



ANNUAL REPORT 2010-11



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA
HEALTH SCIENCES COUNCIL



The Health Sciences Council Mission

To champion
interdisciplinary
health sciences
research, education
and community
service at the
University of Alberta.

Introduction

The University of Alberta is the first in Canada with a support system in place, and the strategic vision to embed interdisciplinary health research and interprofessional education in its culture. The Health Sciences Council (HSC) is a collaborative and coordinated council of equals that facilitates interdisciplinary

learning, discovery and citizenship through leadership and collaboration across all health disciplines. The Health Sciences Council marked a seminal year in 2010-2011 through significant advancement of its Academic Plan and the many initiatives stemming from it.

The Health Sciences Council Membership

Augustana
Agricultural, Life, and Environmental Sciences
Campus St. Jean
Medicine and Dentistry
Nursing
Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Physical Education and Recreation
Rehabilitation Medicine
School of Public Health

Vice-President (Research)
University of Calgary Faculty of Social Work
Alberta Health Services

The Council is accountable to the Provost and Vice-President (Academic).

Message from the Vice Provost, Health Sciences Council

2010-2011 was a busy and rewarding year for the Health Sciences Council. The completion of the Human Health Initiative companion document commanded considerable time. This document plus others lay the groundwork for the scholarly processes and outcomes the council can achieve.

This year, the council realized important progress in the development of three key initiatives critical to the long-term vision of the Council: the Health Sciences Education and Research Commons (HSERC); the Interdisciplinary Health Research Academy (IHRA); and the Edmonton Clinic Health Academy (ECHA). We also continued to provide essential support to the Office of the Provost and the Health Sciences Faculties.

The Health Sciences Council's mandate is to facilitate interdisciplinary learning, discovery and citizenship through leadership and collaboration across all health disciplines. I believe that the progress we made against specific goals in 2010-2011 helped us find new ways in which we can fulfill that mandate.

I am pleased to present this report of our major accomplishments for the year. It is difficult to separate our activities into discreet teaching and research columns. It is, indeed, the very nature of our work that these areas cross paths and intersect in key areas. I believe the Council's contribution to both areas is considerable. Many thanks to my team at the Health Sciences Council and to the council itself for their ongoing support of, and dedication to our mandate.

Jane Drummond



Jane Drummond

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Martin Ferguson-Pell

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Message from the Chair, Health Sciences Council

This year saw a new focus for the Health Sciences Council. As part of our commitment to the incubation and translation of interdisciplinary programs, the Council successfully transferred the association of three centres from HSC to faculties: the Alberta Centre on Aging; Alberta Institute for Human Nutrition and the John Dosseter Health Ethics Centre. The Council created the Interdisciplinary Health Research Academy, a community of scholars committed to health research, and the mechanism through which the university will facilitate and support that research. The Health Sciences Education and Research Commons initiated a process to appoint leads for thematic spaces including the Specialized Care Suite and the Smart Condo in the Edmonton Clinic Health Academy.

The Council has worked hard to ensure that the new Edmonton Clinic Health Academy fulfills its promise of being an iconic facility for interdisciplinary teaching and research in the health sciences. As the occupants start to move in we will see more clearly how the vision for the building can create opportunities for students, previously scattered across campus, to interact in ways that will encourage team work and interdisciplinary behaviours. Our goal moving forward is to build frameworks for these interactions so that they have a lasting impact on the next generations of health professionals, creating a continuum of care through our hospitals, in our communities, providing support in our urban, rural and remote settings.

Many thanks to the Health Sciences deans who continue to participate in, and support the important work of the Health Sciences Council.

Martin Ferguson-Pell

Health Sciences Education and Research Commons (HSERC)

HSERC IS A COLLABORATION OF TEACHERS AND RESEARCHERS FROM ACROSS THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA CAMPUS AND ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES.

The **Interdisciplinary Health Education Partnership (IHEP)** project, a fruitful collaboration between the University of Alberta, NorQuest College, NAIT, MacEwan University and Alberta Health Services, continues to expand. IHEP focuses on developing interdisciplinary team-based simulations and building capacity for the delivery of team-based simulation curricula. The project delivered numerous inter-professional simulation workshops and debriefing workshops throughout the year, including the Save Stan Simulation Day. This event was supported by the Access to the Future fund.

Significant progress was made with the Interprofessional (IP) Learning Pathway, designed to better prepare health science students to conduct research and practice in a health care environment where change is a constant and IP collaboration and teamwork is critical. The Pathway is designed to integrate IP competencies into

each and every health science program, resulting in each student graduating with a core set of these competencies, fully prepared for collaborative work and relationships.

