

Annual Report Academic Year: 2010-2011

Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick



Inspiring Minds

Faculty of Medicine



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Message from the Associate Dean

In September 2010 we opened our doors and welcomed our charter class of 2014. This report outlines some of the key events of our historic first year guided by our strategic plan.

The year began in Halifax with the full class of 2014 for orientation week. Shortly after returning to Saint John students were introduced, through their mentors, to the study of medicine in the inaugural First Light Ceremony with our specially designed New Brunswick Asklepian torch. This was followed later in the week by the moving opening ceremony with special comments from former Lieutenant Governor, Honourable Marilyn Tenholme Counsell. Following that event Premier Shawn Graham was accompanied by President and Vice Chancellor Tom Traves, Dalhousie, and President and Vice Chancellor Eddy Campbell, UNB, and Dean Thomas Marrie, Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine, in the ribbon cutting ceremony for the official opening of the DMNB building. Inside Assistant Dean, Mahesh Raju and his family unveiled the commissioned bronze bust of Hippocrates.

From the students perspective additional special events included the first Dalhousie University dual-campus full class "integration weekends" such as Med Ball, Quebec Med Games and Euphoria. While the class of 2014 did not win first prize in Euphoria from the judges perspective (first years rarely do), they won first prize in the heart of their Associate Dean, DMNB. Fair warning has been given to the competition next year!

With the first year class barely underway we began the admission process for the class of 2015. Given the success of the previous year the Multiple Mini Interview process for Dalhousie was conducted simultaneously at the two campuses in November. With construction still underway for the second half of the building, clinical skills training was

initially based in the new Clinical Teaching facilities at the Saint John Regional Hospital. With the new curriculum in place it was wonderful to be able to move into the new clinical skills teaching



and assessment area six months ahead of schedule for the completion of teaching of clinical skills. Barely settled into the new addition we received word of funding approval to renovate the ground floor addition for basic science research.

Our first year has flown by and many other objectives were reached. An aggressive time schedule was initiated for the completion of the design and construction for the clinical teaching sites in Fredericton, Miramichi, Moncton and Saint John. A national workshop for anatomists in Canadian medical schools was hosted in Saint John. The discussion from that event was helpful in the revisions to the new curriculum for anatomy integration. Our faculty wide survey was pivotal in identifying 56 new faculty "just in time" for the necessary faculty development as we rolled out our curriculum unit by unit. When the accreditation Dalhousie site visit occurred in Halifax in April 2011, we were ready! At the time of the first undergraduate able to medical education retreat in June 2011, we received the official word that the Dalhousie Program was off probation. A perfect conclusion to our first academic year!

Sincerely,
Dr. John Steeves

Admissions

The success of the MMI held in Saint John in November 2009 resulted in the decision to simultaneously hold the 2010 interviews in Halifax and Saint John. A total of 96 applicants were interviewed in November 2010 and 31 letters of offer were sent to the successful candidates.

Presentations providing an overview of DMNB and elements of completing a competitive application to Dalhousie Medicine were held at UNBSJ in the fall 2010 and at UNB (Fredericton Campus)/ St. Thomas University, Mount Allison University and Crandall University in March 2011. Over 93 students took advantage of these opportunities.

The newly formed New Brunswick Medical Education Trust under the auspices of the Saint John Regional Hospital Foundation announced the first of three endowed scholarships of \$25,000 renewed annually for four years.



Processional march during the Grand Opening of Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick, September 2010.

Canaport LNG announced a 4-year renewable full scholarship for \$35,000/year that covers tuition and living expenses for one student of the class of 2014.

Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine announced several admissions scholarships for members of the DMNB class of 2014.



Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick's Inaugural Class of 2014

Students

The students began their advocacy and fundraising initiatives in New Brunswick shortly after arrival when several members of the class participated in the Run for the Cure, Breast Cancer Awareness.

This was followed shortly after by the development of a surgical mash team in the 19th Annual Teddy Bear Fair at the Saint John Regional Hospital. Their enthusiastic involvement was captured in television and news media nationally. Other initiatives soon followed including:

- Code Blue Challenge
- Humanities Program Fundraising Event: Featuring the Tucker Park Choir
- Site Visit/Tour – UNB (Fredericton) Students
- Euphoria
- Interprofessional Health Research Day
- Spirituality in Medicine Workshop
- Making Waves Initiative: Swimming with Children with Disabilities
- Choir – Public Performance, Saint John Regional Hospital
- Everest Day – a health education program for grade 4 students in the Saint John area



Med I students participate in the CIBC Run for the Cure October 2010.



