



# Clerkship Committee (CC)

## Minutes

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### Clerkship Committee (CC)

#### APPROVED

Tuesday September 24, 2024

12:30 pm to 3:00 pm

Meeting via Zoom

**Attendees:** Drs. K. Busche (chair), S. Bannister, A. Bromley, S. Coderre, K. Darcus, M. Davis, J. Desy, W. Harris-Thompson, J. Haws, N. Johnson, H. Kim, T. Lohmann, S. Lopushinsky, P. MacEachern, S. McLeod, M. Mintz, R. Ram, M. Sohn, J. Vantanajal, S. Weeks, T. Wong, C. Zavitz, Ms. A. Adel, Ms. S. Facchini, Ms. J. Holm, Mr. M. Paget, Ms. A. Randhawa, Ms. D. Stanojevic, Ms. S. Tai, Ms. G. Taneja, Ms. D. Jean (admin)

**Regrets:** Drs. G. Gelfand, N. Hardcastle, F. Jivraj, S. Pancic, A. Ritter, E. Ruka, M. Thompson, S. Wicklum, Ms. M. Hsu, Mr. S. Ivaturi, Mr. V. Joe, Mr. J. Kreutz, Ms. S. Leskosky

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#### 1. Welcome and Thanks

The meeting was conducted through Zoom and was called to order at 12:33 p.m. by Dr. K. Busche (Chair). Dr. Busche welcomed everyone to the committee welcoming all of the new members including Drs. Kim, Lohmann, Wong, MacEachern, and McLeod as well as the VP Academics Representative Ms. Adel from the Class of 2027.

#### 2. Approval of Meeting Agenda –Passed unanimously.

#### 3. Approval of Minutes from May 28, 2024 – Passed unanimously.

#### 4. Standing Updates

##### 4.1 Student Reports

Ms. Randhawa updated the committee that there are only a few weeks left of Pre Clerkship which is leading to lots of excitement and nerves for the Class of 2026. She indicated that the class is very happy to know that the students will have 16 weeks of electives completed before the MSPR cutoff, which is significantly more than some other medical schools across Canada. Questions from the Class of 2026 include elective timing and the need for some disciplines to require mandatory rotation time before an elective can be completed, upcoming changes to the exam format, the home electives being opened up on September 25, 2024, the possibility of moving some of the weeks going forward, wondering if or when the Maternal Fetal Medicine electives will be reopening for any availability, and some concern noted over proposed changes to the AFMC portal. Dr. Busche informed the committee that the portal is changing to a new structure using a capacity model, which will avoid individual elective fees and only being able to apply for electives that are available at the time, so it removes the step of applying and then waiting for confirmation if you did or did not get into that elective. Dr. Bromley added that this is a topic of discussion at all UME Deans' meetings across the country and this model of the AFMC portal is looking at being launched in January 2025. Dr. Bromley included that moving or changing the schedule for the electives is not something that is able to happen due to core rotations and scheduling capacities especially with overlapping classes. Dr. Busche

included that there is no evidence to believe that having front loaded electives cause any harm to the students, citing that if it did it should be evident in the Match rates.

Ms. Adel introduced herself and informed the committee that the Class of 2027 is currently in Block 1 Unit 2 with an exam coming soon. The first Career Development week for the class is in November and the first OSCE is taking place in December. She included that the students have recently started shadowing which has gone well so far and a nice experience to get into clinical situations. Regarding Clerkship, she added that there is not much known about it at this time but would like to get some Clerkship Information Sessions to happen earlier again for the Class of 2027 like they did for the Class of 2026 and inquired about the Lottery Session happening before the summer vacation break. Dr. Busche informed the committee that these meetings can take place sooner and will work with the availabilities and calendars of all that present and attend to make these sessions work for earlier dates.

#### **4.2 Undergraduate Medical Education Committee**

Dr. Bromley informed the committee that UMEC met last in May where the Extended Clerkship Policy was discussed, and some changes are to be finalized and then circulated for the upcoming Match. She also included that there are significant budget cuts coming within the University with hopes that it will not impact people directly too much, but wanted the committee to be aware that there could be updates regarding this in the future if changes are to be made.

