



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

Programs Reviewed:	Rehabilitation Science, M.Sc., Ph.D. Speech Language Pathology, M.Sc., Ph.D.
Division/Unit Reviewed:	Rehabilitation Sciences Institute
Commissioning Officer:	Dean, Faculty of Medicine
Reviewers (Name, Affiliation):	1. Prof. Daniel Bourbonnais, Ph.D., School of Rehabilitation, University of Montreal 2. Prof. Martin Ferguson-Pell, Ph.D., Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine, University of Alberta 3. Prof. Joy Hammel, Ph.D., Departments of Occupational Therapy & Disability and Human Development, University of Illinois at Chicago
Date of review visit:	October 8 – 9, 2015
Date reported to AP&P:	March 30, 2016

Unless otherwise noted, all bulleted comments apply to all programs reviewed.

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

- Very strong faculty research profiles
- High quality of incoming students
- Impressive breadth and depth of elective offerings
- Unique and desirable specializations offered through the Collaborative Programs

- Close relationships with well-respected and well-recognized health and rehabilitation institutions create excellent opportunities for students to learn outside the classroom

3 Opportunities for Program Enhancement

The reviewers recommended that the following be considered:

- Reconsidering the program's curriculum and structure, including access to courses, research methods offerings, and translational research coverage
- Increasing international student recruitment to maintain the program's high quality and expand the RSI's impact on training and research in the field
- Further strengthening and maintaining relationships with cognate units and external institutions
- Reflecting on potential challenges associated with the Institute's new EDU:B structure

4 Implementation Plan

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

- Immediate Term (6 months)
 - Reconsidering the program's curriculum and structure
 - The Institute will continue to offer quantitative and qualitative methods courses, and a practice science course that addresses knowledge translation.
 - The Director will continue to proactively facilitate access to desired courses in other units.
 - The Director has offered workshops relevant to knowledge translation such as on effective presentation skills, a systematic review workshop, and a scientific publishing session.
 - The RSI Director's office is supporting/facilitating new student-led initiatives focused on career mentorship that include careers in knowledge translation.
 - Increasing international student recruitment
 - The RSI will have representatives at recruitment fairs or other strategic venues in the USA to enhance recruitment.
 - The RSI will continue to distribute promotional material internationally and will promote its new website.
 - The RSI will continue to offer information nights.
 - Further strengthening and maintaining relationships with cognate units and external institutions
 - The RSI will continue to participate in and offer its successful Collaborative Programs and will build on the relationships with other units participating in these programs.
 - Reflecting on the Institute's new structure
 - The Director and appropriate committees will continue to lead the RSI's advocacy for the rehab sciences, especially around the management of chronic diseases and quality of life issues.
- Medium Term (1-2 years)
 - Reconsidering the program's curriculum and structure

- The Program will consider whether to offer its own biostatistics course tailored to RSI students.
- The Program will offer a new methods course on systematic reviews and a new course on knowledge translation.
- Increasing international student recruitment
 - The Director will build on the formal discussions about international collaborations that have occurred with international visitors/scholars from Hong Kong, Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Korea. The Director will also attend a meeting of World Health Organization Partners, which will provide an additional platform for discussions on recruitment and scholarly exchange.
 - The Director will work with the new Faculty of Medicine Partnerships Office to ensure that RSI is strategically included in larger Faculty of Medicine international graduate student recruitment initiatives and agreements with other universities.
- Further strengthening and maintaining relationships with cognate units and external institutions
 - The RSI will continue its strategic planning process to address relationships with cognate and other units.
 - The RSI will seek relationships with more rehabilitation hospitals/agencies as part of its Communications and Community Relations committees.
- Reflecting on the Institute's new structure
 - The Director will work to gain more of the Senior Advancement Officer's time dedicated specifically to RSI.
 - The Faculty of Medicine's Advancement Office will include RSI in larger Faculty of Medicine advancement initiatives where strategic.
 - The Faculty of Medicine will consider bridge funds for students/ supervisors who are short of funds rather than relying only on doctoral completion awards.
- Longer Term (3-5 years)
 - Reflecting on the Institute's new structure
 - The Director will examine possibilities for new sources of revenue for RSI.
 - The Director will pursue a combined degree program proposal with University of Toronto Scarborough, which may lead to greater undergraduate programming in the rehabilitation sciences.
 - The Faculty of Medicine, in collaboration with the Director, will assist in addressing support for clinician scientists, particularly in early phases of career.

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

5 Executive Summary

The reviewers identified the programs' strengths as the faculty's very strong research profiles; high quality of incoming students; impressive breadth and depth of elective offerings; unique and desirable specializations offered through the Collaborative Programs; and the close relationships with well-respected and well-recognized health and rehabilitation institutions. The reviewers recommended that the following issues be addressed: reconsidering the program's curriculum and structure, including access to courses, research methods offerings, and

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translational research coverage; increasing international student recruitment to maintain the program's high quality and expand the RSI's impact on training and research in the field; further strengthening and maintaining relationships with cognate units and external institutions; and reflecting on potential challenges associated with the Institute's new EDU:B structure. The Institute will enhance its range of courses and workshops in research methods and translational research, and will explore offering a biostatistics course. The Director will build on international recruitment and the formal discussions about international collaborations that have occurred to date. The RSI will continue its strategic planning process to address relationships with cognate and other units. The Faculty of Medicine's Advancement Office will include RSI in larger Faculty of Medicine advancement initiatives where strategic, and the Director will examine possible new sources of revenue for RSI. The Committee on Academic Policy and Programs (AP&P) concluded that the Decanal response adequately addressed the review recommendations.