Lighting Ceremony during which students entering their first year are matched with an advisor. Held on September 3, 2011 at Lily Lake Pavilion in Saint John.

The students worked hard and utilized the video-conferencing capabilities to coordinate and practice with their classmates in Halifax for the Euphoria variety show fundraiser. Following the 2011 Euphoria, Dalhousie medical students, identified the Business and Community Anti-Poverty Initiative (BCA-PI), a community based organization that benefits children in the priority neighbourhoods in Saint John through partnerships with local businesses, as the New Brunswick recipient of monies raised.

From an athletic perspective, two students participated as varsity athletes in track and swimming while based in DMNB; one was competing for UNB, the other for Dalhousie.

Career planning for students included a local initiative involving faculty presenting on career opportunities for multiple medical disciplines.

Faculty & Staff

By the time our first student arrived all necessary staff for the first year of our program had been hired. This was a very challenging time for the new staff as their roles changed weekly as the program grew throughout the year. Change became the new normal. Staff were continuously challenged to be innovative in their roles and responsibilities. It was interesting to discover that five of our new staff resulted in repatriation of New Brunswickers or recruitment of someone new to the Province.

In addition to daily tasks was the gradual evolution in relationship building between the two campuses as we delivered one curriculum to one student class with one assessment process and one faculty separated only by geography and connected by technology.

The challenge was not just identifying faculty, but in providing faculty development training for a new curriculum that was not yet clearly defined and indeed was evolving throughout the year. An annual faculty wide survey with over 150 responses proved to be very helpful in updating contact information and allowing faculty to identify what roles they would be interested in undertaking. Faculty development sessions in clinical skills, case-based learning and professional competencies were delivered under the leadership of Dr. Wendy Stewart. Using a just in time approach, faculty were initially introduced to DMNB and associated academic activities such as the faculty appointment process. Follow-up faculty development then became more specific and occurred shortly before the assigned curriculum activity.



The patient centred new curriculum shifted focus to community provision of voluntary and simulated patients compared to the previous hospital based voluntary patients. A partnership with Volunteer Services at the Saint John Regional Hospital proved mutually beneficial with an almost 100% expression of interest to return as volunteer patients in the second year of the program. Dr. Christopher Vaillancourt as the Director of Clinical Skills worked closely with the simulated patient educators and clinical skills coordinator to ensure that every student had well trained clinical teaching faculty in place for their basic skills training.

Dr. Glendon Sullivan, Dr. Shawn Jennings, and Jillian Jennings took on the leadership of a new curricular initiative, the Health Mentors Program. They identified patients with chronic disease willing to meet with an interprofessional team of students to understand the effect of the chronic condition on the patient and their interaction with the health care system. The recruitment process included collaboration with UNB Faculty of Nursing was accomplished in just a matter of weeks.

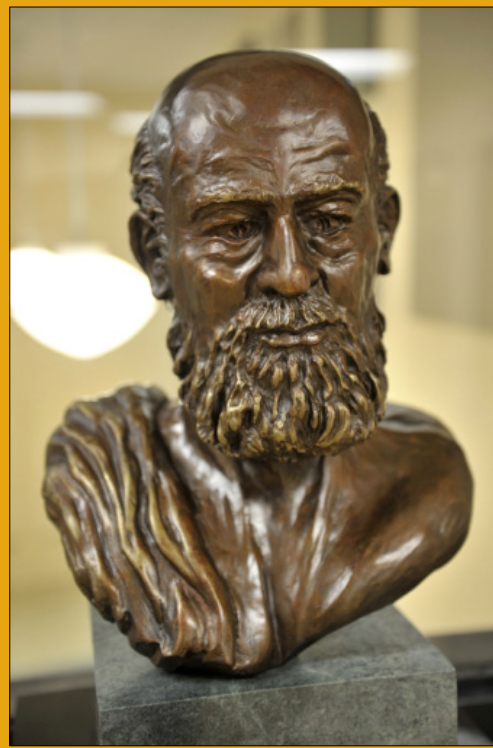
DMNB was particularly fortunate in recruiting from the community a PhD anatomist, Dr. Frank McCarthy, with more than two decades of anatomy and histology teaching experience at McGill University. Within a few weeks of his hire, the anatomy lab located in the Saint John Regional Hospital was fully supplied with cadavers and prosected specimens ready for instruction with a completely revised anatomy curriculum.

