 374/2,175 submissions for a total of \$325M, including 6 bridge grants. In addition, 150 Priority Announcement (PA) grants were awarded for a total of \$16.42M, as well as 14 supplemental prizes were awarded for a total of \$450K.



- UBC was awarded 30/217 submissions and received \$31.3M in new grant funding: \$29.5M for 30 full-term grants, and \$1.8M for 16 Priority Announcements/Bridge Awards.
- FoM researchers were awarded a total of 28 full awards (total: \$21.5M), including 9 PAs (total: \$900K) and 1 bridge funding award (total: \$100K), from a total of 155 submissions.
- Of note, one FoM researcher received \$2.93M, which is the largest Project Grant award to date. For comparison, UBC's previous largest award was \$2.34M (Spring 2021).

Spring 2024 Project Grant

- The latest Spring 2024 competition deadline was on March 6, 2024
- There was a total of 232 UBC submissions, 74% of which were from the Faculty of Medicine (171 applications).
- Results are anticipated to be announced July 2024.

Fall 2024 Project Grant

- The Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 competition details will be released in July 2024.

Michael Smith Health Research BC

2024 Scholar Award & Health Professional-Investigator Program

- The 2024 Scholar Award and Health Professional-Investigator programs application period concluded in January 2024. A total of 24 applications were submitted this round (11 Scholar Awards and 13 HPs).
- The 2024 programs results announcement is anticipated in June 2024.

Order of Canada

Two FoM faculty members have been appointed to the Order of Canada this December:

- Dr. Deborah Money – Professor, Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology
- Dr. Morris Barer – Emeritus Professor, School of Population and Public Health

Applied Public Health Chair

- Dr. Devon Greyson, an Assistant Professor at the School of Population and Public Health, has been appointed an Applied Public Health Chair by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC).

UBC Killam Research Prizes

Two FoM faculty members were awarded UBC Killam Research Prizes:

- Dr. Stuart Turvey – Professor, Department of Paediatrics
- Dr. Teresa Liu-Ambrose – Professor, Department of Physical Therapy

UBC Killam Accelerator Research Fellowship

- Dr. Vikramaditya Yadav, Associate Professor at the School of Biomedical Engineering, has been awarded a UBC Killam Accelerator Research Fellowship in recognition of outstanding research and scholarly contributions.

2023 Distinguished University Scholar

- Dr. Lara Boyd, Professor at the Department of Physical Therapy, has been named one of 2023 Distinguished University Scholars, recognizing exceptional members of faculty who have distinguished themselves as scholars in research and/or teaching and learning.

NSERC Alliance Grants

Two FoM faculty members were awarded NSERC Alliance Grants

- Dr. Peter Crompton, School Biomedical Engineering / Orthopaedics



- Dr. John Kramer, Anesthesiology, Pharmacology, and Therapeutics

RareKids-CAN: Pediatric Rare Disease Clinical Trials and Treatment Network was funded: The national network, which includes several researchers from UBC and the BC Children’s Hospital Research Institute, will foster collaboration among researchers, patients, caregivers, health-care providers, and policy makers to streamline clinical research and support national and international clinical trials to advance discoveries.

2024 CAME Award Certificate of Merit

Dr. Laine Bosma - Anesthesiology, Pharmacology & Therapeutics

Dr. Tal Jarus - Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy

Dr. Alina Constantin - Cellular and Physiological Sciences, Northern Medical Program

Administration and Operations

Facilities

- Work(place) Evolution: Hybrid Work-Shared Workspace: In 2023, the Faculty of Medicine introduced a shared workspace model within the Dean’s Office at two UBC Vancouver campus locations – IRC 3rd floor and DMCBH 3rd floor. Adopting a shared space model allows the Faculty to flexibly adapt and change existing workplace footprints to better meet the needs of individuals and teams in a hybrid environment. The initiative has now broadened to include Departments and Education Programs at other Faculty of Medicine worksites this year. If you are interested in learning more about Hybrid Work – Shared Workspace, please visit [Mednet](#).
- Ongoing participation in Academic Space design and construction at the following clinical sites:
 - New St. Paul’s – Station Street site
 - Burnaby Hospital
 - Royal Columbian Hospital, New Westminster
 - New Surrey Hospital and Cancer Centre
 - Richmond Hospital
 - Mills Memorial Hospital, Terrace
 - Dawson Creek and District Hospital
 - Cariboo Memorial Hospital, Williams Lake
 - Cowichan District Hospital, Duncan
 - Vancouver Island Technology Park – expansion of the MPT and Speech Language Pathology programs in partnership with UVIC

Faculty Affairs

Leadership Appointment Announcements

- Dr. Corinne Hohl appointed as Head, Department of Emergency Medicine, effective May 1, 2024 to June 30, 2029.
- Dr. Aslam Anis extended as Director pro tem, School of Population and Public Health, from January 1, 2024 to May 31, 2024.



