

# COLLABORATIONS

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## Practice Education Innovation Fund

We are pleased to acknowledge the generous support received from the Ministries of Advanced Education and Health Services for initiatives to improve the student practice education challenge in BC. This issue has developed into a serious barrier to more and better health professional education. The collaborative work and attention of representatives from health and education organizations and the two Ministries have resulted in an action plan that can now be operationalized.

Two rounds of opportunities for funding were planned. The first round was completed by June 30, 2005 and the second is expected to be completed by November 30, 2005. Approved projects are to be complete by December 2006, with outcomes and conclusions to be presented at an international practice education conference planned by BCAHC for the spring 2007.

Over \$3million worth of proposals were submitted in the first round. The adjudication committee approved \$1.8 million. Approximately \$750,000 were allocated to



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## Approved PEIF Projects

- Analysis of clinical student capacity in the IHA
- Build and expand capacity in practice education in residential care facilities
- Capacity building for simulation in a nursing practice education collaborative relationship
- Collaborative infrastructure for the implementation of simulation for health profession education
- Enhancing nursing practice through simulation technology
- Enhancing student opportunities for clinical genetic practice education
- Expanding horizons for student nurses – geriatric mental health as a placement of choice
- Feeling at home – integrating health science students into northern communities
- Framework for supporting practice education for medical laboratory students
- Innovative pharmacy student practice placement at C&W
- Maternity care simulation laboratory
- Patient simulation lab for basic & advanced nursing practice
- Placement capacity management tool
- Practice education renewal in BC: health authorities' integrated framework
- Practice education renewal in health authorities: e-orientation for students and faculty
- Proposal to pilot longitudinal community-based medicine clerkship in Chilliwack
- Use of simulation in the practical training of diagnostic medical sonography students
- Using human patient simulators for nursing adjunct clinical practice education experience
- Virtual EEG simulator

## Organizational Updates

### Value for Money

BCAHC is funded through membership fees from its member organizations – health authorities and education institutions. As with any membership organization, members continually assess the value and benefit of membership. In the case of BCAHC, membership fees could be compared more to an investment into an asset like a home (collaboration forum and infrastructure) instead of payment for direct services.

In addition to the investment into a collaboration 'home', membership fees pay for maintenance and associated professional services provided by BCAHC staff, including facilitation and leadership for successful collaborations.

Value for money will be measured by achievements related to BCAHC's strategic objectives. The value of these achievements to individual members depends on the value they place on the objectives themselves. It is, therefore,

important that all member organizations have the opportunity and are encouraged to participate actively in the establishment of vision, mission, and objectives.

While lasting value is created by the staff of member organizations and other individuals active in BCAHC committees, the value of BCAHC lies in the answer to the question:

- Is BCAHC's collaboration forum the most efficient and effective way to achieve these results?

BCAHC's value arises from:

- Adoption of regionally relevant and broadly valued objectives
- Significant progress toward achievement of these objectives through well functioning provincial committees
- Increasing capacity, effectiveness and efficiency of BCAHC's provincial collaboration and facilitation infrastructure

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## Practice Education Innovation Fund

projects with an expected direct impact on increased capacity of the health care system to support students in practice placements. Approximately \$950,000 were allocated to projects involving enhancement of laboratory simulation capacity to reduce the pressure on practice settings by increasing the skill levels of students entering the practice placement or perhaps reducing the time required for practice placements. The remainder of the approved proposals is expected to improve

the quality of the practice education experience.

Approved proposals come from all health authorities and most schools involved in health profession education in BC. All health profession education programs stand to benefit from these initiatives, most specifically medicine, nursing, pharmacy, laboratory technology, diagnostic medical sonography, clinical genetics, and EEG technology.

Please visit our website at [www.bcahc.ca](http://www.bcahc.ca) on August 30 to find the link to our second round call for proposals for funding. Deadline for submissions will be noon, October 31, 2005.

### Criteria for Funding Decisions

Proposals are expected to:

- Demonstrate how practice education capacity will be increased or how quality of practice education will be improved.
- Demonstrate sustainability and cost effectiveness.
- Include key stakeholders and, if appropriate, be collaborative in nature.
- Exhibit characteristics of evidence-based quality teaching and learning.
- Have an evaluative component.
- Include a realistic action plan and budget

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## Organizational Updates

### Vision, Mission, & Strategic Objectives

Through a series of face-to-face and electronic meetings in the spring of 2005, Council and Operating Committee members identified the current vision, mission, and strategic objectives for BCAHC:

#### BCAHC Vision

Commitment to collaboration by BCAHC member organizations from the health care and post-secondary education sectors will assure an adequate supply of appropriately educated health professionals which is critical to meeting current and future population and patient health needs in BC.

#### BCAHC Mission

BCAHC serves as a major strategic forum for effective collaboration, partnership and leadership by senior leaders in health care and education. BCAHC develops consensus on strategic objectives and implements a committee structure to achieve those objectives.

