



AFMC

The Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada
L'Association des facultés de médecine du Canada

The AFMC Resource Group on Professionalism

Report to the AFMC Board of Directors

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Professionalism Resource Group 2011 Report to the AFMC Board of Executives

The Professionalism Resource Group has been exceptionally active in the past year. At our annual meeting at St. John's, Nfld, in May 2010, our members agreed that it would be helpful to have an additional mid-year working meeting where specific projects related to advocacy, education, and research in professionalism could be identified and worked on collaboratively by members. Funding was sought and granted from the AFMC for an initial meeting which was hosted in January 2011 at the University of Toronto.

The two day meeting was extremely successful with 18 participants attending. Formal presentations were given by Dr. Shiphra Ginsburg on the Ottawa Conference's Guidelines on Professionalism Assessment, Dr. Richard and Sylvia Cruess on the FMEC PGME Report on Professionalism, and Dr. Susan Lieff on Meaningful Work. The remainder of the two day meeting focused on updates from the PRG members regarding their sites' work on professionalism, followed by small group work aimed at identifying and conceptualizing potential collaborative projects for the PRG. Ample additional networking time was provided for with breaks, lunches and a dinner for the PRG members.

The group identified two projects as having particular importance nationally: a collaborative research project on the relevant regulatory frameworks for physician professionalism in Canada, and a Professionalism Education in Canada Project, similar to that conducted by AFMC for public health education in 2009. The latter project was conceived of as consisting of an environmental scan of best practices in professionalism education internationally based on literature reviews, national and international experts, and, interviews with Canadian educators, researchers, students, and other relevant stakeholders, with recommendations presented to the AFMC Board and its member Faculties of Medicine on collaborating to achieve best practices. The project to review the regulatory and legislative frameworks governing professionalism across Canada was deemed to be extremely important in light of the possibility that Canadian medical schools may be developing their own accreditation policies. However, it will require extensive collaboration and support.

As a first step towards realizing the latter project, a sub-committee of the PRG will be surveying its members regarding any changes or updates to the 2008 review conducted by Dr. Handelman and Dr. Byszewski from Ottawa, as well as members' interest in participating actively on the Professionalism Education Project.. In addition we will be presenting the proposed project to our wider membership at our annual meeting in May 2011 and urging members to discuss the project and to seek support from their faculties.

In addition, Pier Bryden (co-Chair) attended the AFMC Leadership Strategic Planning Retreat in Ottawa in November 2010, contributing to the discussion focused on future directions for the AFMC.

Both Dr. Ginsburg and Dr. Bryden, as well as other key members of the AFMC PRG attended a Symposium on the Hidden Curriculum hosted by Associated Medical Services (AMS) in Toronto in March 2011.

Finally we have been working with Catherine Pierce at AFMC to reorganize and simplify the Professionalism components of the CHEC website to ensure greater ease of access and increase use of the site by PRG members.

We are currently drafting an agenda items for our annual meeting in May 2011 in Toronto based on our mid-year meeting and on requests from the PRG membership. We look forward to a busy and productive year for the PR Group.

Thank you for your consideration,

Pier Bryden and Shiphra Ginsburg



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