

## **External Review of Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology 2012 Chair's Administrative Response**

I would like to thank Drs Faught and Keefe for their very thorough report on the current state of the University of Toronto Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. They have prepared a comprehensive summary of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats of the Department and have made some very thoughtful and helpful recommendations. I will briefly comment on some of these in my response. I am particularly pleased that so many Faculty, Staff and Trainees were able to meet with the Reviewers and provide input into the future direction of the Department.

With regards to the newly established Mississauga Academy of Medicine, the successful creation of a robust clinical training experience for Senior Medical Students building on the foundations from the pre-clinical years is a very high priority for this Department as it is for all Faculty of Medicine Clinical Departments. We have already engaged in a number of Faculty Development Programs for Clinical Faculty under the direction of Dr. Filomena Meffe and these will be augmented over the next 6-12 months. Dr. Meffe will continue to provide leadership in this regard even after she has stepped down from her current role of Undergraduate Medical Education for the Department. In this regard, Faculty Development in general will continue to be a major priority for the Department focusing in particular on new faculty orientation, mentorship, leadership development and late career planning.

Despite the many strengths in research highlighted by the reviewers, the Department continues to be challenged in ensuring that all Faculty have access to or are aware of how to access research-related resources such as expertise in biostatistics, study design, and REB submission. This has been particularly identified as an issue by trainees. The Department is fortunate to have many of these resources in the affiliated hospitals and the research Institutes and therefore we have relied on individual Faculty to access these on their own. Clearly, we can do a better job of communicating the availability of these resources to our Faculty and Trainees and the Department Research Committee will be asked to develop strategies for how this could be best carried out and make recommendations to myself and the Department Executive.

As the Reviewers point out, the number of trainees and the complexities of our various Undergraduate and Postgraduate programs continue to grow significantly providing pressures on our Administrative Staff. In this regard, we have already created the position description for an additional administrative support role in the Department which we expect to be filled in early 2013. This will bring our Educational Administrative complement to 3 FTE as suggested by the reviewers.

In summary, based on the preliminary report from the External Review and in follow-up to the Department Self-study, we have already begun to address some of the weaknesses

outlined in this report and will explore the many opportunities provided. The Reviewers have made a number of excellent recommendations and I fully support all of them and would encourage the Department and the next Leadership to seriously consider how they might be implemented. Finally, I would like to thank the reviewers and through this administrative response the Department members, staff, trainees and cognate Chairs as well as Dean Whiteside for their kind words and unwavering support that I have received personally over the last 9 ½ years in helping to make this Department what it is today.



Alan D. Bocking, MD, FRCSC  
Gordon C. Leitch Chair  
Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology  
Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto

November 12, 2012