

# Strategic Goal 5

Develop multi-site clinical learning environments to optimize learning opportunities, better serve disadvantaged population groups and recruit the best students from all sectors of B.C.

## Rationale

*Service learning and cultural competency are rapidly emerging and developing concepts in dental and dental hygiene education. Important outcomes from these experiences include student recognition of their responsibility to provide care to people in need, social awareness and professional responsibility.* Currently the students have some experiences outside West Point Grey however these are limited with the outcome that students view these as required rotations rather than as opportunities to recognize and develop their professional roles. UBC, through the Faculty of Dentistry, must become more of a “university for the Province”, not just for Vancouver and the Lower Mainland.

For current and future learners, the Faculty of Dentistry must move beyond the somewhat artificial environs of Point Grey. Increased off-campus sites will increase the diversity of patients treated by the dental, dental hygiene and graduate students and enhance their understanding of the range of oral health needs presented by individuals with limited access to care. Dental schools which have embarked on developing clinical learning settings in multiple, off-site locations have shown that improving access to care in this manner results in eventual recruitment into dentistry and dental hygiene from those regions and these recruits usually return to their communities to practice.

UBC has made a strong commitment to help address the health care needs of aboriginal people and to attract aboriginal students to careers in the health professions. Increasing the UBC Faculty of Dentistry presence in First Nations communities will help to address under-served, under-accessed communities and present opportunities for careers in oral health care. The UBC mission specifically addresses meeting the needs of BC, Canada and the world and greater clinical experiences off-campus will directly address this mission.

## Enabling Activities

- Work closely with the Associate Dean, Strategic and External to join existing programs and to develop new partnerships, particularly with First Nations
- Develop pilot projects, using new models, that include post-graduate students (residents), similar to AEGD programs.
- Set goals related to the location and number of off-site locations
- Evaluate current and potential community programs that can fit with the priorities of the Faculty in community service, education and research
- Evaluate the cost/benefit, and business/financial models for each off-site clinical location
- Establish research-related goals that include non-clinical faculty and establish natural partnerships within the dental industry
- Establish professional relationships in off-site locations and recruit part-time faculty at the local level
- Continue to support and enhance the off-site elements of Professionalism and Community Service (PACS)
- Continue to support and enhance the off-site Pediatric Dentistry program located at Douglas College
- Develop needs assessment protocols and instruments that will identify prime locations for these initiatives
- Change clinical skill acquisition sequence to make PACS more patient treatment related in 3rd year
- CTEC review of the role of off-site clinical activities in the total educational program and ways to facilitate the educational achievement of students who are away from West Point Grey

- Develop inter-disciplinary teams at off-site locations to allow students to experience practice in inter-disciplinary settings
- Develop strategies to link students in all Faculty of Dentistry programs in off-site clinical environments
- Establish behavioural outcomes linked to the off-site clinical experiences of the students

#### Resource Requirements

- Establish community dental clinics for students in all the educational programs
- Establish community infrastructure for patient care and interdisciplinary/interprofessional activities
- Link clinical experience in community with NBOHC
- Develop curriculum to build on community clinical experience
- Link DMD/DH students with residents/specialists off-site
- Develop IT approaches to distribute UBC educational activities to students who are located at off-site clinical venues
- Support for faculty and staff required for the off-site clinical venues
- Resources to spread the oral health message in underserved communities
- Support for students to participate in the summer in clinical venues away from UBC
- Recruit an individual to coordinate the identification and establishment of off-site clinical venues

#### Outcomes Assessment (Metrics and Qualities)

- Positive reports derived from specific community level surveys and questionnaires
- Positive media reporting related to community work, including recognition of student community service
- Expressed interest among off-site persons in dentistry or dental hygiene as a career
- Active application and successful admissions from persons originating in off-site locations
- Dentistry and dental hygiene graduates begin to establish in these and similar community areas
- Participation of alumni as either clinicians or supervising faculty members at off-site venues
- Number and types of experiences related to the development of cultural competencies
- Numbers and types of extracurricular clinical experiences chosen by students, faculty and staff

#### Benchmarks

- Ongoing
- 2008 – 09: Establish goals, needs assessment protocols and outcomes instruments. Identify primary site and begin interaction with community leaders at that location
  - 2009 – 10: Establishment of one (1) off-site clinical learning site
  - 2009 – 2010: Rotations of DMD and DH students to off-site clinical venues
  - 2009 – 10: Assessment of initial outcomes and continued planning
  - Ongoing