



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

Program(s):	Pharmacology, M.Sc. and Ph.D.
Division/Unit:	Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, Faculty of Medicine
Commissioning Officer:	Dean, Faculty of Medicine
Reviewers (Name, Affiliation):	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Dr. Joseph R. Haywood, PhD, Professor & Chair, Department of Pharmacology & Toxicology, Michigan State University2. Dr. Thomas E. Massey, PhD, Professor of Pharmacology & Toxicology, Department of Biomedical & Molecular Sciences, Queen's University3. Dr. Hans H. Zingg, MD, PhD, Professor Emeritus, Department of Pharmacology & Therapeutics, McGill University
Date of review visit:	September 26-27, 2011
Date reported to AP&P:	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

- Successful, well-organized and highly selective graduate programs
- Most graduates pursue careers related to their training
- Satisfied, integrated and cohesive student body
- Excellent interactions with cognate Faculties
- Highly dedicated faculty; enviable faculty mix

3 Opportunities for Program Improvement and Enhancement

The reviewers recommended that the following be considered:

- Improving quality, delivery, organization and uniformity of “breadth modules”
- Increasing graduate student participation in department planning
- Increasing encouragement and support of students to pursue external funding
- Continuing to explore an appropriate EDU model of interdisciplinary organization and communicating regularly about progress

4 Implementation Plan

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

- Immediate Term (6-12 months)
 - Improving quality, delivery, organization and uniformity of “breadth modules”
 - The Department’s new Chair will make breadth modules a priority
 - Continuing to explore an appropriate EDU model of interdisciplinary organization and communicating regularly about progress
 - The Dean routinely meets with departments during departmental strategic planning and at their request, and anticipates further discussion as future plans develop
- Medium Term (1-2 years)
 - Increasing graduate student participation in department planning
 - The Dean views student involvement in all aspects of academic planning and implementation as absolutely necessary and encourages the Department to facilitate this engagement
 - Increasing encouragement and support of students to pursue external funding
 - The Dean strongly encourages the Department to optimize the process for graduate student award applications
 - Continuing to explore an appropriate EDU model of interdisciplinary organization and communicating regularly about progress
 - The Deans of Medicine and Pharmacy will be members of an executive committee that will support the launch of an EDU:C focused on interdisciplinary drug research in collaboration with other Faculties, industry and Health Network partners
- Longer Term (3-5 years)
 - Continuing to explore an appropriate EDU model of interdisciplinary organization and communicating regularly about progress
 - The Dean and the Department will support the continued growth of the EDU:C with other departments in the Faculty of Medicine and with the Faculty of Pharmacy to formalize collaborative research and education in pharmacogenomics and drug design

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 successful and selective graduate programs; strong graduate placements; satisfied students; excellent cognate relationships; and dedicated faculty. The reviewers recommended that the following issues be addressed: quality, delivery, organization and uniformity of "breadth modules;" graduate student participation in department planning; student research funding applications; and the possible creation of an EDU. The Department's new Chair will make breadth modules a priority. The Dean has encouraged the Department to facilitate student engagement in academic planning and to optimize the application process for external student awards. The Dean and the Department will establish an EDU:C with other Departments in the Faculty of Medicine, the Faculty of Pharmacy, and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health to formalize collaborative research and education in drug research. The Dean routinely meets with departments during departmental strategic planning and at their request, and anticipates further discussion as future plans develop. The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs concluded that the Decanal response adequately addressed the reviewers' recommendations.