#### **4.3 RIME Committee Update**

Dr. Weeks informed the committee that the Class of 2027 is in Unit 2 with being almost three months into medical school. So far things seem to be going well with content and information being sent out. Dr. Weeks informed the committee that the first Career Development week is November 18 to 24, 2024 this way all Clerkship Directors are aware and can remind or inform their departments that there will be first year students in the clinical environments. Dr. Weeks reminded the committee that these weeks are not electives and are not to be used for reference letters but are extended shadowing-like opportunities for the students to experience and learn more of the different areas of medicine that they have an interest in. She noted that there have been some capacity issues indicated at this point but are working through them and informed the committee that the remaining Clerkship Development Weeks take place in early June and a week in July. There have been millions of CARDS played between the Classes of 2026 and 2027, there are being more and more CARDS made and that there are some clerkships that have been active and using the CARDS platform as well. Dr. Weeks included that the Class of 2026 has only 3 Units left and then a Block 3 OSCE in December, which is 3 OSCE's now for the Pre-Clerkship opposed to the 2 it has been in the past to allow them to integrate and incorporate the knowledge and skills for these examinations. Following is the winter break and they are then off to Clerkship as the first RIME curriculum class to enter Clerkship and are looking forward to seeing the performance of these students as they progress.

#### **4.4 Student Evaluation Committee Update**

Dr. Desy informed the committee that the most recent SEC meeting was held on September 23, with the biggest update is the change to the clerkship assessments and exam formats were approved and will be presented to this committee later this meeting. The Unit exams for the Pre Clerkship have approved a shift from the CARDS system examination to now having up to 20% of any exam come from any non-CARDS based questions as well.

#### **4.5 Research Committee Update**

Dr. Desy informed the committee that the Research Committee has split into two different committees, one being the interest committee which is UME focused and still held weekly, along with the Research Committee being chaired by Dr. Kevin McLaughlin and meetings are held every three to four months. They've had one meeting which has confirmed the people involved and created the Terms of Reference, and

largely working on and planning the ECLIPSE (Educational Conference for Learning, Innovation, and Professional Scholarly Enhancement) event that is being hosted here at the University of Calgary. This event includes a Pre Clerkship Scholarship display, Faculty Appreciation event, and a Jones Family sponsored speaker.

#### **4.6 Curriculum Innovation and Oversight Committee Update**

Dr. Busche informed the committee that there is no update at this time.

#### **4.6 PGME Update**

Dr. Davis updated the committee that there was a recent ICRE Professionalism meeting held in Ottawa for the Post Graduate program offices across the country. Big things include assessment platform changes, programs to have competency based changes and flexibility through evaluations, deferred residency starts to be reviewed and handled at a program level with guidance provided on how to, or not to, accommodate certain residency deferral requests.

#### **4.7 Accreditation Update**

Dr. Mintz reminded the committee that the online accreditation review is happening on October 21 to 23, 2024 with an in-person review on December 2 and 3, 2024. She informed the committee that this formal review process takes place every eight years, with the goal of retaining full accreditation. She informed the committee that all the members should have received an invite and meeting information at this point for the meeting taking place on October 22, 2024 for the Clerkship Directors, she also included that on September 27, 2024 there is a meeting that will go over some of the topics, questions, and information that will be discussed at the accreditation to get the directors prepared with more information.

#### **4.8 EDI Update**

Ms. Taneja updated the committee that a new mistreatment reporting mechanism has been approved.

### **5. Arising from the Minutes**

Dr. Busche informed the committee that due to timing there has been no major update to any of the arising topics and will discuss further at the next meeting.

### **6. New Business**

#### **6.1 New Exam Format for Clerkship**

Dr. Busche reminded the committee that Drs. Coderre and Desy along with the exam teams have been working through a creation for a new Clerkship Exam model that would take the exams from being eight rotation based exams to a more spread out progress based testing going forward. Dr. Desy presented information for the new Clerkship Assessment Strategy. The current assessment structure for the Clerkship includes ITERS, projects and/or presentations, and summative MCQ's, with longitudinal learning pieces including EPA's and the Clerkship OSCE, then the students go through competency and graduate. The problems for this model includes, back loaded exams, many deferrals/rewrites, and the specialty focus as some questions can be used in multiple rotations. The proposed model would no longer include a Summative MCQ there would be a progress test model where they get tested longitudinally with all the presentation topics they would expect students to see/know before they graduate and would still have the competency before graduation. The benefits from this new model would include, exams spaced equally, less examinations, generalist focus, aligns with cognitive psychology principles, and is a similar format to the MCCQE Part 1 which is felt to be a better study tool to help prepare the students. Dr. Desy noted that the first examination would be a formative in-person MCQ a third of the way through Clerkship, examination two would be a summative around two thirds of the way through, while examination three would be a summative at the end of the clerkship year. Students must pass either examination two or three to be considered satisfactory, this meaning if students pass the second examination, they would not be required to

write the third one. The exam would be generalist focused, with two 100 question exams per examination, with exams being written on Fridays; the first 100 questions would be done one week and the second 100 questions would be answered the following week. The question creation and maintenance would still be created by the clerkship evaluation coordinators and the standard setting would be the Hofstee compromise method. Preparation for the exams would include studying, Course 8 will still be ongoing every two weeks during clerkship and introducing formative CARD deck examinations to prepare for the examination, which is a similar style and difficulty to the current Pre Clerkship exams using CARDS which will be a must complete component before the in person exams. Dr. Desy presented the motion below and opened up for questions and discussion.