- Dr. Joerg Gsponer appointed as Interim Head, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, from February 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024.
- Dr. Ralph Belle extended as Special Advisor to the Dean, Fraser Health, from April 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025.
- Dr. Nadine Caron extended as Special Advisor on Indigenous Health, from January 1, 2024 to August 31, 2025.

Current Leadership Searches

- External search for Head, Department of Anesthesiology, Pharmacology, and Therapeutics.
- External search for Head, Department of Surgery.
- Internal search for Head, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.
- Internal search for Head, Department of Emergency Medicine.
- Internal search for Head, Department of Medical Genetics.
- Internal search for Director, School of Population and Public Health.
- Internal search for Vice-Dean, Health Engagement.

Upcoming Department/School Reviews

- Department of Family Practice (External) April 17th, 18th and 24th, 2024
- Department of Physical Therapy (External) June 2024
- Department of Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences (External) June 2024
- Department of Orthopaedics (External) Fall 2024

Completed Department/School Reviews

- Department of Psychiatry (External) October 2023
- Department of Medicine (External) January 2024

Organizational Development

- The Work(place) Evolution microsite and Hybrid Work & Communication Toolkit were launched in September with a broadcast message from the Dean. A toolkit challenge and several learning sessions were held to increase familiarity and uptake of the tools with senior administrators in Departments, Schools, and Centres, managers in the Dean's Office, and leaders from the Education units.
- Staff Mentoring Program launched a new cohort in January 2024 with 26 mentorship pairs. Participants engaged in a kick-off session, and the 2024 program features a goal-setting workshop for mentees and a series of "Mentorship Foundations" workshops for mentors. Topics include:
 - Co-Creating Effective Conversations;
 - Supporting Mental Health and Psychological Safety through mentorship;
 - Inclusivity



- Onboarding Program – A working group was established to make recommendations to improve onboarding of new faculty and staff within the Faculty of Medicine. Resources are being developed based on the recommendations, and will be piloted in the Dean’s Office before rolling out to other units across the Faculty.
- Tenure Stream Faculty Journey Map – In order to better support faculty members throughout their careers, the Organizational Development team has mapped the journey of a tenure-stream faculty member in order to have a comprehensive understanding of a faculty member’s longitudinal academic journey and to provide holistic academic career supports and program planning for key milestones on the journey.
- Early Career Faculty Series – The Organizational Development team is working with Dean’s Office Service Units to create a series of resources and asynchronous learning opportunities to improve onboarding and ease the transition of tenure stream faculty to their new academic role.
- The Faculty Emerging Leaders Program is currently on pause while we evaluate the Program by reviewing feedback from past participants and consider additional modules and facilitators. We are planning for cohort 5 to start in early 2025.
- Faculty Developing Leaders Program – In response to feedback from alumni of the Faculty Emerging Leaders Program (FELP) for advanced leadership training, we the Organizational Development team is planning to pilot a series of modules for a new Faculty Developing Leaders Program (FDLP). These modules are designed to address progressive leadership skills development among faculty who have completed FELP. The initiative received endorsement from the Organizational Development Committee and is moving forward with securing program facilitators.

Digital Solutions

- The Learning Platform Transformation Project has been initiated to review our existing learning platforms including Entrada/Elentra and One45. Phase 1 is currently underway - we are gathering input from stakeholders as to the functional and desired usage of our existing platforms. The goal is to go to a public Request for Proposal process in the summer of 2024. We are currently targeting the 2026/27 academic year for the new platform(s) to be in place.
- Faculty of Medicine Simulation Vision and Strategy has been communicated and a Simulation Advisory Council has been struck with the initial meeting on February 21, 2024. Chaired by Dr. Ravi Sidhu and Gary Rosborough, the Council will support and advise the Vice Dean Education in addressing outstanding challenges related to simulation as a pedagogical tool. The strategy and vision clarify the FOM position with relation to simulation and help facilitate improved collaboration with the HAs across the province.
- In 2023 FoM Data platforms added 121 Clinical Research projects, 6 clinical trials, and 15 quality improvement and quality assurance projects with partner health authorities. Additionally, 3 biospecimen collection projects have been supported involving 9 patients with 1025 samples collected.