Dr. Pamela Forsythe and Dr. Sarah Gander, Saint John, and Dr. Lynn Murphy Kaulbeck and Dr. Marc Blaney, Moncton, have been accepted by the Harvard Macy Institute, Program for Health Educators. Their projects will include physician mentor program and implementation of core clerkship at a clinical site.

Academic billing numbers were key in the hiring of the DMNB Director of Student Affairs, Dr. Pamela Forsythe and the DMNB Assistant Dean of Research, Dr. Anthony Reiman.



Dr. Frank McCarthy, Assistant Professor, Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology



Hippocrates Asclepidades, Sculptor John Tedeschi, M.D.

Dr. Wendy Stewart accepted the role as Humanities Program Coordinator overseeing the development of humanities electives, introduction of book club and establishment of the Tucker Park Choir and band. The highlight of her year was the presentation by herself with three students of the first year class at the Association of Medical Educators of Europe, Clerk Idol – a musically based exploration of the student “hidden curriculum”.

Even the summer months of 2011 saw activity in the advertisement, interviews and selection of 10 DMNB Clerkship Directors for the clinical sites (Fredericton, Miramichi, Moncton and Saint John).

Infrastructure

Facilities at both Dalhousie Campuses were ready for the start of classes in September 2010. However a temporary lecture theatre was created at the Halifax Campus until full completion of Theatre A construction and associated video conferencing conference rooms. At the Saint John site the plan to construct a temporary learning skills and assessment facility was cancelled due to the early completion of the excellent clinical teaching space at the Saint John Regional Hospital. The DMNB clinical teaching and assessment space was completed in January 2011 allowing all pre-clinical teaching to take place at the DMNB facility.

Clinical teaching space design phase including costing was concluded in the early fall with all site construction completed by June 2011 in Fredericton, Miramichi, Moncton and Saint John. This included fully functional videoconferencing systems, over a year in advance of the arrival of the first DMNB clerkship cohort 2012.



Ribbon cutting of Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick with Premier Shawn Graham September 2010.

Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick project, was reported to be the, “foremost exemplar of the innovative thinking and brilliant design work of Toronto’s Engineering Harmonics consultancy. DMNB was honoured at this year’s Infocomm International Conference as the “best healthcare AV project.” ProAV and Architech magazines “Spotlight Award for 2011.”



From left to right: DMNB sites in Fredericton, Saint John, Miramichi, and Moncton hospitals.

Curriculum

Although the new curriculum was developed there were several details of implementation that required attention over the year. In particular resource implication to DMNB of each curricular unit were identified prior to the implementation of each unit, with a just in time approach. During weekly discussions with students and the Associate Dean, “Rocks and Roses”, challenges with the new curriculum were quickly identified and resolved. Over the year satisfaction with the new curriculum integration, IT functioning, and the student centred approach were expressed.

Similar to what has been reported in other regional campuses, DMNB students did not identify a disadvantage with curriculum delivered through audio/video conferencing. One clear advantage is the posting of the lectures in advance on the online web-based learning system (OWL). Students had the opportunity both individually and in groups to experience face-to-face lecture delivery locally and when visiting the Halifax campus.

A special addition to the new curriculum was rural week. Students were matched with specialty and family medicine physicians in rural communities in New Brunswick. Not only did the learners find this a wonderful opportunity to practice some of their new found clinical skills but they gained an enhanced understanding of the special characteristics of rural practice.

Recruitment of volunteers from the community is central to the new curriculum. In less than 2 months staff recruited our full quota of:

1) Patients with chronic disease for the Health Mentors program, as well as enlisting nursing for this interprofessional elective experience with UNB Nursing and DMNB.



*Year end faculty development session, May 2011
Shadow Lawn Inn*

- 2) Newborns for the Life Cycles program
- 3) Simulated patients recruited and trained for clinical skills teaching
- 4) Volunteer patients for physical examinations in collaboration with the SJRH Volunteer Services Department.