Discussion included the ability to identify weakness in students is missing through this model, engagement in learning issues discussed especially when only having to pass the second exam and students could be finished that portion of their clerkship, some potential scheduling issues with different preceptor availability on days that are normally scheduled off due to other exams. Deferrals and rewrite issues were discussed noting that each half exam would be their own deferral date, and nothing would be marked until each part of the exam was complete. There was discussion around the ability to break down the components of the examinations to see how the students do with the different disciplines rather than just a generalist overview. Questions arose around feedback, exam review, and when the deferral dates after an exam would be so that exams will not be backloaded like they are now. Dr. Coderre went over how some of the mock exam was made up and how it relates to the blueprint and what steps were taken to create this new style of exam including that the examination question bank has gone from over 1,200 questions to 580 for these exams with the best of the best questions being used. There was further discussion around timing of the exams, the ability to study for the exam, and some concerns around how this model will work for the different clerkship rotations.

**Motion:** Be it resolved that we move to the updated clerkship examination format presented here (namely, that clerkship knowledge examinations will be moved from individual clerkship rotations into the “block 4” course, and will interleave content from all clerkship rotations into one comprehensive assessment, repeated 3 times throughout clerkship, with 1 being formative, and 2 and 3 being summative. Students will be required to pass either examination 2 or examination 3).

**Proposal:** Dr. Busche proposed to accept the Motion presented by Dr. Desy as it was presented today.

First: Dr. J. Desy

Second: Dr. R. Ram

Motion: Passed

## 6.2 Clinical Pharmacy Teaching

Dr. Busche informed the committee that this will be discussed at the next meeting.

## 7. Clerkship Reports

### 7.1 UCLIC

Dr. Ram presented the UCLIC Report to the Committee. He included the overview and mission for the rotation and how this Clerkship is different and how it functions longitudinally versus the normal Clerkship through the school, including the expansion with the sites available for the students and the funding is Grant based rather than the traditional budget from the University. From the Class of 2023 AFMC report the UCLIC program scored the highest in every possible category which was a highlight indicated from this reporting period. The overall rating for UCLIC was 4.7/5, noting that is the highest from the last four classes. Dr. Ram informed the committee there was one instance noted about an issue with a preceptor that was not until the survey results came in that was brought to the attention of the UCLIC team, he noted that the preceptor

that was mentioned is now no longer part of the UCLIC teaching program. Overall, most comments were extremely positive with preceptors, inter-professional teamwork, and ability to perform more independently with working with the same preceptors, patients, community and staff on a regular basis. The strengths identified include the expectations of UCLIC were fulfilled, able to see the type of patients required, culturally sensitive issues related to patient care were addressed, and relevant professional and ethical issues were covered. The weaknesses identified by the clerk comments include, the exams not being longitudinal based like the rotation, the inability to tailor the UCLIC requirements to a certain number of weeks at a teaching center and not around specific rotations based on each sites exposure opportunities, some rotations not having enough presentations or having these presentations be moved to a larger medical facility away from their teaching sites, some logistical challenges such as moving and travelling more without necessarily having the support from family and friends locally, and some weakness identified in having to write the same exam with less exposure to certain disciplines than the urban rotations. The lowest rated included the PaSS program and not being helpful to prepare for exams or CaRMS and that it didn't help manage the overall expectations of the UCLIC experience. Dr. Ram noted that the upcoming challenges and concerns include the expansion, changing landscape of learners and training, teaching spaces, support services, educational infrastructure, and the number of preceptors. Dr. Ram noted that there were 37 applications for the UCLIC program from the Class of 2025 which helps to continue to grow the interest in rural medicine going forward in future planning.

**Proposal:** Dr. Busche informed the committee that due to timing and many members needing to leave the meeting, the UCLIC report will be voted on at the next meeting.

### **7.2 Surgery**

Dr. Busche informed the committee that due to timing, the Surgery Report will be moved to the next meeting on October 29, 2024.

Dr. Busche thanked everyone for attending and for their discussion. He reminded the committee that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday October 29<sup>th</sup> where Surgery will present. He informed the committee that the Internal Medicine Report, originally scheduled for next meeting, will be moved to the New Year when Dr. Lohmann returns from sabbatical.

**Meeting adjourned @ 2:43 p.m.**

**Minutes by: Danielle Jean**

**Edited by: Dr. Kevin Busche**