

Faculty of Medicine
Principles of International Collaboration

Approved in Principle by Education Vice-Deans – November 2012

The University of Toronto and the Faculty of Medicine is increasingly turning their attention to international collaborations. At a recent address to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, University President, David Naylor noted: “This new reality of global citizenship and transnational collaboration is vital if we are to confront our shared challenges on this hot and crowded planet. No single jurisdiction can take on borderless and complex issues such as global epidemics, climate change, or cybersecurity. We recognize this reality acutely at our University. Institutions are only as good as their people and their partners. It is the same for global cities. ... this is part of a modern revolution: away from the old zero-sum game of “brain drain” versus “brain gain” and into the new world of “brain chains” – interlocking jurisdictions that are stronger together.”¹ Even more recently, Dean Whiteside, in speaking about an upcoming visit to China, is quoted as saying: “The University of Toronto has a global brand that’s well known and we remain at the forefront of medical research and education. At the same time, higher education is becoming more and more globally competitive. Therefore, U of T is building strategic partnerships with excellent international institutions in rapidly developing countries like China to advance and apply knowledge in global health”.²

Education programs in the Faculty of Medicine have long recognized the importance of international collaboration, from loosely cooperative efforts through to formal partnership agreements (see Appendix 1); however, as the Faculty and our programs begin to focus more on strategic alliances and formal partnerships, it is advisable to ensure that our educational mission and values are aligned with those of our current and potential collaborators and partners. Most importantly, commitment to equity should be visible in all our international collaborations and partnerships. Therefore, **the establishment and maintenance of international collaborations and partnerships should be predicated on the following guiding principles:**

1. The Faculty of Medicine is committed to maintaining respectful relationships locally, provincially and nationally and acknowledges that these relationships remain at the core of our educational mission. We acknowledge our responsibility to the people of Ontario and Canada and recognize the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto as a publicly funded institution.

¹ Naylor, David. “Toronto and Hong Kong: A Tale of Two Regions”. Address to the Canadian Chamber of Commerce. Hong Kong. 12 October, 2012.

² Bodnar, N. “U of T Medicine Dean embarks on second health and biomedical academic mission to China. Dean strengthens academic ties with growing universities”. Retrieved November 2012 from <http://medicine.utoronto.ca/news/u-t-medicine-dean-embarks-second-health-and-biomedical-academic-mission-china>.

2. Collaborative initiatives and formal partnerships are predicated upon shared values consistent with those articulated by the Faculty of Medicine (see Appendix 2).
3. Any collaborative activity must be aligned with the Faculty of Medicine's existing principled approach to global health activities³. Such principles are mutual respect, equity, sustainability, social justice, excellence, accountability and responsiveness, pursuit of global public good, and cooperative spirit.
4. Health sciences education is a fundamental and valuable activity to all collaborators involved.
5. The learner experience is paramount to our international collaborations. Any potential partnership agreement should align with the objectives of both partnered training programs. To ensure such alignment, partnerships for formal collaborations must be defined through vetted contractual agreements, which will include the designation of a representative from each partner to participate in the resolution of any issues or challenges arising for participants in the collaborative endeavour.
6. The Faculty of Medicine recognizes that in clinical teaching, there is a gradient of learning, and graduated responsibility and where feasible, we support the vertical training model as a clinical teaching method. The decision about allocating learners to an experience should be justified educationally. Specifically, learners should participate in international experiences when it makes sense for their individual learning and not solely to provide a service or to teach.
7. Context specific (i.e. location or site of international experience) health human resource needs should not be compromised through any collaboration or partnership. Health human resource requirements should be enabled at the local sites through a focus on mutual capacity building rather than a focus on the provision of service.
8. Collaborators and partners acknowledge that building partnerships is an evolving process and neither an end-goal nor a one-time commitment.
9. The Faculty of Medicine is committed to maintaining a scholarly approach to collaboration and partnerships. We will research potential partnerships with an aim to measure not only immediate potential outputs, but also extended potential outcomes. Once a partnership has been established, the maintenance of that partnership will involve ongoing review and the goals will be revisited on an ongoing basis with an aim to appropriately account for the project's efficacy and produce and disseminate scholarly knowledge.
10. The Faculty of Medicine recognizes that collaborations and partnerships must acknowledge and respect the diversity of all partners involved. Teachers and students who are engaged in

³ A Roadmap for Global Health – 2011-2016, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto

international activity are representatives of the Faculty of Medicine and will be expected to uphold their respective professional standards regardless of geographic location. Likewise, teachers and students who visit to teach or train will be expected to uphold professional standards of conduct, ethics, and inclusivity congruent with the local context. Tensions between competing ethical priorities will be resolved via negotiation between designated representatives of each of the collaborators or partners.

11. The Faculty of Medicine's move towards open-sourced, web-based, and freely available educational material shall remain discrete and separate from any current or potential international collaboration.
12. Success in partnerships and collaborations will be defined by quality-focused indicators (outcomes-based measurements such as learning and faculty satisfaction) of the educational experience and not by monetary gain.
13. Faculty, learners and staff who are engaged in international collaborations are encouraged to participate in training efforts to familiarize themselves with the context into which they are moving regardless of the length of immersion. Such training should cover: understanding safety issues and risk while abroad, U of T's Emergency Abroad Response System, cross-cultural awareness, culture shock, and re-entry shock.

