



**UNIVERSITY
CLINICAL
FACULTY
ASSOCIATION**

Teaching Tomorrow's Doctors

115 - 1665 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC, V6J 5A4

Tel 604.638.2843

Fax 604.638.2938

Web www.ucfa.ca

UCFA Newsletter

12th March 2007

**UCFA Annual
General Meeting,
January 18th 2007**

The UCFA Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday January 18th at the Holiday Inn, Vancouver Centre. David Wensley presented a brief review of the past years achievements. He commented on the landmark [Mutual Responsibilities and Obligations document](#) between UBC and the UCFA in 1999 and the recognition at that time of the right of independent representation for Clinical Faculty. Until the BCMA agreed to support the UCFA over the past 18 month, UBC made every effort to ignore this agreement or recognize the legitimacy of the UCFA to represent it's members in their dealings with UBC. However, with the support of the BCMA there has been dialog which it is hoped will culminate in a new letter of offer and the formation of a liaison committee between UBC and BCMA to deal with issues of Clinical Faculty. A meaningful dialog between independent representatives of Clinical Faculty and UBC is crucial to the success of the Medical School expansion.

Highlights from the speeches from Dr. Penny Ballem and Dr. Margaret MacDiarmid can be viewed on the [video available on the website](#). Dr. Ballem talked about the importance of the Medical School expansion to the people of BC and emphasized the importance of transparency of funding which she tried to foster in her dealings with UBC during her tenure as Deputy Minister of Health. Dr. MacDiarmid also stressed the importance of the Medical School expansion but warned of the problems of increasing workload on overstretched physicians and the overburdened health care system. She reassured the meeting that the BCMA was committed to a fair and just arrangement between UBC and practicing physicians who are and will be Clinical Faculty.

There were few changes to the UCFA Board, most of whom agreed to stand for a further one year term.

**UBC BCMA
Discussions**

We expected to have a version of the Clinical Faculty contract which is mutually agreeable to both UBC and the BCMA, by the time of the UCFA AGM in January, as well as the terms of reference for a liaison committee between UBC and BCMA. Unfortunately, this did not happen, but we understand that both documents are close to completion.

In the meantime UBC continues to expect physicians to enter into an uncertain relationship. *UCFA can only continue to recommend that current and prospective clinical faculty DO NOT SIGN a contract with UBC until there is a satisfactory agreement with the BCMA.* Further background information can be obtained on the [UCFA website](#) along with a [sample letter](#) to respond to a request for teaching.

**Medical School
Expansion – are we
ready?**

This year is seeing a further increase in the number of Medical Student entering UBC – over 200 will be enrolled this fall. Unfortunately it is clear that clinical teaching facilities are lacking for the clinical years. We hope that UBC will recognize the importance of the individual teachers and work with representative organizations in a meaningful way to engage practicing physicians as partners in this endeavor.

David Wensley