
BACKGROUND

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Ministry of Health
Ministry of Advanced Education

CLINICAL ACADEMIC CAMPUSES & EDUCATING DOCTORS IN B.C.

Government is increasing the number of B.C. - educated doctors through expansion of UBC's medical school. Clinical academic campuses (CACs) are large health facilities that support clinical teaching of undergraduate medical students, postgraduate residents and faculty members.

- CACs and related facilities are the result of more than a \$40 million investment from the Ministry of Health.
- Government funding has ensured the UBC Faculty of Medicine has distributed facilities to enhance and enlarge their capacity for teaching medical students and postgraduate residents across the province.
- The CACs provide communities with access to a major medical centre committed to training the next generation of doctors as well as opportunity to attract and retain new physicians, improving the long-term health of each community.
- The clinical and teaching space at each CAC enables UBC medical students, postgraduate residents and faculty members to work together to ensure the development of team-oriented patient care.
- A CAC includes seminar rooms, video-conference rooms, on call facilities for students and postgraduate residents, as well as academic staff offices and a medical library.
- All CACs are connected to each other by the Medical Provincial Academic and Affiliated Campus Technology Project. The Project is a province-wide initiative that provides the technology required to deliver high-quality distributed education in real time between all of the CACs using audiovisual and information technology systems.
- For the first time, third-year medical students (known as clinical clerks) are receiving hands-on clinical training at CACs in the North (24 students), Vancouver Island (24 students) and Vancouver/Fraser program (176 students), totalling 224 students.
- The UBC Faculty of Medicine offers 224 entry-positions for Canadian medical graduates the opportunity to train in 62 accredited postgraduate medicine (residency) speciality and subspecialty programs (e.g. cardiology, family practice, obstetrics & gynecology and surgery) at a variety of clinical academic campus sites.

Distributed Expansion of UBC's Faculty of Medicine

Prior to government's March 2002 announcement to expand the medical school:

- Undergraduate medical education was principally delivered in the lower mainland at UBC Vancouver Point Grey campus (first and second year) and at the large lower mainland teaching hospitals (third and fourth year) with modest engagement of smaller hospitals province wide;
- Postgraduate medical education (residency) was also delivered at these large teaching hospitals with minimal distribution to outlying hospitals, but with family medicine training distributed since 1992 to northern and rural areas;

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The announcement by the Province in 2002 was the first major change in more than a decade:

- In 2002, government announced UBC would almost double the medical school by 2005 (undergraduate enrolment).
- In 2004, Canada's first fully distributed expansion of MD undergraduate education began in response to the requirement for better distribution of doctors in B.C.'s rural and underserved areas.
- In 2003, the Ministry of Health began increasing postgraduate residency positions in B.C.
- The UBC distributed MD undergraduate program includes: Vancouver Fraser Medical Program, Island Medical Program and Northern Medical Program. It is delivered in collaboration with UVic and UNBC and B.C.'s six health authorities.
- Currently there are 224 first-year UBC medical students enrolled in the four-year MD undergraduate program.

Funding from government to support the distributed expansion:

- The Ministry of Health provided \$27.6 million for new or renovated teaching space in clinical academic campuses and related facilities, and a further \$14.9 million for an audiovisual information technology (AVIT) infrastructure.
- The Ministry of Advanced Education provided \$134 million in capital funding for new teaching and research space at university academic campuses;

As of March 2007, the clinical academic campuses are:

- Northern Health campus - Prince George Regional Hospital;
- Vancouver Island Health Authority campuses - Royal Jubilee Hospital, Victoria General Hospital;
- Fraser Health Authority campus - Royal Columbian Hospital;
- Provincial Health Services Authority campuses - BC Children's Hospital, BC Cancer Agency, BC Women's Hospital & Health Centre;
- Vancouver Coastal Health Authority campuses - Providence Health/St. Paul's Hospital, Vancouver General Hospital and related facilities.

Throughout the province, there are another 85 affiliated educational facilities that have a sharply focussed teaching capacity for special electives and targeted programs.

MD Undergraduate Program Clerkships:

Undergraduate medical students are distributed from University Academic Campuses at UBC, UNBC and UVic to the CACs for year three mandatory purely clinical clerkships and for some year four clinical education experiences. During basic clerkships, third-year medical students perform histories, physical examinations, identification and work-up of patient problems.

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