Planning was initiated regarding the feasibility of establishing an innovative program for the third year clinical clerkship at Dalhousie. In particular the Miramichi site in New Brunswick was identified as an ideal location for a pilot project. The study included a literature search, interviews with Canadian leaders in LIC's, a focused workshop on the development of an LIC proposal with an external consultant, a site visit to a recently opened LIC in Portland and Norway Maine, presentation and participation at an international conference on LIC's and presentations to four Committees reviewing the proposal for approval. *(continued on page 8)*

In follow-up to the International LIC Conference (CLIC), Dalhousie has committed to a global research initiative. Centre de formation du medicale de Nouveau Brunswick and DMNB are undertaking a joint initiative to offer a post conference visit to delegates of a world meeting focused on rural medical education in October 2012.

In follow up to that conference Dalhousie has committed to a global research initiative.

At the year end retreat no significant comparability issues were identified for the implementation of the year one curriculum at the DMNB site. Lessons learned will be applied to the implementation of the new second year of curriculum. The most significant modification of the second year curriculum involved expanded anatomy teaching and closer integration of anatomy into the curriculum and clinical skills teaching.

Accreditation

The one figurative cloud over the opening of our program was the reality of the Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University had been placed on probation by the medical school accreditation bodies LCME and CACMS. The number of areas ultimately identified as being non-compliant with the 132 standards became the focus of a lot of work at both the Halifax and New Brunswick campuses.

By December 2010, a “briefing book” of extensive documentation was provided to the accrediting bodies. This included revision of the affiliation agreement between Horizon Health Network and Dalhousie University which was based on fundamental principles of collaboration between the clinical and academic institutions. A “limited” accreditation site survey was conducted on the Halifax Campus 04 & 05 April 2011. As part of this process the accreditation team also conducted a review of DMNB in “areas of transition”. This review focused on implementation of the first year program, the funding support

and the use of information technology systems.

We were delighted to learn in the exit interview that no areas of concern were identified in

the implementation of DMNB. Indeed reviewers were particularly complementary with regards to the quality of the students and their performance during the interview process.

Literally the day before the first full year review of the new curriculum at a meeting of faculty academic leadership Dean Marrie was able to announce that Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine had obtained full accreditation. Several transition areas remained especially curriculum mapping and the implementation of the second year of the new curriculum that would require a further visit in 2012.



Research

As part of the Dalhousie University Bold Ambitions Fundraising Campaign, DMNB \$15 million Medical Research Campaign was initiated under the Chair of Lynn Irving in March 2011. The Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation kick-started the campaign with \$1 million to support research at DMNB. The fundraising campaign includes the development of an endowed Chair in Occupational Medicine as well as student scholarships and research funding support for the basic scientists.

Shortly after the launch, funding was announced by the Province of New Brunswick for infrastructure completion of a multi-purpose wet lab space designed for the soon to be recruited four DMNB Basic Scientists. A target date of January 2012 has been set for construction completion.

Cardiovascular disease has been identified as the research focus and the search committee was formed in 2011 to recruit the first two basic scientists with positions posted with a closing date of 15 May 2011.

Dr. Duncan Webster developed a microbiology teaching and research lab in the DMNB multi-purpose and anatomy lab facility at the Saint John Regional Hospital.

Several students presented as part of the interprofessional health research day held at the Saint John Regional Hospital. Several students obtained summer research grants as part of the Faculty of Medicine Research Foundation for the summer of 2011.



DMNB research labs under construction, August 2011

Tucker Park Collaborative

Discussions have been held regarding the establishment of a management structure to encourage and facilitate inter-institutional collaboration and resource sharing amongst the 4 health education institutions in Tucker Park; Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick, University of New Brunswick, New Brunswick Community College, and Horizon Health. The targeted domains include space utilization, research, human resource, educational programs, fund-raising and special projects such as simulation training and assessment and interprofessional practice.



Aerial view of Tucker Park

Committees have been established to focus on these and a consultant, Jeff Jennings, has been hired to facilitate further collaboration.

Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick will work with the institutions in developing a web presence for the Collaborative.

Discovery Days . . .

Tucker Park Collaborative is exploring developing relationships with High School Students among the 4 institutions to encourage interest in pursuing careers in the health care professionals. The first Discovery Days was held on May 11, 2011 and focused on Grades 9 & 10. A total of 43 students participated in the Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick portion of the events which included:

- Can't Text This: F2F Communication Skills
- Med School From A Distance - Technology and the classroom
- Culture and Identification of Bacteria



Med I students teamed up with students from UNBSJ and NBCC to participate in the interdisciplinary Code Blue Challenge February 2011 at the Saint John Regional Hospital

Strategic Plan 2010-2011

Mission: Dalhousie Medical Education Program New Brunswick (DMEP NB) enables growth in medical education and health research capacity through the provision of facilities, teaching faculty and administrative services to deliver the Undergraduate Faculty of Medicine curriculum and related components.