### Strategic Priorities 05/06

1. Development of the Health Profession Education Framework, identifying roles, responsibilities, accountabilities of major stakeholders, and performance measures
2. Coordinating development of education strategies to support health care system priorities and directional plans
3. Coordination of a systematic approach to student practice education
4. Establishment of effective and efficient collaboration and communication processes and infrastructure

### Governance & Organizational Structure

Senior administrators (Deputy Ministers, Assistant Deputy Ministers, CEOs, VPs, Deans, Directors) in government, post-secondary education, and health care represent their organizations on the BC Academic Health Council. They determine BCAHC's strategic direction and charge BCAHC's Operating Committee (VPs, Deans, Directors) with the responsibility of achieving these objectives. Development and implementation of action plans occurs through committees supported by the BCAHC secretariat.

- Council sets strategic direction.
- Operating Committee oversees implementation of the strategic direction, approves and identifies initiatives, assures progress through monitoring and initiation of initiatives, and appoints Committees as required with approved terms of reference and timelines for deliverables.
- Committees focus on specific topics as established by the Operating Committee.

## Upcoming Meetings

Friday, August 19, 10-11  
– Executive Committee

Thursday, September 8,  
10:30-12:30 – IRPbc  
Implementation Team

Friday, September 9, 9-11  
– Operating Committee

Monday, September 12,  
2:30-4:30 – Council  
Meeting & AGM

Tuesday, September 20,  
10-12 – Joint Medical  
Laboratory Advisory  
Committee

Friday, September 23, 9-11  
– Practice Education  
Committee

Monday, September 26, 10-  
12 – Health Profession  
Education Committee

Wednesday, September  
28, 10-12 – Aboriginal  
Health Provider Education  
Committee

## Committee and Project Updates

Committee purpose statements, deliverables for 05/06, and membership can be found on our website ([www.bcahc.ca](http://www.bcahc.ca)) under About BCAHC – Committees & Task Forces.

Please contact the BCAHC secretariat with nominations of other interested and knowledgeable individuals.

### Aboriginal Health Provider

*The Aboriginal Health Provider Education Committee would like to thank Dr. Graham Smith, UBC Distinguished Professor in Indigenous Education, for speaking at the June 17th meeting about his experience in improving health education provision for Maori in New Zealand.*

The committee decided to focus on planning a multi-stakeholder summit on Aboriginal Health Profession Education. This conference, taking place in spring 2006, will address an exhaustive set of recommendations collected. The conference's main deliverable will be an action plan to make progress on high priority recommendations and about who might be asked to lead or carry them out. A conference concept paper is in development.

### e-Learning

Committee membership was recently expanded and diversified. The committee is examining the benefits and challenges of using videoconferencing technology for undergraduate, graduate and continuing health profession education. A resulting document will become part of BC's telehealth strategy paper.

Several committee members were also involved in developing a proposal on e-orientation modules for students and faculty, of which the first phase looks at assisting in locating, assessing, and propos-

ing electronic solutions for e-orientation to health authorities that will integrate with HSPnet. The second phase of this plan is to train practice education educators to develop e-orientation program learning objects and modules, to be shared for adoption or adaptation by all health authorities.

### e-Libraries

With the formal endorsement of the Operating Committee, a negotiation advisory committee has been established. A four-person negotiating team is assessing exact costs and discussing specific products with vendors to determine information for the 06/07 budgeting process for education and health care organizations.

### Health Profession Education

BCAHC's priority is the further development of a Health Profession Education Framework that identifies roles, responsibilities, accountabilities of major stakeholders, and performance measures. The Health Profession Education Committee will be providing advice to Operating Committee on issues arising from the framework.

### Interprofessional Education

In partnership with the UBC College of Health Disciplines, BCAHC member organizations have been awarded over \$1million by Health Canada toward projects designed to improve the educational process of preparing the current and future workforce for more collaborative patient-centered health care. Recognized nationally, UBC and BC are providing leadership in the area of interprofessional education. The secretariat and financial administration for Phase 1 funding for the BC network for interprofessional education is based at UBC. Phase 2 funding will be administered through BCAHC. The network steering committee, administratively supported by the College of Health Disciplines at UBC, doubles as BCAHC's Interprofessional Education Committee.

### HSPnet

The HSPnet success story continues. Implementation planning is underway for HSPnet as a student placement management system across three of the four western provinces, and we are in discussions with Manitoba, Ontario, and the Atlantic provinces. The first inter-provincial Steering Committee meeting took place in mid July, and an expanded Steering Committee meeting and celebration is being planned for October 6 and 7.

With each new partner, HSPnet features become more versatile and more powerful. Two further enhancements will be achieved – with the assistance of PEIF funding.

The BCAHC Executive Committee has approved Canadian and international access partnership agreements, which are designed to yield shared benefits to all partners.

