

UPEI MEDICAL SCHOOL

As most of you are aware a new medical school will be opening in PEI with the first class of students starting in 2024. We currently have six MUN Pediatric Faculty in PEI including Drs Jill Starkes, Tyrel Sanson, Jennifer Frazer, Daniel Albrechtson, and two of our former residents Peter MacPherson, and Kayla McNally. Further details are below and we will be hearing more about this over the course of the year.

The University of Prince Edward Island (UPEI) entered into an agreement with Memorial's Faculty of Medicine to develop a Joint MD Program which was formally announced in November 2021 by PEI Premier Dennis King.

The Steering Committee was developed and is responsible for the oversight of the design, development and implementation of all aspects of the program. This is co-chaired by the acting president of UPEI, Dr. Greg Keefe and the Dean of Medicine at Memorial University, Dr. Margaret Steele. The Steering Committee oversees the work plan and provides guidance to the various sub-committees and working groups. These are primarily chaired by Dr. Cathy Vardy, Executive Director of the Medical Program Development. Membership on all committees are comprised of representatives from UPEI, Memorial University and the PEI community.

As we proceeded in the development of the joint program, the committees and leadership felt that it would be prudent to start the MD program under Memorial's accreditation and then transition to the Joint MD Program.

We currently have a search taking place for the Associate Dean of the UPEI campus, under Memorial's accreditation. This Associate Dean will report to Dr. Margaret Steele, Dean of Medicine at Memorial.

There is also a search ongoing for the Inaugural Dean for the joint program. This search is being chaired by Dr. Greg Naterer, VP Academic and Research, UPEI. The Inaugural Dean will report to Dr. Naterer for operational aspects and to an executive committee for academic issues. The executive committee will be composed of leadership from Memorial University and UPEI and will include the Dean of Medicine from Memorial University.

The UPEI campus will have a class size of 20 learners with one seat being reserved for the Indigenous community. The curriculum will mirror Memorial's curriculum and for the first two years, students at St. John's campus and Charlottetown campus will have simultaneous delivery of the didactic portion of their curriculum. Clinical skills and some aspects of anatomy teaching will be delivered in person at each of the campuses. We are working with Health PEI for delivery of the clinical rotations.

A unique aspect of our work with PEI has been the development of a Planetary Health curriculum. UPEI is in a unique position to lead the delivery of Planetary Health curriculum due to its School of Climate Change and Adaptation and the Atlantic Veterinary College.

We are excited to note that the new medical school building has started construction in PEI. This will host a simulation center and a health and wellness center and medical clinic which will serve approximately 10,000 patients.

Accreditation Success!!!

Congratulations to everyone!! We have achieved full accreditation from the Royal College! We are just awaiting the final seal of approval once the decision has been ratified.

Thank you to everyone who showed up and shared what they have seen going on in our program!!!

A special thank you to Dr. Lynette Bowes and Dr. Mary Jane Smith and the RPC for all of their hard work!!

Resident Research Day

On January 26, we held our 2023 Pediatric Residents' Research Day. Topics this year included an intervention to prevent traumatic head injury due to child maltreatment; provider perspectives on pediatric palliative care in the emergency department; micronutrient deficiencies and feeding behaviors among children attending the Children and Youth in Alternate Care (CAYAC) Clinic; an evaluation of equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) training workshops for residents; an evaluation of video education as a means of improving knowledge in pediatric asthma patients; and the creation and evaluation of videos to teach learning theory to medical educators. The range of topics studied reflects the diversity of issues impacting children's health and pediatric training. It was great to see that many of the projects focus directly on improving how care is provided to children in our province and beyond.



Dr. Jessa Vokey was awarded the prize for the best research proposal. Jessa is using a retrospective chart review to examine presenting dental concerns in the Janeway emergency department. The aim of this study is to understand local trends in emergency room utilization and to use this information to provide and advocate for better preventative oral health care in our province. Jessa is being supervised by Drs. Archana Shah, Trang Nguyen, and Roger Chafe.

Dr. Rebecca Quilty was awarded the prize for the best completed project. Rebecca is evaluating the diagnostic performance of the Sofia Fluorescent Immunoassay (SFIA) in children with articular symptoms known to be LD positive or negative by Western Blot (WB) as a potential alternative test for Lyme disease. She is being supervised by Dr. Elizabeth Stringer from Dalhousie University. Rebecca will next represent our Discipline of Pediatrics at both the Faculty of Medicine's Resident Research Symposium and the National Pediatric Resident Research Competition, which is being held this May at McMaster University.



