

The University of British Columbia  
**School of Population and Public Health**

Minutes of Faculty Meeting held on Friday, January 31, 2025  
at 10:15 am to 12:00 pm in Room B104/Zoom

**Present:** Please see the attached attendance list of those who attended the meeting in person or via Zoom and signed/checked out their names.

1. **Welcome and Land Acknowledgement** – Louise Masse, Acting Director and Chair  
Louise Masse welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged that it was taking place on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the Musqueam people.
2. **Approval of Agenda**– approved.
3. **Approval of Minutes of December** – approved with the following amendment to minutes.  
**Under No. 8. Program Directors, Centre Directors, and Division Heads**  
**EBPHP – Amee Manges**
  - a) Amee shared a report about the Epidemiology PhD concentration - which now includes 16 students and reminded faculty about upcoming events and student opportunities.
  - b) A reminder was given about the email sent to everyone, encouraging students in the PhD program to join the Epidemiology Concentration if interested. Interested students should be referred to Amee with contact information so she can guide them through the process.
4. **Director's Report**- Louise Masse, Acting Director
  - 4.1 **Introduction of New Faculty Member, Dr. Ana Komparic.**  
Dr. Komparic joined SPPH as an Assistant Professor, tenure track in January 2025 and is a member of the Centre for Applied Ethics (CAE). Dr. Komparic introduced herself to all and shared her previous employment and current research engagements, and that she looks forward to working with everyone.
  - 4.2 **Other Appointments and Updates**
    - a) **Translational Medicine:**  
Dean Regier has been appointed as Associate Professor, Translational Medicine.
    - b) **Director of CHSPR:**  
Jason Sutherland has been appointed as the Director of the Centre for Health Services and Policy Research (CHSPR).
    - c) **Program Director for MPH:**  
Dr. David Patrick will serve as the Program Director for the Master of Public Health (MPH) program during Mike Marin's study leave, which is in July 2025.

### 4.3 Upcoming Events

#### a) Henry Friesen Prize Visit:

Gord Guyatt will visit in June 2025 to discuss as the recipient of the Henry Friesen Prize from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). Guyatt is widely known for capturing the term evidence-based medicine. His visit will likely take place during the week of June 23, 2025, and the main presentation will cover the history, present, and future of evidence-based medicine, with a particular focus on the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the field.

There will also be opportunities for one-on-one discussions, particularly for trainees and researchers interested in synthesis and meta-analysis. Rachel Murphy and Gabrielle will work on the logistics and determine who will lead the visit. Given Guyatt's significant contributions to clinical trials, Rachel encouraged anyone interested in being involved in the visit or who has specific topics or questions for Gord Guyatt to express their interest and share their ideas.

#### b) Town-Hall Meeting Update:

The Town Hall meeting that was scheduled for January 31 has been postponed. The reason for the delay is that Aslam, who is expected to be present for the meeting is currently traveling. As of now, the meeting is expected to be rescheduled for March 28, 2025. An official announcement with the new date will be made soon.

## 5 Associate Directors Updates – report attached

### a) Faculty Affairs and Partnerships– Louise Masse

Louise would like to initiate a discussion on graduate supervision, particularly focusing on non-SPPH faculty. Associate members have encountered issues supervising students and challenges in maintaining their roles. Louise suggested forming a committee to address issues and gather more data on the current supervision models so there is clarity in roles and responsibilities, especially in co-supervision models. Louise suggested having co-supervisors within SPPH for students who do not have primary supervisors with clear roles and responsibilities

#### Items to be discussed:

- Meet with Eva and David to further discuss graduate supervision issues
- Gather data on the percentage of SPPH students supervised by non-SPPH faculty and funding models used
- Explore implementing a formal process for documenting and discussing co-supervision arrangements
- Invite faculty to provide additional feedback on concerns regarding graduate supervision

### b) Research – Rachel Murphy

#### • Research Seminar Series – Dr. Kirsten Marchand:

The Upcoming speaker for the February Research Seminar Series will be Dr. Kirsten Marchand. Dr. Marchand is presenting as part of her Assistant Professor

Partner Appointment, feedback on her seminar will be collected and incorporated into her ARPT (Academic Review and Promotion Tenure) process. Please attend the seminar, your presence and participation play a crucial role in her appointment evaluation.

- **CHR Project Grant Deadlines and Updates:**

The external application deadlines for the grant are earlier than the internal SPPH deadlines. There are two separate deadlines based on whether an application includes a private sector or not. Links to both the SPPH and external deadlines are provided in Rachel's report. Additional forms and risk assessment forms are required if a private-sector partnership is involved. Even for those not directly working with such partners, there is an inclusion of AI models. Please reach out for clarification on AI-related aspects.