Vision: Implement the Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine Undergraduate Curriculum in New Brunswick as a comparable educational experience that meets or exceeds accreditation standards while being socially accountable and fully integrated into the New Brunswick community. The development of health research will be an integral part of this initiative.

Educating Doctors and Researchers of the Future

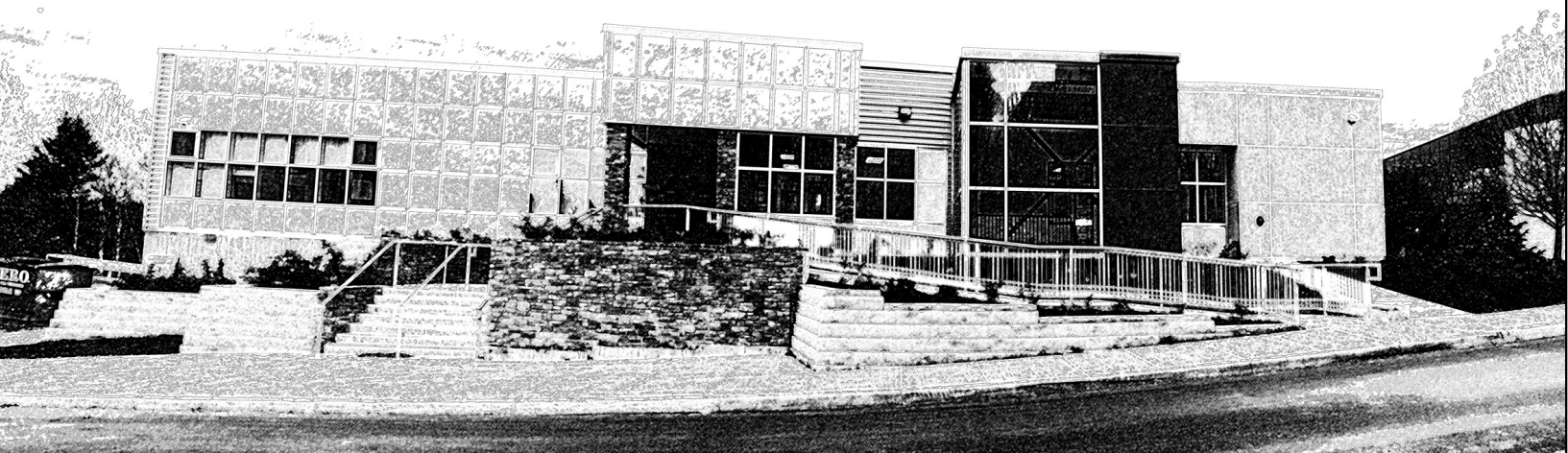
- Develop recruitment strategies reflective of social accountability mandate.
- Encourage activities that promote single class identity for the class of 2014
- Develop and implement policies, procedures and processes which provide for a comparable student focused safe, effective, comparable learning experience that meets accreditation standards and is fully integrated into the Faculty of Medicine.
- Ensure availability of clinical and research experiences provided by qualified faculty sufficient to deliver the preclerkship curriculum.
- Ensure the details of the design plans for the Clinical Teaching Spaces are completed with construction completion scheduled for 2011.
- Develop a business case for a longitudinal integrated clerkship in DMNB
- Develop a functioning collaborative model with the Health Education Institutions at Tucker Park in areas of education, research, and physical and human resource sharing.
- Establish the processes and infrastructure necessary for health research and related student experiences.

Enhancing Patient Care and Population Health

- Develop student elective experiences in global and community health related experiences.
- Explore initiatives in aboriginal health in New Brunswick.
- Develop interprofessional educational opportunities in health care delivery for Year 1 & 2 programs.

Advancing an Innovative Research Agenda

- Review best practices in teaching anatomy in distributed programs including curricular delivery comparison and outcome assessments.
- Establish an evaluation process with defined research criteria for DMNB
- Establish a multi-use research wet lab and animal care facility.
- Establish a Research Chair in Occupational Medicine
- Identify immunology research position.
- Identify opportunities to grow clinical research activities through student engagement.



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