Other developments that are bringing the pathway closer to reality include:

A Pathway launch will introduce first-year students to IP education on campus. This is targeted to a cohort of students from the faculties of Rehabilitation Medicine, Pharmacy, and Nursing, with plans to expand future offerings to additional faculties. The IP Pathway launch is supported by the Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund.

Development of a **Virtual IP Educational Resource (VIPER) Centre** as a key support for the pathway, providing support to faculty and practice for educators with identifying, integrating and evaluating IP competencies

HSERC embodies the philosophies of interprofessional collaboration, innovative teaching and leading edge technologies that advance health education and care delivery.

discovery learning

and experiences into curricula and practice education. The centre's resources will also be available to students.

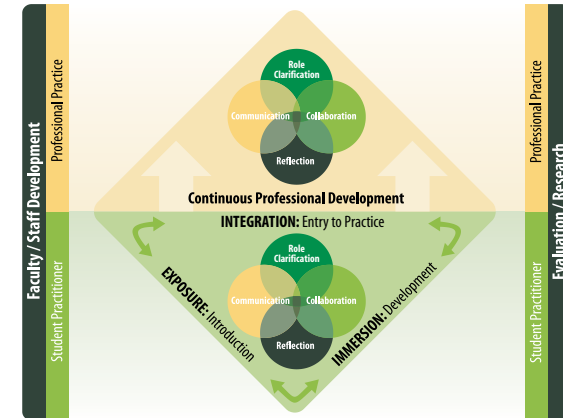
The creation of an **IP portfolio** for students will assist them with identifying and documenting IP competencies and experiences within curricula and practice education. The portfolio process will also be designed to assist with documentation of continuing education credits when students move into professional practice. This portfolio will be integrated with discipline-specific continuing education portfolios.

The **Save Stan Simulation Day** was an event organized by a team of educators from the IHEP project. Nearly 130 students from MacEwan University, NAIT, NorQuest, University of Calgary and the University of Alberta participated in simulations including palliative care, post-op teamwork and communication, Rehab hospital,

homecare, "ER Mash-up" or virtual world simulations. Data collected was extremely helpful in evaluating the effect of the simulation experience on student learning. In addition, students and facilitators participated in what they agreed was the most valuable part of the day: thorough debriefings of their simulation experiences. The debriefings are also critical to delivering exceptional simulation curricula. The University of Alberta looks forward to hosting this event in the new Edmonton Clinic Health Academy in winter 2012.

HSERC collaborated with the Canadian Obesity Network to deliver a **faculty development workshop** that will assist with curriculum development, a major component of which will be a workshop for health science.

IP Learning Pathway



Together with the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL), HSERC co-hosted a day of *Fostering Reflective Capacity Through Interactive Reflective Writing* with Dr. Hedy Wald. The day consisted of a foundational seminar attended by 75 people and a skills

community engagement
near and far

practice workshop in which 40 participants representing 15 disciplines from Alberta Health Services, the University of Alberta and NAIT took part.

During 2010-2011, HSERC provided more than 1200 standardized patient experiences, internally and externally, through the **Standardized Patient Program (SPP)**, a cost-recovery simulation program that provides standardized patients to all educational programs across University of Alberta faculties. The program also provides standardized patients to external partners, such as NAIT, Grant MacEwan, and Alberta Health Services; and administers eight licensure exams for the Medical Council of Canada, Pharmacy Examining Board of Canada, Physiotherapy National Exam and the Alberta International Medical Graduates exam. More than 600 candidates participated in these exams during the year.

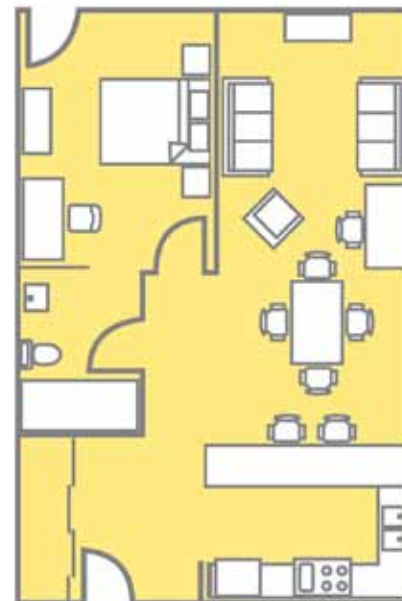
HSERC in ECHA

Leadership selection for the simulation space will serve as the mechanism for developing educational and research programming within HSERC. Expressions of Interest were published, and five teams replied with proposals. The Vice Provost, HSC and the Associate Vice President, Research, are leading development of these leads into a community of practice to be hosted within HSERC.

The second annual Smart Condo Think Tank brought architects, interior designers, industry, university faculties and departments, engineers, government representatives together to review work performed over the previous year, and to brainstorm on future priorities.

