



# University of Toronto Quality Assurance Process (UTQAP) Cyclical Review: Final Assessment Report & Implementation Plan

<b>Program(s):</b>	Immunology, M.Sc. and Ph.D.
<b>Division/Unit:</b>	Department of Immunology, Faculty of Medicine
<b>Commissioning Officer:</b>	Dean, Faculty of Medicine
<b>Reviewers (Name, Affiliation):</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Dr. Anthony DeFranco, PhD, Professor, Department of Microbiology &amp; Immunology, University of California-San Francisco</li><li>2. Dr. Paul Kincade, PhD, Vice-President of Research, Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation</li><li>3. Dr. Redwan Moqbel, PhD, Professor and Head, Department of Immunology, University of Manitoba</li></ol>
<b>Date of review visit:</b>	November 29-30, 2011
<b>Date reported to AP&amp;P:</b>	April 3, 2012

## 1 Outcome

- The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) concluded that the Decanal response adequately addressed the review recommendations

## 2 Significant Program Strengths

- Outstanding international reputation for research
- Very strong graduate program
- High quality students and highly successful graduates
- Strong leadership and sense of community
- Outstanding opportunities for student development through weekly seminar series

### 3 Opportunities for Program Improvement and Enhancement

The reviewers recommended that the following be considered:

- Monitoring and supporting times-to-completion
- Improving the student-supervisor matching process for entering and continuing students
- Continuing to improve research space to address out-dated university campus laboratory facilities
- Further engaging faculty in the development of a joint vision and strategic plan
- Increasing fundraising efforts in support of increased excellence in research and teaching

### 4 Implementation Plan

The Dean undertook in consultation with the Department to support the following changes:

- Immediate Term (6 months)
  - Monitoring and supporting times-to-completion
    - The Dean strongly urges the Department to address PhD times-to-completion, including improved monitoring of satisfactory progression of students in their thesis research and revised Department committee structure and scope to support thesis completion
  - Improving the student-supervisor matching process for entering and continuing students
    - The Dean has suggested that the Department revise its committee structure and scope to support admissions and improve the transparency and outcomes of the initial matching process
- Medium Term (1-2 years)
  - Continuing to improve research space
    - The Dean is working with the Department to optimize space on the 7th floor of the Medical Sciences Building for immunology faculty
  - Further engaging faculty in the development of a joint vision and strategic plan
    - The Department will engage in a formal strategic planning exercise within the first year of the new Chair's appointment
- Longer Term (3-5 years)
  - Continuing to improve research space
    - The Dean is working with cognate faculties and the University's capital planners to find an appropriate solution to the university-wide problem of out-dated research laboratories
  - Increasing fundraising efforts in support of increased excellence in research and teaching
    - The Dean is committed to working with the Department to optimize funding from public and private sources, including optimizing research grant and contract funding, and fundraising for endowed chairs, capital development and student awards

The Dean's Office will follow up annually with the unit on these plans to assess progress.

## 5 Executive Summary

The reviewers identified the programs' strengths as outstanding international reputation for research; very strong graduate program with strong students and graduates; strong leadership and sense of community; and outstanding opportunities for student development. The reviewers recommended that the following issues be addressed: student times-to-completion; student-supervisor matching; out-dated facilities; joint strategic planning; and fundraising in support of increased excellence in research and teaching. The Dean has urged the Department to improve monitoring of student progress on thesis research and to revise its committee structures to support this. The Dean has suggested that the Department revise its committee structure and scope to support admissions and improve the transparency and outcomes of the initial matching process. The Dean is working with the Department to optimize existing space and working with others across the university to find a solution to the campus-wide problem of out-dated research labs. The Department will engage in strategic planning when the new Chair is in place. The Dean is committed to working with the Department to optimize funding from public and private sources. The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs concluded that the Decanal response adequately addressed the reviewers' recommendations.