- Overall, FoM Data platforms have stood up 451 Clinical Research projects, 37 clinical trials, and 56 quality improvement and quality assurance projects with partner health authorities. Additionally, 34 biospecimen collection projects have been supported involving 6266 patients with 394,966 samples collected.
- Enhancements continue to be made to the Teaching Tracking and Payment System (TTPS) to cover all relevant UGME and PGME teaching.
- The FoM IT Governance and Security policy/procedures is being rolled out alongside the UBC Privacy and Information Security Management (PrISM) led initiatives: The 'Compliance Support Program' and the 'Privacy Matters Champions Program'. These programs are designed to increase the adoption of UBC security policy and standards, and to establish unit oversight across the faculty. 95% of units have completed or are in the process of rolling out the program. Remediation activities, supported by Digital Solutions Security team will be completed during FY24/25
- In 2023, Digital Solutions finished the tech installation of the new educational center in the Fraser region, supporting the expansion of the masters programs in Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy, and the Midwifery program. A/V installation will start in late May 2024 at the Vancouver Island Technology Park to support the expansion and distribution of the masters programs in Physical Therapy and Speech Language Pathology starting in the fall. Both new facilities are equipped with the latest technology to facilitate distributed learning across the province.

REDI Respectful Environments, Equity, Diversity & Inclusion

REDI continues to provide leadership and resources to support the Faculty of Medicine's Strategic Plan objectives and commitments to transform our culture and to create inclusive and respectful learning and work environments across the Faculty. REDI's education platform adopts an EDI/anti-oppression focused strategy to promote self-reflection, encourage commitment to embed knowledge into practice, and to dismantle oppressive structures for systemic and behaviour change.

Highlights since November 2023:

- Two new equity advisors have joined the [REDI team](#).
- Consultations and Advice
 - REDI engaged in 137 consultations across 21 departments, centres, and administrative units to support the embedding of EDI and anti-oppressive principles in their initiatives.
 - REDI continues to focus on building partnerships to extend the reach and amplify EDI work, in particular with faculty development and human resources to address EDI needs and provide resources.
- Development of Educational Resources
 - REDI developed 15 [best practices](#) documents to help units to embed equity, diversity and inclusion in teaching, research and service work.
 - REDI created a module on understanding and mitigating implicit bias, and is collaborating with Faculty Development to create a module on anti-racism for completion in October.



- Events/Group Workshop
 - REDI presented and facilitated 22 group sessions for departments, schools, divisions, centres and administrative units across the Faculty with a focus on 1) faculty/staff recruitment and hiring processes and building EDI capacity among committee Chairs and staff supporting recruitment processes, and on 2) inclusive environments, engaging across differences and resolving conflicts, and facilitating difficult conversations in group settings.
 - REDI continues to foster the EDI Joint Interest Group as a community of practice to support information exchange, to empower people leading EDI initiatives, and to share who is leading what EDI initiatives.
 - REDI hosted two “It Starts with Us” Faculty events on “Black Excellence” and on “Gender-Affirming Care” with 174 and 318 registrants, respectively.
 - REDI has hosted five Indigenous Speaker Series sessions with 1,092 total registrants.
- Learner Mistreatment/Learning Environment Reporting
 - REDI continues to oversee the Learner Mistreatment/Learning Environment reporting system, and to support the responsible decision makers to respond to these reports. REDI triaged 53 learner mistreatment reports since November.
 - REDI is updating the guidance document for the Learner Experience/Learner Mistreatment Reporting Process

Development and Alumni Engagement

Development Update

- The Faculty of Medicine raised a total of \$47.7 million was raised from donors in FY2024/2025.
 - Six gifts of \$1M+, including two gifts totaling \$ 7.5M from the Weston Family Foundation, to support an initiative in microbiome and Parkinson’s led by Silke Cresswell, Mike Kobor and Brett Finlay.
- In February 2024, in partnership with our colleagues in the central Development team, we organized the 10-year anniversary celebration of the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health for the Djavad Mowafaghian Foundation and other foundational donors to the building. More than 70 guests attended the celebration which included remarks from Dr. Bacon, Dean Kelleher and Hamid Eshghi (nephew of the late Dr. Mowafaghian).
- Special donor-focussed communications highlights:
 - [Celebrating a decade of excellence in brain health](#) (collaboration between DMCBH and DAE; followed by [sponsored content in The Globe & Mail](#))
 - [Bridging Science and Medicine](#) (impact story/profile of Dr. Michelle Kwon, an MD student who completed her PhD in Tim Kieffer’s lab; story was shared by [STEMCELL Technologies on LinkedIn](#))
 - [UBC medical student Audrey is passionate about a more inclusive healthcare system](#) (impact story/profile of one of the first recipients of the Entrance Award in Medicine for Black Students; in partnership with/written by colleagues in DAE Central)