Further Principles for Learner Exchange

Inbound:

1. It is expected that all incoming learners will pay fees as outlined on www.fees.utoronto.ca or as provided by the educational unit, or the fees determined by their specific institutional exchange agreement.
2. Final decisions on selection and approval of learners to the University of Toronto rest with individual educational portfolios and these portfolios retain the right to refuse an applicant or remove a learner. Any contractual agreement must define these rights.
3. Space available for student exchanges (in-class or clinical placements) is contingent on availability as determined by the individual educational portfolios/placement sites.
4. All learners engaging in clinical placements at the postgraduate or fellowship levels must qualify for an educational license.
5. All learners must complete their programs' or placement sites' requirements for registration, including, if required, infectious disease screening or disclosure, immunizations, police record checks, and insurance.

6. All incoming learners must participate in an orientation session (pre-entry or upon entry) as directed by their educational program.
7. The Faculty of Medicine recognizes that we and our affiliated partners' have an ongoing public commitment to patient safety. As such, all learning experiences will be evaluated and learners can expect to be assessed appropriate to their level of training and expertise.

Outbound:

1. It is expected that all outbound learners will pay fees as outlined on www.fees.utoronto.ca or as provided by the host educational unit, or the fees determined by their specific institutional exchange agreement.
2. It is acknowledged that final decisions on the selection and approval of outgoing learners rest with the host university or learning site. Any contractual agreement must define these rights.
3. The Faculty of Medicine requires that the scope of any outgoing activity be agreed upon and well defined prior to departure, including the identification of relevant local supervisors. The educational programs, while supportive of outgoing learners participating in service-activities, expects that learners (or teachers) will be participating primarily in supervised educational activities.
4. The Faculty of Medicine does not support learner exchange where it is evident the purpose of the exchange is to provide service without an educational component, nor does it support learner exchange where it is evident that the learner provides services that may undermine the services provided in that local context.
5. All learners engaging in clinical placements at the postgraduate or fellowship levels must qualify for an educational license.
6. All learners must complete their programs' or placement sites' requirements for registration, including, if required, infectious disease screening or disclosure, immunizations, police record checks, and insurance.
7. All outgoing learners must participate in a departure session (pre- and post-) as directed by their educational program.
8. The Faculty of Medicine recognizes that we and our affiliated partners' have an ongoing public commitment to patient safety. As such, all learning experiences will be evaluated and learners can expect to be assessed appropriate to their level of training and expertise.

9. The Faculty of Medicine will not be held responsible for the personal safety of the outgoing learner, however, will endeavour to provide training to protect them prior to departure and will endeavour to make available the same level of supporting structures as provided to on-site learners for the learner while they are abroad and upon their return to the University.

10. The Faculty of Medicine recommends that the student register with their respective consular authorities at their host country regarding their travel plans.

Appendix 1:

List of Existing University of Toronto Partnerships (University-wide or FoM specific)⁴:

Africa

Cameroon

University of Buea - The International Center for Disability and Rehabilitation

Egypt

Fayoum University - Department of Immunology, Faculty of Medicine

Ethiopia

Addis Ababa University - University Wide

Kenya

University of Nairobi - Faculty of Medicine

Asia

China

Beihang University - University Wide
The China Scholarship Council - University Wide
Fudan University - University Wide
Shanghai Institutes for Biological Sciences - The Department of Molecular Genetics, Faculty of Medicine
The University of Hong Kong - University Wide

India

Computational Research Laboratories - University Wide
Tata Consultancy Services - University Wide
Tata Institute for Fundamental Research - Department of Chemistry, Faculty of Arts and Science

Japan

Keio University - University Wide
Kyoto Prefectural University of Medicine - Faculty of Medicine
Kyoto University - University Wide
University of Tokyo - University Wide

Taiwan

Cultural Division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Canada - Terrence Donnelly Centre for Cellular and Biomolecular Research

West Indies

Trinidad and Tobago

University of the West Indies, St. Augustine - University Wide

Europe

Croatia

University of Zagreb - University Wide

England

Loughborough University - University Wide
Oxford University - University Wide
Royal Holloway and Bedford New College, University of London - University Wide
University of Warwick, University House - University Wide

France

Aix-Marseille 2 University - Faculty of Medicine
University Lumière Lyon 2 - University Wide

Germany

Friedrich Schiller University Jena - University Wide
Goethe University - University Wide

⁴ <http://global.utoronto.ca/current-partners>

Italy

I.R.C.C.S. Burlo Gaorofolo di Trieste - Faculty of
Medicine

University of Siena - University Wide

Netherlands

University of Amsterdam - University Wide

University Medical Centre Utrecht - Faculty of
Medicine

Norway

University of Oslo - University Wide

Sweden

Karolinska Institute - University Wide

Wales

University of Wales, Swansea - University Wide

Israel

Technion - Israel Institute of Technology -
University Wide

Tel Aviv University - University Wide

North America

United States

ASANTE Consortium - Faculty of Medicine

Oceania

Australia

University of Adelaide - University Wide

University of Melbourne - University Wide

University of Queensland - University Wide

New Zealand

University of Auckland - University Wide

University of Otago - University Wide

Appendix 2

Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto - Vision, Mission and Values

Vision

International leadership in improving health through innovation in research and education

Mission

We fulfill our social responsibility by developing leaders, contributing to our communities, and improving the health of individuals and populations through the discovery, application and communication of knowledge

Values

- Integrity in all of our endeavours
- Commitment to innovation and excellence
- Life-long learning and critical inquiry
- Promotion of social justice, equity, diversity, and professionalism
- Effective partnership with all our stakeholders
- Multi-professional and interdisciplinary collaboration
- Supportive and respectful relationships
- Accountability and transparency
- Responsiveness to our local, national, and international health needs