



Postgraduate Medical Education
Covid-19 Update
December 22, 2020

Electives:

As outlined in the attached joint communication, both the University of Calgary and University of Alberta will be suspending all incoming and outgoing electives. This decision was made only after careful consideration, input from multiple stakeholders, and in the context of increasing concern about rising Covid-19 case volumes both here and in other provincial jurisdictions.

I appreciate the impact on trainees and recognize that many will be disappointed. The current situation is even more challenging than it was in the spring as Covid numbers continue to rise. I am mindful of resident safety as interprovincial travel is discouraged and some jurisdictions already require mandatory periods of self-isolation. In speaking with colleagues across the country it is clear that there is widespread disruption to usual educational experiences in many teaching centers at this time.

I am aware that some residents have already incurred costs associated with organizing an elective rotation. My understanding is that all provincial medical regulatory authorities have agreed to reimburse trainees for cancelled elective experiences. For other expenses please contact either Mabelle James or Minjeong Kim at PGME to discuss your individual circumstances which will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Copies of correspondence documenting requests for refunds for travel and/accommodation will be required. PGME will make every effort to support trainees impacted by this suspension.

MCC:

I received updated information regarding the MCC examinations earlier today. Beginning in 2021 MCC Part II will be delivered in an online platform and will be offered more frequently. Priority will be given to candidates affected by postponement of MCCQE II earlier this year. New registrations will be accepted only once the “delayed candidates” have been processed. There is an FAQ available at:

<https://mcc.ca/media/MCCQE-Part-II-FAQ-EACMC-partie-II.pdf>

Resident Redeployment:

As many are already aware, the redeployment process resumed in Block 7. I continue to receive many questions about this process and will reiterate that it is entirely voluntary. Many thanks to those who have put their names forward for redeployment. The process is being coordinated by Dr. Kelly Millar, Assistant Dean, PGME. Any trainee who wants to consider redeployment

should reach out to the home Program Director who can then connect with Dr. Millar to determine where there is need.

Looking Forward to 2021:

The past 10 months have been difficult, and there are more challenges ahead. I am grateful to a resilient and supportive group of residents, fellows, program directors and administrators who have helped navigate this unprecedented situation. I have learned many lessons from this pandemic ---chief amongst them is the importance of community.

This will be a much more sedate holiday season than most ---my hope is that everyone is able to get some time away to rest and spend time with family.

Wishing all of you a safe and healthy New Year.



Lisa Welikovitch MD FRCP
Associate Dean, PGME