The judges for research day were Dr. Weldon Bonnell (Memorial / Eastern Health), Dr. Kathleen Hodgkinson (Memorial), and Dr. Liam Kelly (Eastern Health). The judging committee wished to thank all the residents for their hard work, diligence and skill in presenting their projects. They said that most projects were very well done and that selecting the winners for both categories was difficult. Dr. Roger Chafe was the moderator for the day.

Thank you to everyone involved in helping with the residents' research projects and with making our resident research day another successful event. It is one more illustration of the contributions all our residents make to children's health research here at the Janeway.

Highlight on Resident Research

Video Education Improves Knowledge in Pediatric Asthma Patients

Asthma is one of the most common chronic illnesses affecting children and adolescents. While it is treatable, and most exacerbations preventable, it remains a leading cause of pediatric hospital admissions. Adolescent patients are at even higher risk of asthma exacerbation, often due to poor asthma knowledge and self-management skills.



Dr. Claire Wallace, a 4th year pediatric resident, examined whether asynchronous video education is an effective means for teaching adolescents with asthma and thereby a way to support better asthma control. Using a pre-post interventional design, the study included 18 participants, aged 10-17, seen at asthma clinics at the Janeway. The five videos used as the intervention were developed by the Allergy and Asthma Center at the University of North Carolina's Children's Hospital and are freely available online.

During the study, asthma knowledge, confidence, control, and receptiveness to asthma education in video form were assessed using validated questionnaires administered at baseline and post-intervention. The same questionnaires were readministered two to three months later to assess potential short term and longer-term benefits from video instruction.

Participants demonstrated an increase in asthma knowledge immediately after viewing the educational videos, and this knowledge was retained 2-3 months later. Most participants reported learning something new from the videos, would watch the videos again, and would recommend the videos to their peers with asthma, both immediately after the intervention and at the long-term follow-up assessment. The health confidence score was significantly higher immediately post-intervention, but returned to baseline after three months. Asthma control scores were not significantly different between long term follow-up and pre-intervention, but this result was likely because all participants had well-controlled asthma throughout the study.

Dr. Wallace said the research team “were happy to see that patients learned from the videos and were interested in viewing them.” They were also “excited about the potential the videos have for improving patient knowledge and engagement in the clinical setting.” The videos used in this study could easily be disseminated to patients with asthma presenting to emergency departments, family physicians, and pediatricians; and used as a cost-effective and efficient means of educating patients about how to reduce future asthma exacerbations and hospitalizations.

Dr. Wallace is working on this project with Dr. Mary Jane Smith, Dr. Leigh Anne Newhook, Dr. Zhiwei Gao, Lois Woodrow, and Jennifer White.

Competence by Design

Focus on CBD

Our residents need **more observations** in order to obtain their milestones and EPA's. Therefore all residents should be collecting a **minimum of one** observation per day. We appreciated you taking the time to complete these evaluations!

Focus on EPA #13 in Core

Advancing the discipline through scholarly activity

- The observation of this EPA is based on completion of a scholarly project.
- This may include basic or clinical science related to pediatric medicine, advocacy, medical education, patient safety, QI, knowledge translation, and others at the discretion of the program director.
- This EPA includes reviewing and appraising relevant literature, using appropriate methods, analyzing findings, critically reflecting on the findings, discussing what the project has added to the field of inquiry, and disseminating results in some format (e.g., grand rounds, research day, manuscript suitable for journal submission) at the discretion of the program director.
- It includes preparation of an abstract, structured progress report, and/or manuscript.

The **milestones** for this EPA are:

1. Pose questions that are appropriately constructed and amenable to scholarly inquiry

2. Organize work to manage clinical, scholarly, and other responsibilities
3. Identify, consult, and collaborate with content experts and others in the conduct of scholarly work
4. Collect data for a scholarly project
5. Perform data analysis
6. Integrate existing literature and findings of data collection
7. Identify areas for further investigation
8. Summarize and communicate the findings of research and scholarly inquiry

Each edition of J-files will be highlighting a different EPA as our residents move through the stages of training. For more information on CBD go to <https://www.royalcollege.ca/rcsite/cbd/competence-by-design-cbd-e> and for our curriculum maps and EPA's go to One 45 at <https://webeval.med.mun.ca/mun/>

Congratulations to our residents who matched to a subspecialty program!!

Dr. Jill McCarthy will be going to the University of Toronto for Development

Dr. Morgan Morrissey will be going to the University of Alberta for Gastroenterology

Dr. Rebecca Quilty will be going to the University of Toronto for Rheumatology