MD/PhD Program Overview
& discussion
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Associate Chair Education
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MD/STIR: developing research as a competency in your medical education

MD/PhD: intensive, dual degree program to develop Physician-Scientists

https://www.ualberta.ca/medicine/programs/md/index.html
"Physician–scientists are traditionally the primary catalysts in bridging the translational gap—that is, the failure to link fundamental new knowledge in the pathobiology of disease with advances in health care and health policy in a timely manner"


Developing the medical expertise to identify clinical gaps and the research credentials to effectively address them
“For his studies on viral hepatitis, Dr. Tyrrell has received numerous prestigious awards including the Gold Medal of the Canadian Liver Foundation (2000), the Alberta Order of Excellence (2000), Officer of the Order of Canada (2002), Fellow of the Royal Society (2004), FNG Starr Award of the Canadian Medical Association (2004), and the Principal Award of the Manning Foundation (2005). He was awarded the University Distinguished Professorship at the University of Alberta and was inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame in April 2011.”

http://www.canhepc.ca/en/lorne-tyrrell
Paths to being a Physician-Scientist

- The MD/PhD program; supported by the FoMD and UME; graduate degree is overseen by Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research; health related but not necessarily in FoMD

- Clinical Investigator Program; carried out in residency; supported by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada; MSc and PhD

- MSc level degrees, including Masters in Public Health (MPH)

- Research Fellowships that do not lead to degrees

- Prior graduate degree
Features of Canadian MD/PhD Grads

- Surveyed 186 eligible alumni of MD/PhD programs (74.7% completed the survey)

- A majority (58 [83%]) of the 70 respondents who had completed all training were appointed as faculty at academic institutions

- Among the 58 respondents appointed at academic institutions, 44/57 (77%) dedicated at least 20% of their time to research, 25/57 (44%) dedicated at least 50% to research

- 133/136 (97.8%) matched with their first residency choice

- The median length of Physician-Scientist training was 13.5 years

Skinnider et al (2017) CMAJ Open
University of Alberta MD/PhD program

- Over 30 students have graduated since 2002
- Currently, 15 MD/PhD candidates (we admit approximately ~2 students per year)
- 4 years on average to complete the PhD
- Funding available from national vouchers (until 2021), competitive studentships (provincial & national), research grants, and philanthropy
Path 1: notify of intent by October 15 of MD2; apply by Nov. 15

Paths 2 and 3: admitted to medical school from graduate program

PhD at UofA; some exceptions on a case-by-case basis

Meet all PhD requirements of Faculty of Graduate Studies & Research
Is this right for you?

- Already discovered a passion for research through prior experiences
- Discover through future opportunities (STIR program or summer project); diverse opportunities in FoMD (lab based, patient centered, or population based/epidemiology/trials) and beyond
- Understanding the breadth of career paths and opportunities; diverse range of Physician-Scientists you can speak to
- Talk to me or current MD/PhD candidates and graduates
Contact information

- Visit the FoMD MD/PhD program website: https://www.ualberta.ca/medicine/programs/md/md-phd/index.html
- Contact me: alan.underhill@ualberta.ca
- Contact Graduate Programs Advisor: fmdgrd@ualberta.ca or phone 780-492-9721
QUESTIONS?