



FACULTY OF MEDICINE

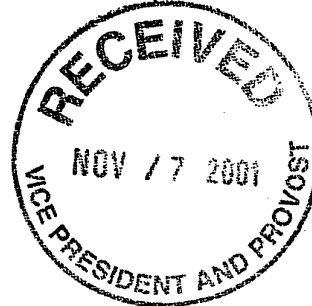
University of Toronto

Office of the Dean

Item 6 (a)

November 7, 2001

Prof. Adel Sedra,
Vice-President & Provost
Simcoe Hall Room 225
27 King's College Circle
University of Toronto



Dear Prof. Sedra:

Re: Changes to the Diploma Program in Clinical Chemistry

At the meeting of Faculty Council on October 29, 2001, a proposal to reduce the number of years of the Diploma Program in Clinical Chemistry from 3 to 2 years was approved. The attached materials explain the rationale for this change. Prof. Avrum Gotlieb, Chair of the Department of Laboratory Medicine & Pathobiology – the Department responsible for the Program – is available to answer any questions you may have.

Yours sincerely

David Naylor, MD DPhil FRCPC
Dean, Faculty of Medicine

Encl.



FACULTY OF MEDICINE

University of Toronto

Office of the Dean

Ms Sonia Wadhvani
Faculty Secretary
Faculty of Medicine
University of Toronto

August 4 2001

Dear Sonia

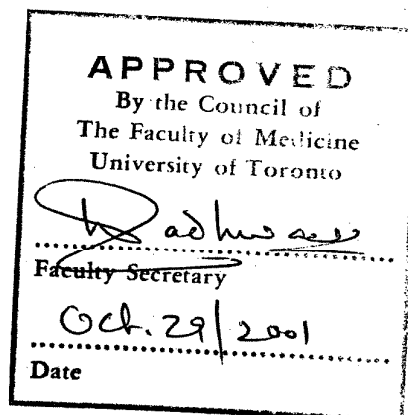
The attached material from Prof Avrum Gotlieb is self-explanatory. In the circumstances, there is no need to take this item through the Dean's Executive or All Chairs Committee, and I am submitted it direct to you for consideration as an agenda item for Faculty Council.

I would be grateful if you could provide a copy of this material to Carol Robb for her to discuss with Prof Carolyn Tuohy, Associate Provost. Prof Tuohy continues to be the Assessor for the activities of AP&P, and would be able to advise as to whether or not we need to take this item beyond Faculty Council to University governance.

Best wishes and thanks in advance

Yours sincerely

David Naylor, Dean





Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology

FACULTY OF MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

OFFICE OF THE CHAIR



23rd July 2001

Dr David Naylor
Dean, Faculty of Medicine
University of Toronto
Office of the Dean
Medical Sciences Building
1 King's College Circle

FACULTY OF MEDICINE

JUL 23 2001

RECEIVED
OFFICE OF THE DEAN

Dear David,

This is to request through you for Faculty Council approval of a reduction in the number of years of our Diploma Program in Clinical Chemistry. The change, initiated by the Ontario Society of Clinical Chemists on the recommendation of the two existing provincial training programs, University of Toronto and McMaster University, has been unanimously approved by the Division of Clinical Chemistry of the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, and the Chair and Executive of the Department. There was initial delay in receiving final approval from the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care. We just received the full go ahead in very late June.

This program has 8 slots funded by the MHLTC and overseen for the province by the Ontario Society of Clinical Chemistry. The trainees are registered through the Postgraduate Medical Education Office. The program was lengthened in 1995 to three years from two with no change in the total number of students registered at three sites: Toronto, Windsor, Hamilton. Now there is only Toronto and Hamilton. The reason for the change was to anticipate adjusting to the then-very volatile area of hospital laboratory clinical chemistry. We had 4 students do the three-year program. Because of the length of the program and the realization that the added year was not adding any new additional academic expertise, our applications and enrolment dropped substantially. It became clear to the OSCC and to our program committee and that of McMaster University that a return to the 2-year program was desirable. The plan is to incorporate the new approaches introduced in the previous 3-year program of enhancing content of basic medical sciences (now through Metabolism and Nutrition Course, Med I), exposing students to

...2

hematology and clinical microbiology, and enhancing the molecular biology content of the course. This will be accommodated in 2 years with the students doing fewer research projects. Since these students have all had several years of research training in biomedical sciences, it is now felt that a more concentrated program in clinical chemistry is what is required to graduate quality clinical chemists and that the research projects be focussed in the diagnostic development area.

Implications

- There will be enhanced interest in the course and a high quality of candidates from among PhD and Postdoctoral candidates. The 8 slots for the province will be spread over 2 years and thus provide a better critical mass for the program in each year.
- The educational component will remain the same.
- The selection committee will select PhD's and/or Postdoctoral students who have shown an excellent track record in research since there will be reduced time for extensive independent research in the two years.
- There are no resource implications for the department. The faculty will have the same teaching commitments since the number of students will not change.
- There is one student currently in the third year who will complete the 3-year program.

There are two students just beginning the second year program who are offered the opportunity to complete in two years. The program content is adjusted to make this possible without altering the quality of training. Students applying and entering the program were fully advised of the proposed change in the length of training.

I am fully supportive of the change and feel it will strengthen the quality of our academic program in clinical chemistry.

Sincerely,



Avrum I. Gotlieb, MD CM, FRCPCP
Professor and Chair

/jb