

Strategic Goal 9

Develop New and Expanded Graduate/Specialty Programs

Rationale

There is a recognized shortage of dental and dental hygiene academics prepared to conduct outstanding research and teach in the dental disciplines. The shortage will become more acute due to the aging of current faculty and expansion of the number of North American dental schools and dental hygiene programs. In addition there is increasing demand for dental specialist care in B.C., Canada and the world to meet the needs of the population. In particular it will be critical to prepare the next generation of dental faculty members with both the PhD and clinical specialties. Currently many aspects of craniofacial biology are well positioned to effectively utilize biotechnology advances (products and services) to develop novel therapeutic approaches to treat craniofacial diseases/disorders. However it will be critical to have an appropriately prepared set of faculty and dental professionals to realize these opportunities. Generation of PhD-specialty programs will help to achieve the long term goals of dental academic institutions.

Expansion of professional specialty degree programs to encompass all recognized disciplines will enable more effective delivery of novel complex treatment modalities and a more complete educational continuum within the Faculty of Dentistry. An all inclusive list of professional specialty programs in one institution will allow for the more effective management of complex craniofacial disorders that could be referred from across the province or western Canada since patients would be able to receive comprehensive care in a single location and DMD students will be able to observe the full range of treatment. In addition, graduate programs will be well positioned to test and evaluate novel therapeutic approaches prior their use in the undergraduate programs and general practice by conducting clinical research and monitoring patient outcomes.

Enabling Activities

- Develop a basic science graduate student recruitment initiative
 - Work with Faculty of Graduate Studies to develop a communication and recruitment strategy (science fairs, research days, update our website, recruitment of tricouncil award winners) to attract the best graduate students
 - Consider renaming of our graduate degrees in light of new research focus areas
 - Develop a bursary and scholarship support program
 - Develop a coordinated process for graduate admissions
 - Develop a fund to support graduate student research
 - Mentorship of graduate students and career development
- Develop existing and new professional graduate Diploma /MDS and postgraduate programs
 - Develop business models appropriate to each specialty program
 - Develop a communication strategy to attract the best students
 - Increase interaction with expanded undergraduate student body
 - Increase the number of international seats within the graduate programs
 - Develop a bursary and scholarship support program for students interested in a research career
 - Develop a research support initiative that supervisors can apply to for funding through the Research Committee
- Develop an academic track (PhD/DMD and PhD/DH tracks)
 - Identify financial support for students in these tracks
 - Organize career mentorship structure for these students
 - Establish a support mechanism "niche" for the students
- Develop business model for the Sterilizing Monitoring Facility such that it can help support tuition fee waver and salaries
- Develop a coordinated Scheduling for graduate/specialty courses and clinical activities
- Organize a professional applied Masters degree in conjunction with Continuing Studies

- Investigate options for part-time enrolment in dental specialty programs
- Create a mechanism to monitor career progress of alumni for these programs and their continuation of academic careers

Resource Requirements

- Graduate Student Recruitment – National/International
- Graduate Student Stipends, DMD/PhD stipend support
- Graduate Student Research Support
- Post-doctoral research fellow mentoring
- Develop DMD-PhD and Specialty-PhD programs
- Research space to support the student projects
- Curriculum modifications to allow flexibility for combined program students
- Recruitment of faculty with active research capable of mentoring the research component of student programs
- Renovation of JBM space to create a dental specialty clinical area
- Statistical support for student research projects

Outcomes Assessment (Metrics and Qualities)

- Increase the number of Senate approved Professional specialty programs
- Increase in the mean GPA of applicants accepted into our programs
- Increase in the number of agency funded students and fellows
- Increase in the total \$ amount to support tuition fee wavers/salaries
- Development of MOUs between international universities and UBC to foster a steady stream of high quality graduate students to our programs
- Increase in the number of alumni applicants to our Graduate/Postgraduate programs
- Number of successful PhD graduates moving on to faculty positions
- Tracking of alumni of all graduate/specialty programs

Benchmarks

- 2013: Double the number of graduate students in the Faculty of Dentistry
- 2013: Double the funding for graduate students in the Faculty of Dentistry
- 2013: Double the number of graduate student publications
- 2013: Place all graduating grad students in top quality labs and positions
- 2013: Increase interest of grad students in academic careers
- 2013: 10 students enrolled in DMD-PhD program
- 2013: 10 residents enrolled in Specialty-PhD program
- 2013: Double the number of International grad students enrolled in MSc and PhD programs