April 14th, 2020

Dear PY1-3 E2P PharmD Students,

RE: E2P PharmD Practicums – PHRM 171, PHRM 271, PHRM 272 and PHRM 371

Firstly, I would like to thank all of you that have reached out to share your perspectives and concerns around your practicum courses. We have received your comments through emails sent directly to our Office or through the E2P PharmD Hub on Canvas as well as those that have been sent to the President of UBC and external accrediting or licensing bodies such as the College of Pharmacists of British Columbia and the Canadian Council for Accreditation of Pharmacy Programs (CCAPP). Your comments and concerns are important to us and all perspectives are carefully considered by the Faculty in any decision that is made.

We know each student is managing their own unique circumstances and the COVID-19 pandemic has been incredibly stressful and challenging for everyone. Many have voiced concerns about going on practicum (i.e. risk of infection, shortage of personal protective equipment, etc.) but others have also expressed the desire to continue with their program as scheduled and being able to contribute to the needs of our communities as health profession students. Some students have provided comparisons to the approaches taken by other programs, but may not be aware that other pharmacy schools and health profession programs are very different from ours and that parallels between programs and other health professions cannot be drawn. Students have also requested that all practicums be cancelled at this time, but may not be aware that the Faculty has an obligation to our profession and the communities we serve to ensure that students that have achieved the key competencies as mandated by our accrediting organization and pharmacy regulatory authorities are successfully graduated each year to meet the ongoing needs of the workforce.

There is no perfect solution for these imperfect times. The Faculty has been in numerous discussions with other faculties of pharmacy, experiential education program leaders, accrediting agencies and professional associations across the country as we all work to consider the safety and wellness of students and patients while maintaining the continuity of the learning experience for our students. We have considered all feasible alternatives and while recognizing that the COVID-19 situation will continue to change, the Faculty has identified an approach for the present time that will enable the continuity of our E2P PharmD program while ensuring students have the ability to determine what is best for themselves and their families. Thus, students may choose from the below options:

1. Continue with their summer practicum courses as scheduled, OR
2. Postpone the experiential component of their program and **not** participate in their summer practicum courses as scheduled

These are extraordinary times and in response to the COVID-19 situation, the Faculty is making a one-time exception for those students that determine that postponing their 2020 summer practicums is in the best interest of themselves and their families. Generally, PY1 students need to successfully complete PHRM 171 before proceeding to PY2 and PY2 students need to successfully PHRM 271 and PHRM 272 before proceeding to PY3. At this time, should PY1 or PY2 students choose to postpone the experiential component of their program until the 2021 Summer Session, they may still continue to proceed with their 2020-21 Winter Session Term 1 courses as scheduled. Should PY3 students choose to postpone PHRM 371, their summer practicum will be cancelled and rescheduled in 2020-21 Winter Session Term 1. PY3 students will need to successfully complete PHRM 371 before they will able to proceed with PY4.
The below table outlines the timelines for an altered experiential schedule and when your practicums would be rescheduled should you choose not to participate in your practicum courses in this upcoming Summer Session.

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<th>2020</th>
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<th>2022</th>
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<th>Expected Graduation</th>
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|     | 2021S = 2021 Summer Session (May, June, July 2021) |     | 2022S = 2022 Summer Session (May, June, July 2022) | 2023S = 2023 Summer Session (May, June, July 2023) |}

The above is a tentative schedule and assumes that no further academic disruptions will occur. This schedule is also highly dependent on the practicum availability provided by our affiliated sites and practice educators. All of our practice educators are volunteers and practice sites may be limited in when they are able to accommodate our students as well as the number of students they can accept on practicum within an academic session. However, the OEE is strongly committed to do all that we are able to adhere to the above schedule for our students.

As per previous communications, for PY2 students scheduled to complete PHRM 272, this course will not run as currently scheduled within our inpatient/hospital practice sites. The Faculty is currently assessing feasible alternatives for the delivery of your PHRM 272 course for later on this summer. You may however, still choose to postpone the completion of this course to the 2021 Summer Session.

We hope the above helps to clearly communicate the Faculty’s approach in ensuring students are able to complete the experiential training and program requirements for their professional degree while providing students with the option to postpone the experiential component of their program should they determine this to be in the best interest of themselves and that of their families.

We anticipate that you may have further questions and concerns. Next week, the Faculty’s Leadership Team will be hosting virtual Town Halls for each program year. Dates and times for these meetings will be communicated in the coming days.
In the meantime, if you have any urgent questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to email your OEE Course Coordinator directly or phar.oee@ubc.ca.

Course Coordinators:
PHRM 171 – Gilly Lau – gilly.lau@ubc.ca
PHRM 271 – Alex Tang – alex.tang@ubc.ca
PHRM 272 – Julian Lee – julian.lee@ubc.ca
PHRM 371 – Neelam Dhaliwal – neelam.dhaniwal@ubc.ca

Please also note that if you have made the decision to postpone your summer practicum(s) that is currently scheduled in May, June or July 2020, you must advise your OEE Course Coordinator by **Monday, April 27th at 9am**. Otherwise, we will assume your practicum is moving forward as scheduled.

Once again, we thank you for your understanding and ongoing professionalism and resilience as we all work to navigate these unprecedented and uncertain times.

Kind regards,

Janice Yeung  B.Sc.(Pharm), ACPR, Pharm.D.
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