Alumni Engagement Update

- The Vancouver **Medical Student & Alumni Centre** is in the process of replacing the carpets and linoleum with funding from the VCH Minor Capitals Grant.
- The UBC Medical Alumni Association (MAA) celebrated the transition from a Board to the UBC Medical Alumni Advisory Council (MAAC) at the new and improved **UBC Medical Alumni Celebration & Awards**. The UBC MAA presented awards to: Drs. Silke Appel-Cresswell, Adrian Yee, and students Valerie Mok and Alvin Qiu
- The Alumni Engagement team remained active, participating in department and program celebrations, events at distributed sites, and assisting upcoming reunions. Key events included Alumni Builder presentation to Mona Shum, MEDTalks, Salsa class at the MSAC, Wine & Wisdom and hosting Match Day celebrations.

Partnerships and Health Engagement

Provincial Academic Clinicians Project

- Work continues toward the goal of developing provincially applicable models that integrate clinical and academic activities and that enable increased dedicated time for academics (teaching, research and academic service and administration) for BC clinicians. Although beginning with physicians, the intent is to broaden the work to other health professions.
- Conversations are ongoing to understand unique characteristics and considerations that need to be accounted for and addressed in these model(s).

Drone Transport Initiative

- The first phase of the Drone Transport Initiative (Oct 2021-22) explored whether drone technology could be used to improve access to physically necessary health care supplies for rural and remote Indigenous communities.
- Planning is underway for Phase 2 and we're looking to expand the types of cargo transported, including laboratory samples and blood products, and to expand to include more communities.
- The project is now co-led with Dr. Anurag Singh, Director of Northern Centre for Clinical Research, Dr. John Pawlovich, Rural Doctors' UBC Chair in Rural Health and Director, Rural Education Action Plan (REAP) for RCCbc), Dr. Terri Aldred, Medical Director for Primary Care, First Nations Health Authority and Site Director, UBC Indigenous Family Practice Program, and Dr. Mike Allard, Professor, UBC Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine.
- The initiative was established with community engagement, participation, and co-development as foundational elements and collaborative partnerships with First Nations Health Authority, Carrier Sekani Family Services, Northern Health Authority, LifeLabs, Rural Coordination Centre of BC, and UBC Pharmaceutical Sciences. Emerging and possible partnerships in phase 2 includes, UBC Applied Sciences, Prince George Airport, NavCan, InDro Robotics, Ministry of Health's Innovation Division, and Canadian Blood Services.



- The Drone Transport Initiative is pleased to be a new VPRI Research Excellence Cluster for 2024/25. It also recently received the 2023 BC Aviation Council Entrepreneur of the Year Award.

Partnership with Australia National University's College of Health & Medicine

- Work continues to develop our partnership with ANU's College of Health and Medicine, with a focus on Indigenous reconciliation, education, research, and health, and on rural and remote health more broadly.
- The Health Engagement and Partnership portfolio is currently preparing for a visit from ANU delegates to Vancouver and Prince George in June 2024 for a series of meetings, during which we will also be finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding between the institutions. Those interested in learning more about the partnership or meetings can reach out to the Health Engagement & Partnerships Office at med.partnerships@ubc.ca.

Vice Dean, Health Engagement

- After five years, Dr. Mike Allard has stepped down from his role as Vice Dean, Health Engagement, with his last day on March 31, 2024. He continues to be involved in projects related to healthcare delivery to Indigenous communities in rural and remote areas, contributing to the Provincial Academic Clinicians Project, and providing support to establishing formal relationships with the Australian National University.
- The search for Dr. Allard's successor is underway.

Office of Creative & Communications

Vision: Ignite the wonder of medicine

Goal: To promote the Faculty of Medicine's transformational impact on the health and well-being of patients and communities through excellence in education, research and innovation — thereby strengthening its reputation in British Columbia, Canada and beyond.

