

FELLOWSHIP EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FEAC) **Special Meeting**

Notes of January 13, 2022

9:00 AM to 10:00 AM – Via Zoom

Present:

Caroline Abrahams, Samantha Chin, Jennifer Croke, Charlie Guiang, Mojgan Hodaie, Cheryl Jaigobin, Maureen Morris, Daniel Mueller, Laura-Leigh Murgaski, Vincent Siu, Shannon Spencer

1. Wellness of Fellows during COVID - Charlie Guiang, Interim Director of Postgraduate Learner Affairs

Emergency Childcare resource is extremely limited and is available for school-aged children. If required, trainees should arrange for it IMMEDIATELY as spaces are very limited. Please visit <https://www.toronto.ca/home/covid-19/affected-city-services/>. For further assistance or guidance around wellness and Emergency Childcare resources, please reach out to ola.reception@utoronto.ca or Charlie.Guiang@utoronto.ca

2. Redeployment and Rights of Fellows – Shannon Spencer and Meredith Giuliani

Medical Resident Redeployment Program (MRRP) was established in April 29, 2021. PGME is reaching out to the Ministry of Health (MOH) for clarification as to who can volunteer for the program (i.e. - are Clinical Fellows eligible). If trainees are reassigned within their program, it is not considered a redeployment. Residents under remediation are not eligible for MRRP. Discussion with Sponsors have been initiated regarding the potential for Sponsored Trainees to participate in MRRP. If MOH agrees, the following conditions must be met **as per the sponsors**:

- i) The Article in the PGME Training Agreement between U of T and the Sponsor as it relates to the prohibition of “*trainees to accept payment or remuneration in any form ... except for the monies transmitted to them by the Sponsor*” shall be suspended for the duration of the MRRP (expires March 31, 2022)
- ii) The choice to participate in the MRRP is purely voluntary; no adverse inference will be drawn against any resident or fellow who does not chose to participate
- iii) Each resident or fellow must first obtain approval from their Program Director to participate
- iv) The additional MRRP shifts (outside their sponsored programs) must in no way interfere in their ability to fulfill the expectations of their residency or fellowship programs, including post-call days
- v) Hospitals choosing to employ sponsored trainees through MRRP agree to abide by the terms and conditions of the Sponsors. Payments will be structured in such a way so as to prevent any disruption or interference to their existing Income Tax exemption provided to them by the CRA. For example, payments could be made in “lump-sum” amounts on a weekly basis with no deductions at source. Residents or fellows would then be responsible for filing 2022 Income Tax returns showing the total amount of these payments (which would likely amount to less than the ~\$13k, and would attract no taxation liability).

*If Clinical Fellows are not included in the MRRP, the source of remuneration for volunteer redeployment will be the hospital and at their base hospital. Clinical Fellows can also elect to volunteer without remuneration, if they so choose.

3. Housing Support for Self-Isolation Due to Exposure at Work

Given the current state of the pandemic, PGME has reactivated the COVID-19 Housing Subsidy Program from the Dean's COVID-19 Priority Fund to support postgraduate trainees who require self-isolation – full details can be found in the attached document. For housing support inquiries or information, please email pgme.redeployment@utoronto.ca

4. Other

- It was noted that some fellows who have finished in their program have had issues returning home. PGME encourages Programs to connect with fellows who have an upcoming end date to determine if they will experience any issue returning to their home country. Trainees are encouraged to check the requirements of their home countries and airlines prior to departure
- All latest PGME COVID updates can be found [here](#)