More than 2500 students used the **HSERC Demo Centre**, attracted to the unique experience created by its sophisticated

Smart Condo™



simulation and AVIT. Learners originated from Nutrition, Pharmacy, Nursing, Dentistry, Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Industrial Design, Computing Science, and Secondary School Education.

Interdisciplinary Health Research Academy (IHRA)

ESTABLISHED IN JANUARY 2010, IHRA IS A COMMUNITY OF SCHOLARS COMMITTED TO INTERDISCIPLINARY HEALTH RESEARCH, AND A MECHANISM THROUGH WHICH THE UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA WILL SUPPORT AND FACILITATE TRANSFORMATIVE RESEARCH.

Early in 2010, the **Interdisciplinary Health Research Advisory Committee (IHRAC)** was established. IHRAC is comprised of the 18 Associate Deans of Research who provide broad oversight and guide IHRA's development.



In 2010, IHRA undertook specific activities designed to determine the level of interdisciplinary health research being conducted, and identify the need for research team resources and other supports for successful interdisciplinary health research.

In May and September 2010, IHRA conducted a **team facilitation pilot** involving all faculties. Invitations were extended for Letters of Intent (LOIs) focused on health research from interdisciplinary teams, and intended for the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) grant development competitions in the fall of 2010 and 2011.

Two competitive processes resulted in 22 applications. Seven teams were chosen to receive support for health-research team development. Three of those seven teams went on to submit applications for funding to the CIHR.

Through this pilot process, the selected teams:

- received help integrating

multidisciplinary members into an interdisciplinary whole;

- added stakeholders and decision-makers to their teams;
- developed team roles;
- planned for a program of research rather than for a single project;
- learned to meet funders' requirements;
- obtained support for grantsmanship and access to peer reviews; and
- accessed resources specific to their needs, such as consultation with experts and seed monies for pre-application work.

IHRA conducted a survey with 18 Faculties and Schools to identify areas which focus activities. The survey clearly indicated a strong need for IHRA support with:

- grantsmanship mentoring;
- research team facilitation;
- engagement with stakeholders;
- access to research space;
- access to experts; and
- access to information on diverse sources of research funding.

An analysis of 65 research plans from health stakeholders and other universities revealed important elements for IHRA to

consider in its planning including accountability, governance, balance of scholarship across domains, need for business plans/ventures and commercialization, partnership/collaboration, capacity building, education/awareness/communication, knowledge transfer, public engagement, evaluation/performance measures, and leadership.

Recommendations coming out of these consultations included establishing a Steering Committee and a **Global Sounding Board**. The Global Sounding Board would include all interested stakeholders who participated in the consultations or who have an interest in interdisciplinary health research. It was determined that the Steering Committee would have a balance of academics/associate deans and external stakeholders as members. From this Global Sounding Board, about 15 external stakeholders expressed interest in being part of the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee will be tasked

with providing specific direction for IHRA including the management of the Discovery Mall in ECHA, based on the approved strategic plan and space management criteria for the Discovery Mall.

The year saw a marked increase in interest among health sciences students in the potential for interdisciplinary health research scholarship, with 26 applications submitted for two TD Endowment Studentships administered by the HSC in cooperation with the Interdisciplinary Health Research Academy Advisory Committee of Associate Deans.

The Discovery Mall was established as a new, permanent home for IHRA. The facility provides over 2400 square metres of space for team facilitation, capacity building, storefront services, a connecting portal for stakeholders, as well as research networks and interdisciplinary teams. A governance model to support its function as a shared, central space has also been developed.

The Discovery Mall was established as a new, permanent home for IHRA.

IHRA has identified several challenges as it moves forward:

- coordinating and creating a University of Alberta portal for stakeholder input to health scholarship;
- ensuring researchers, faculties and partners are suitably recognized and rewarded;
- ensuring meaningful participation of non-health faculty and Faculties; and
- establishing best practices in allocating Discovery Mall space and resources.

incubating scholarships

Edmonton Clinic Health Academy (ECHA)

The Health Sciences Council has academic and administrative responsibility for the Edmonton Clinic Health Academy. In 2010-2011 this project commanded much time and attention.

The Edmonton Clinic Health Academy (ECHA) will provide interdisciplinary education and research opportunities to a new generation of health care professionals at the University of Alberta. ECHA will be home to 12 academic groups from six different faculties, as well as 12 student associations and groups.