Key Highlights:

Launch Event for Pathways Issue 7: Future-proofing Health in a Changing Climate

- The November 2023 event coincided with the second wave of a global print distribution and digital promotion of [Pathways](#) Issue 7. The event **engaged and celebrated** with researchers, faculty, staff, students and health partners on the topic of climate change.
- The event's keynote speaker was **Dr. Jennifer Gardy**, a UBC alumna and former UBC faculty member who is **now a senior scientist with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**. This was followed by two **moderated panel discussions** with researchers whose work was featured in the magazine. The first panel focused on **research and policy** and the second focused on **healthy aging, vulnerable populations and reimagining health care**.



International and National Awards

- In April 2024, the Office of Creative & Communications won several awards from the [International Association of Business Communicators](#) (IABC) for Pathways Issue 7:
 - IABC Gold Quill Award of Excellence for Best Publication
 - IABC Gold Quill Award of Merit for Creative Design

Media Relations: High impact stories

The Faculty of Medicine had the **highest share of media mentions among all UBC faculties** for the second half of 2023.

- We received **797 media mentions** across top-tier media outlets, including the New York Times, BBC, Globe & Mail and CNN.
- During this period, the Office facilitated **195 media requests** and produced 35 media releases, Q&As, expert advisories and pitches.
- We produced more than **70 news, awards and honours stories** for [med.ubc.ca](#) that aligned with the strategic priorities of the Faculty of Medicine. Many of our stories were also syndicated across other UBC communications and brand channels, helping to extend our reach and impact with wider global audiences.
- UBC continues to be second in the country in terms of “share of voice” across the media landscape in terms of mentions and number of stories when compared to other universities.

Website: news, marquee and feature stories

- In the past six months, the Office produced **14 marquee stories** for the Faculty’s website [med.ubc.ca](#), highlighting the impact of research, education, innovation and commitment to community.

Here are some of the top stories that were featured between November and April:

- [Fuelling a B.C. biotech boom](#): A report from The Globe and Mail highlights how UBC researchers and spin-off companies have propelled Vancouver’s life sciences sector.
- [Strengthening STEM pathways for Indigenous youth](#): A look at the early impacts of the seed2STEM summer research program for Indigenous youth in B.C.
- [UBC Faculty of Medicine launches new rural family medicine residency program](#): The Rural Immersion program will train UBC family medicine resident doctors in communities across northern B.C.
- [A safer treatment path for high-risk children to overcome food allergies](#): New research by Dr. Edmond Chan highlights safety and efficacy of sublingual immunotherapy.
- [Young people at the centre of the toxic drug poisoning crisis](#): UBC’s Dr. Danya Fast traces the experiences of young people who use drugs in Vancouver.
- [UBC researchers launch clinical trial exploring CBD for bipolar depression](#): The first-of-its-kind clinical trial will explore whether CBD can help manage acute bipolar depression.
- [Drug discovery at an atomic scale](#): UBC’s Dr. Sriram Subramaniam is using powerful cryo-electron microscopes to accelerate drug development for cancer, infectious diseases and more.



- [Can your breath be used to detect lung cancer?](#): In the first laboratory of its kind, UBC's Dr. Renelle Myers is harnessing the power of breath in the hopes of saving more lives, sooner.
- [How exercise can boost cancer treatment and recovery](#): Dr. Kristin Campbell and her team are helping people living with cancer incorporate exercise into their treatment and recovery.
- [Endometriosis: Towards better diagnosis and treatment](#): UBC's Dr. Paul Yong is helping ignite change for thousands of people faced with the painful disorder.
- [Trans people and the choreography of reproductive health care](#): UBC postdoctoral fellow Dr. A.J. Lowik is working to shape more inclusive reproductive health care for trans people in B.C.
- [Could chicken eggs help revolutionize cancer treatment for children?](#): UBC's Dr. James Lim is part of a research team helping to bring new hope to children battling hard-to-treat cancers.
- [Stem cell-based treatment controls blood sugar in people with Type 1 diabetes](#): A clinical trial led by UBC researchers shows that an innovative treatment can help reduce insulin dependence.
- [Genetic testing could greatly benefit patients with depression, save health system millions](#): Pharmacogenomic testing aims to match patients with medications that are more likely to be effective based on an individual's genetic profile.
- [Helping British Columbians see clearly](#): Clinical researcher Dr. Eduardo Navajas is part of the first clinical trial for a gene therapy to treat wet age-related macular degeneration.

Social

We continue to grow our social community – over the past six months, we gained **2,383 new followers**, which brings us to nearly **39,000** followers across our channels. LinkedIn and Instagram saw the highest increases.

Connect with UBC Medicine

Remember to stay connected and follow us @UBCmedicine.

