

Dear Members of the AFMC Board of Directors,

This report serves as a summary of AFMC's Public Health Education Initiatives as undertaken by the AFMC Public Health Task Group (PHTG) and Public Health Educators' Network (PHEN) over the past year. The PHTG serves as the Steering Committee for the overall project. As expected, the activity of the PHTG has decreased over time as the work of the PHEN has increased.

The PHEN met twice over the last year and engaged in three major initiatives and a number of smaller projects.

1. *Environmental scan on effective teaching methods for population health.* The Task Group and PHEN has actively reviewed and discussed the excellent report by the Nevis Consulting Group which was released in April 2009. Key recommendations were accepted by both groups and their adoption will be encouraged with the Council of Deans and other target audiences. Many of the recommendations support those emerging from the Future of Medical Education project. The PHTG and PHEN believe that they can provide valuable support to the Deans in the implementation phase of the Medical Education project.
2. *Development of an electronic textbook on population health for medical students.* As per our last report, there is no uniform book on population health that students enjoy so the PHEN is creating their own as a common project to be completed in 2010.
3. *Repository of teaching resources for sharing across all 17 medical schools.* The public health repository will be housed in the Canadian Health Care Education Commons (CHEC) being built by AFMC and will be ready for testing this summer. The goal is to have this fully operational by December 2009.
4. *Scientific publications and collaboration with international partners.* An article on the status of population health education in Canada was published in Academic Medicine last May (Johnson I, Donovan D, Parboosingh J. *Academic Medicine* 2008, 83:(4);414 – 418). A poster on the PHEN will be presented at the 2009 CCME in Edmonton. The chairs of the PHEN and of the AAMC demonstration projects for population health have attended each other's meetings. This on-going sharing and collaboration is expected to continue and strengthen over time. Presently, members of the PHEN and representatives of the AAMC demonstration projects are working on a paper for the special edition of Academic Medicine devoted to the 100th anniversary of the Flexner Report.

5. *Student-run public health interest groups.* Ten of the 17 faculties currently have an active group; we are working to increase this to all schools. The student's enthusiasm can be seen in the variety of activities they put on to reach an inter-professional audience of fellow students.
6. *Curriculum integration and faculty development.* The PHEN recognizes that non-public health faculty members must be well trained if the curriculum materials are to be integrated. For example, if problem-based learning modules are to have population health components, the faculty facilitators need to be comfortable with teaching the main learning objectives. This will be a new area of focus in the coming year.
7. *Sustainability.* The PHTG has been concerned with the longer term viability of this work as the Public Health Agency of Canada funding will end in two years. The Task Group believes that on-going support is essential as much work remains.

The PHTG and PHEN members wish to thank the AFMC Board of Directors for their on-going support of population health initiatives and hope that we can continue to make the teaching of these important areas both more effective and efficient.

Yours sincerely,

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Chair, AFMC Public Health Task Group and Public Health Educators' Network