- Agricultural, Life and Environmental Sciences
 - Nutrition
- Health Sciences Council
 - Health Sciences Education and Research Commons (HSERC)
 - Interdisciplinary Health Research Academy (IHRA)
- Medicine and Dentistry
 - Community Engagement
 - Continuous Professional Learning
 - Dentistry
 - Medical Laboratory Science
 - Pediatrics
- Nursing

- Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Rehabilitation Medicine
 - Rehab Robotics Lab
- School of Public Health

The Committees established include:

- The **Administrative Process Working Group** (APWG), consisting of representatives from the Health Sciences Council, ECHA administration team, Project Management Office, and Facilities and Operations meets on a bi-weekly basis to discuss issues related to administrative planning for ECHA.
- The **APO Working Group**, which reports up to the APWG, comprises senior level APO representatives from all occupant groups; it meets on a monthly basis to discuss and make decisions regarding administrative planning.
- The **Administrative Subcommittee** reports to the APWG, and includes key administrative staff from each occupant group. It also acts as an advisory group for administrative planning.
- The **IT Sub-Committee** consists of IT representatives from each occupant group, AICT, the Project Management Office and the ECHA administrative

team. This group is working towards developing, planning, and successfully implementing all IT-related projects at ECHA.

The **ECHA administrative team** developed an effective oversight model, consisting of the HSC Associate Director (Administration), a full-time Administrator, and a part-time ECHA Administrative Assistant. This team oversees and manages shared amenities for ECHA occupants, and deals with any issues or challenges that arise, escalating those of a more serious nature to the Academic Steering Committee. The team meets monthly with the senior administrators (APO's) of each occupant group.

Joint funding: A joint funding model was developed for the funding of shared amenities at ECHA; the model proposes that occupant groups will contribute funds in proportion to the amount of floor space they occupy in the facility. The funds will help pay for such amenities as shared photocopiers, evergreening and audio-visual support in shared meeting rooms and coffee and tea solutions.



The Health Sciences Council has academic and administrative responsibility for the Edmonton Clinic Health Academy.

Student Engagement: The *student associations* moving into ECHA have been meeting since March 2010 to develop a joint oversight model for the student commons area.

Since no detail is too large or too small when it comes to ensuring the day-to-day operations of the new facility run smoothly, great strides were made on a number of logistical fronts, including:

Meeting room scheduling: A set of principles for booking of shared meeting rooms was developed in consultation with the APO Working Group. The Computer Aided Facilities Management (CAFM) team is also developing a transparent space scheduling system, to be used by all building occupants to book shared meeting rooms, atriiums, or other spaces, such as non-centrally scheduled seminar rooms.

Copy/workrooms: Work is in progress with Xerox and the ONEcard office to find a solution for shared copy/printing in the Academy. One concept being explored is a system that would allow occupants to use any multifunctional device located within the ECHA's administrative area. This system

would also provide detailed accounting software for tracking usage and costs.

Classroom scheduling: To keep the process as fair and consistent as possible, the Office of the Registrar and the ECHA team

have decided that all classrooms in ECHA, with the exception of a handful of seminar rooms, will be centrally scheduled. AVIT in all UA centrally scheduled classrooms is supported and evergreened by AICT.



2010 – 2011 by the numbers

TEACHING AND STUDENT INTERACTIONS

130

students from five schools took part in Save Stan



2500

students used the HSERC demo Centre



600

candidates took part in eight licensure exams with Standardized Patients

1200

Standardized Patient experiences

759

students enrolled in the ID410

RESEARCH AND RESEARCH SUPPORT

65

research plans were analysed for common elements to be considered by IHRA

74

stakeholders including 18 Associate Deans of Research consulted on IHRA's strategic plan

22

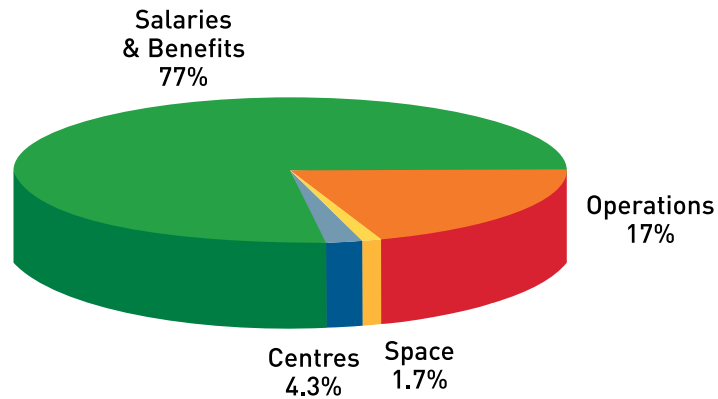
applications were received for IHRA's team facilitation pilot

26

students applied for the TD Endowment Studentship



TOTAL EXPENDITURES FOR 2010-2011:
\$1,877,654



Notes to expenditures

- Total includes Includes \$379.5k in expenditures from Standardized Patient Program, which is offset by \$391k in revenue from this cost-recovery program
- The Alberta Centre on Aging; Alberta Institute for Human Nutrition and the John Dossetor Health Ethics Centre (shown as 'centres') have been moved to the faculties
- Salaries and benefits are for 12.2 FTEs plus Standardized Patients and exam contract staff.



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