### First Steering Committee Meeting

Three provinces were represented at the first HSPnet Steering Committee meeting on July 14th. BC, Alberta, and Saskatchewan are now confirmed members of the HSPnet Development Partnership, and Manitoba and Nova Scotia are actively considering partnership proposals. HSPnet-AB was officially launched in Edmonton in April 2005, and implementation planning for southern Alberta is now underway with user training to start in September. Implementation planning for HSPnet-SK – to be used by member agencies of the Saskatchewan Academic Health Sciences Network – will commence this September and user training will likely start in early 2006.

The Steering Committee reviewed a comprehensive agenda, including approval of the 2005/06 operating and enhancement budget; review of partnership document templates; approval of HSPnet policies on privacy, security & data access; and evaluation of HSPnet monitoring results on system performance, user satisfaction, and protection of personal information.

### Letters to the Editor

We would love to hear your comments and suggestions about any aspect of BCAHC's activities and processes. We may print your letter in the next addition of the newsletter with our response – please email [newsletter@bcahc.ca](mailto:newsletter@bcahc.ca)

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## Committee and Project Updates

A report will recommend new enhancements to support the partnership, including inter-provincial messaging (for placements that cross provincial borders); French translation for users in Manitoba and other French-speaking jurisdictions; a student access module to facilitate online student evaluation and graduate recruitment; and a study on expanding HSPnet's dataset to track student recruitment and retention.

### IRPbc

The IRPbc Implementation Team recently met to recap accomplishments/successes of IRPbc to date, consider IRPbc in light of other initiatives, and to strategize on the future direction of IRPbc.

The challenges of IRPbc, such as accommodation, travel costs, scheduling, and program sustainability were discussed. Particular interest was generated with regards to qualitative evaluation. Though there has been demonstrated positive impact on participating communities, it has been challenging to measure and describe this effect. Students are encouraged to share their experiences.

As part of the Health Canada-funded feasibility study, a survey of interested parties across Western Canada is underway to assess common vision and desires for rural practice education partners, culminating, possibly, with a conference later this fall.

### Medical Laboratory Workforce

The BC Academic Health Council has partnered with the Provincial Laboratory Coordinating Office (PLCO) forming the Joint Medical Laboratory Advisory Committee (JMLAC) to address future laboratory workforce supply and demand issues.

JMLAC will serve as a collaboration and advisory forum for key stakeholders preparing the workforce for tomorrow's medical laboratory system in BC. The primary objective is to achieve broad consensus on an action plan and, where appropriate, to facilitate and support its implementation. The committee serves as an interface forum between health care and post-sec-

ondary education and has been established with a two-year term.

Membership is drawn from health care, post-secondary education, professional associations, and from public and private sector organizations.

### Practice Education

The Practice Education Committee met on June 10th to discuss the progress of practice education initiatives, a number of which will be funded through PEIF, but there are also other initiatives beyond PEIF underway.

A Conference Planning Committee will be formed to plan a spring 2007 Practice Education International Conference highlighting practice education initiatives in BC, Canada, and internationally.

### Primary Care

Discussions have begun to explore formation of a committee to facilitate collaboration in preparing health professionals for a reformed primary care system.

### Quality and Safety

The board of the Western Health Improvement Network (WHIN) has approved a joint committee with BCAHC to facilitate identification and implementation of education strategies that support the patient safety and health care quality agendas. A committee of interested parties is currently being formed.

### Simulation

A significant portion of PEIF funding has been approved for practice education simulation initiatives. In response to strong encouragement from various sectors, a cross-disciplinary half-day conference on simulation is currently being planned for the afternoon of October 6.

### Technology Visioning

Educational strategies to prepare the future health workforce for technological change and readiness for innovation will be one of the focal points of a conference organized jointly by BCAHC and the BC

Health Care Leaders Association. Interest for formation of a longer term coordinating committee is also being explored. Possible topics include the real impact of e-health, genomics, and other emerging technologies.



More than one-hundred Executive Assistants and Administrative Assistants from BCAHC member organizations gathered in Richmond at the end of May for a day jam-packed with information. Participants came from all over the province, more than half from outside the Lower Mainland.

*"We need to do this on an annual basis. We are professionals and [...] networking with our peers is very inspiring and informative."*

*It's best to keep this a provincial initiative and not break up into HA private sponsored events*

*Appreciate initiative of BCAHC in organizing conference*

*So good to have this types of conferences in these times of changing healthcare. Thank you organizers for this wonderful opportunity to meet other exec assistants in healthcare and learn.*

*This was great! Good sessions. Confirmed that EAs are valued."*

Valuable and detailed feedback from conference participants will guide us in preparing next year's conference, to be held in Kelowna, June 1-3, 2006. A provincial planning team of 20 EAs is eager to start working on the program.

We will be looking to other organizations and agencies to co-sponsor this event, so that we may keep the cost down and allow for all interested EAs to participate.

For more information, please email [susanna.gilbert@shaw.ca](mailto:susanna.gilbert@shaw.ca).