



**UNIVERSITY
CLINICAL
FACULTY
ASSOCIATION**

Teaching Tomorrow's Doctors

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UCFA Newsletter

10th May 2007

**The new
Appointment / Offer
letter from UBC is
expected to be sent
out soon**

Last July UBC and BCMA began talks to obtain a suitable new Appointment / Offer letter for clinical faculty (CF). Some funding for teaching by CF in 2006 was held back because of this until the end of the fiscal year. A number of meetings have been held between UBC and BCMA, and it appears that an agreed contract is imminent. Once CF have had a chance to review this new Appointment / Offer letter, we will undertake a survey to guide discussions at the proposed BCMA-UBC liaison committee which has been set up to address outstanding and ongoing issues between clinical faculty and UBC. No date has yet been set for its first meeting. We hope that CF will be able to review the new Appointment / Offer letter soon, but until then, **UCFA strongly recommends that current and prospective clinical faculty DO NOT SIGN a contract with UBC.** 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?**

We are seeing more evidence that the Faculty of Medicine and the Province have not put in place sufficient resources to support planned Medical School expansion. This fall over 200 Medical Students will be enrolled at UBC. Unfortunately it is clear that clinical teaching facilities are lacking for the clinical years. We have received concerns from physicians around the province. Clinicians in some expansion sites have been asked this fall to take more students than originally planned. Many are very concerned that there are insufficient resources to support this expansion. The current teaching load has resulted in a reduction of 2 patients a day on surgical lists, resulting in longer waiting lists. Other regional facilities, which are currently having problems dealing with clinical workload, have recognized that teaching increases the time for procedures and patient visits. They do not feel able to take on the extra burden of teaching as this will provide a poor experience for students and negatively impact patient care.

**Medical Staff Rules
and Bylaws**

As more regional health authorities enter into agreements with UBC to provide Medical Student and Resident placement opportunities, it is important that physicians review their Medical Staff Rules and Bylaws. Some years ago, St. Paul's Hospital Medical Staff ensured that Hospital Appointment did not require a UBC appointment. In order to protect physicians, the BCMA recommended that Hospital appointment be separate from and not dependent on UBC appointment. However, with the recent reorganization of the Health Regions and expansion of the Medical School, it is important for physicians to be aware of this concern. UCFA has requested that the BCMA review Medical Staff Bylaws and Rules regarding this issue.

**Stipend for UCFA
President**

At the UCFA Board meeting in March, a resolution to provide a monthly stipend of \$1000 to the President, effective February 2007 was passed.

David Wensley