



DIRECTOR – RURAL AND REGIONAL HEALTH

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA, FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY

TERM OF APPOINTMENT:

Three (3) years, renewable for up to five (5) years following discussion with the Vice Dean, Education, and the Dean. Following a second term, the position will be subject to a search and selection process to which the incumbent may apply.

REPORTING TO: Vice Dean, Education, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry

FTE: 0.5 (negotiable)

PURPOSE:

The Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry (FoMD) places a high value on the health of rural communities both settler and Indigenous. The Director, Rural and Regional Health is the lead for the Office of Rural & Regional Health which is the nexus for integrating all rural initiatives in the FoMD. Given the social accountability mandate of the FoMD, and the key role rural health plays in fulfilling that mandate, the Director is an essential, senior position in the FoMD responsible for developing, implementing and assessing the strategic and operational processes that support the mission and vision of the ORRH and FoMD. The Director works closely with the Rural Council of clinical faculty members, the Vice Dean Education, and faculty leadership to develop strategic direction and priorities.

The Director assists the FoMD by guiding the programs under the ORRH's mission to provide quality healthcare to the people of rural Alberta. This involves a commitment to community engagement, health professions education, evidence-informed education-to-workforce planning, and ongoing program evaluation and research. ORRH accomplishes this work by fostering and sustaining meaningful relationships between medical educators, learners in the health care professions, and the individuals living in regional, rural and remote communities. Balancing the academic, fiscal and grant accountabilities with accreditation requirements for education programs is accomplished through close collaboration with the academic leads for those accredited programs.

The initiatives of the ORRH contribute to the building of the rural & regional health professional workforce through pre-medical pipeline programs, robust rural education initiatives, facilitation of appropriate research programs in rural medical education, and in comprehensive education-to-workforce planning. All of the ORRH's work is done collaboratively with colleagues across the

FoMD including the leaders in the undergraduate and postgraduate programs, in faculty development, in faculty affairs, and across the Departments.

MAIN ACCOUNTABILITIES:

1. Develop and support relationships between the FoMD and the other pentagram partners: the communities of rural and regional Alberta, rural healthcare professionals, the Government of Alberta, Alberta Health Services, as well as with the Cumming School of Medicine, and the Rural Health Professional Action Plan (RhPAP), and learner groups as appropriate.
2. The ORRH's scope and mandate includes assisting with the premedical, Preclerkship and Clerkship experiences (including but not limited to Longitudinal Clinical Experience (LCE), second year Pre-clinical Networked Medical Education (PNME), third year rural rotations and the Rural Integrated Community Clerkship (ICC), fourth year rural-based clerkships, rural electives, Postgraduate Rural Family Medicine programs and the Family Medicine and Royal College Specialty rotations, education research, and faculty development.

BUSINESS PLAN ACCOUNTABILITIES and RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Provide strategic leadership and advice to the Associate Deans MD Program and Postgraduate Medical Education (PGME) and other appropriate senior & middle management education leads, and to the Vice Dean, Education/Dean on the direction of rural health professional education in Alberta.
2. Develop and implement new initiatives in rural medical education in collaboration with the Associate Deans, MD program and PGME, Department Program Directors and other Faculty leaders in medical education.
3. Support, steward and assist current rural programs with the ultimate goal of increasing the number of graduates who choose rural and regional career paths. Core program leads who assist and work with the Director include (current positions):
 - a. ICC Coordinator/assistant ICC coordinators and Site Coordinators
 - b. PNME Coordinator
 - c. Outreach Program Coordinator (planned)
 - d. Grande Prairie Year 4 Clerkship Coordinator
 - e. Rural Family Medicine Clerkship Coordinator
 - f. Co-Directors of the Rural Family Medicine Residency Programs
 - g. Assistant Program Director, Family Medicine, Rural
4. Support the FoMD's rural faculty members by supporting the Rural Council, and by providing opportunities for faculty development and for meaningful work in medical education administration and leadership with the goal of increasing the number of rural clinician educators in leadership positions.
5. Chair the Committee on Rural, Regional and Remote Initiatives (CRRRI).

6. Work closely with the Executive Director, Indigenous Initiatives. This will be a key relationship given that Indigenous people are a sizable population in rural Alberta.

7. In collaboration with the Associate Deans, represent the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry in all external and internal groups and committees that make decisions and/or provide recommendations on matters that affect the initiatives stewarded by the Office of Rural & Regional Health, or where rural and regional initiatives are the focus.

8. Contribute to QA/QI of learning experiences related to rural and distributed medical education as appropriate.

Research and Program Outcomes

1. Contribute to scholarly output and outcomes research for the FoMD rural education programs.
2. Provide timely data to meet accountability outcomes for the Government of Alberta's grant funding of rural programs.
3. Work with the Vice Dean(s), Research to build a rural health research program for the FoMD.

Resources

1. Collaborate with senior leadership and contribute to budget planning, grant proposals and grant reporting for the integrated rural grants.
2. Effectively manage the ORRH expenditures to best meet the priority rural outcomes, within overall grant funding and in collaboration with other programs and financial leads
3. Support distance learning development (e-Learning, Telehealth, and other innovations) for use in education programs, collaborating with the Office of Educational Innovation & Academic Technologies, and with MedIT.

Administration

1. Provide administrative support for the FoMD Rural Council
2. Oversee the coordination of scheduling for all rural and regional placements for learners in FoMD
3. Engage in strategic planning within FoMD and facilitate the implementation of the plan in areas of the rural enterprise. Facilitate the development of a strategic plan for the ORRH, which aligns with the FoMD strategy and mandate.
4. Provide representation to the following internal groups, as relevant or as requested:
 - a. Medical and Dental undergraduate program admissions committees
 - b. MD Curriculum Planning Committee
 - c. Postgraduate Committees as relevant
 - d. Faculty Learning Committee
 - e. Committees within Faculty Affairs (planned)
 - f. Committees within Faculty Research (planned)
 - g. Dean's Executive Committee (as requested), or the FoMD executive committee
 - h. FoMD Social Accountability Committee (in development)

5. And to liaise with external groups:
 - a. Rural Health Professions Action Plan
 - b. Alberta Health Services – Zone Medical Directors & other relevant officials responsible for rural health services delivery
 - c. University of Calgary Cumming School of Medicine Office of Distributed Learning and Rural Initiatives
 - d. Alberta Association of Municipal Districts and Counties
 - e. Alberta Urban Municipality Association
 - f. Town councils and other rural and regional community organizations

Liases and collaborates with:

1. Associate Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education
2. Associate Dean, MD Program
3. Executive Director, Indigenous Health Initiatives program
4. Program Leads from the other FoMD undergraduate programs, including Dentistry, Dental Hygiene, Medical Laboratory Science, Radiation Therapy
5. Assistant Dean, Admissions MD program
6. Associate Dean, Educational Innovation & Academic Technology
7. Associate Dean, Faculty Development
8. Associate Dean, Clinical Faculty
9. Associate Dean, Lifelong Learning & PLP Programs
10. Associate Dean, Professionalism

Direct Reports:

1. Assistant Director, ORRH
2. Research Assistant, ORRH
3. Education specialist, ORRH