- **External Salary Awards and SPPH Incentives:**

The SPPH Incentive on External Salary Awards were discussed. The details of the policy are available on the SPPH website and in the package distributed to the full faculty meeting. If you are applying for external awards, you can choose between a research honorarium of 15% of the award or \$15,000, whichever is lower, or research support of 20% of the award or \$30,000 per year, whichever is lower. However, there may be some cases where the incentives do not apply, depending on the person's appointment. The goal is to make a more equitable approach as there were past differences in how these incentives were given.

**c) Education – Trevor Dummer**

The Faculty of Medicine has one award allocation, and SPPH can submit only one nomination. All SPPH programs will have their nominations reviewed by the SPPH Awards Committee, which will then forward one final nomination to the Faculty of Medicine.

For those considering submitting a nomination for the award, it is important to note that the process requires more than just a simple CV. Nominees must put together a comprehensive package, including detailed information, references, and evidence that demonstrates they are going above and beyond in their role. This could include developing teaching materials, going beyond regular duties, and making a significant contribution. Nominations can come from faculty, colleagues, students, and even TAs who can self-nominate. If you are planning to submit a nomination, please contact the Awards Committee at Emily Van Gulik for guidance and to ensure they understand the requirements.

- **Upcoming learning and teaching opportunities:**

Generative AI in Teaching and Learning Symposium happening on February 3rd is an all-day online event which will feature a panel discussion, including the UBC president, which should provide valuable insights. Anyone interested in generative AI, particularly in the context of teaching, learning, and assessment, may find this event beneficial. Those who are interested should register.

- **Funding through GAA and GRA:**

There are different types of jobs for students, Graduate Research Assistants (GRA) and Graduate Academic Assistants (GAA). A GRA works on research that is connected to their thesis and is paid with a grant. This is scholarship income, so no taxes are taken. A GAA works on projects that are not related to their thesis. This is considered employment income, so taxes are taken.

The attachment in the report explains the difference between these two roles. This should help students and supervisors avoid misunderstandings and make supervision easier for everyone.

**d) Clinical Faculty Affairs – Trevor Corneil**

A series of applications and requests for clinical faculty positions have been received. These applications involve individuals with varying experiences and backgrounds. There are new requirements from the Faculty of Medicine HR to avoid complications, especially when these individuals are directly involved in teaching students.

A new decision has been made that requires that specific category individuals must have a license with a regulated health profession. This will have implications for requests from both partnership appointments and tenure-track faculty. To address these challenges, the group has been working closely with Amy Salmon. The goal is to better understand and navigate the new requirements, as well as to clarify the internal limitations and rules regarding what clinical faculty can or cannot do, particularly based on their experience. Over the next 6 to 12 months, clinical faculty will continue working on these issues.

**6 Advisor on Community Engagement and REDI Lead – Susan Cox**

The committee is forming three specific working groups focused on REDI (Respect, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) related projects. Faculty, students, and staff are essential to form these working groups.

**Toward Creating Inclusive Spaces:** This group will focus on making the building, especially the lobby, more welcoming both physically and socially. The goal is to focus on social and cultural spaces and to make the environment welcoming and inclusive

**Constructive Conversations:** This is building on the need for a variety of different formats where the community can get together and engage in dialogue with speakers and other events. This group aims to facilitate a variety of community dialogues.

**REDI Action Plan:** This group will focus on assessing the impact of the current REDI-related efforts. The goal is to track and measure the cultural change.

Short descriptions of each working group will be shared soon. These descriptions will follow a consistent template and will be circulated to everyone to provide more clarity on the focus of each group. Sue Mills/Susan Cox will be the point of contact for those

interested in joining any of the working groups.

**7 Program Directors Reports, Centre Directors and Division Heads**

**Eva Oberle, MSc/PhD– Report attached.**

With the upcoming admission season, the committee will be meeting and active participation is encouraged.

**Trevor Corneil, PHPM-Report attached.**

There is new funding available to support clinical faculty in reviewing files and evaluation components for appointments, reappointments and promotion.

Dr. Rohit Vijh has been appointed as the new Director of the Undergraduate Medical Education Department. Dr. Vijh is also the Medical Health Officer (MHO) of Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH).

**Mike Marin, MPH – Report attached.**

Invited faculty to join the admission committee, if anyone is interested.

**Chris McLeod, OEH**

The Cascadia Conference in early January was a big success. Over 140 faculty, students, and trainees from across the Pacific Northwest attended. A special panel at the conference focused on public health and climate change, discussing important issues in the region and there was a lot of student participation.

OEH is in the admissions season and is looking forward to the new group of students joining the division in Fall 2025.

**Mariana Brussoni, HELP**

Aboriginal Steering Committee visiting HELP on February 4 and February 6.

**Jason Sutherland, CHSPR** - Report attached for CHSPR & Health Services and Policy. The Center for Health Services and Policy Research will host its 35th Annual Health Policy Conference on March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> (information available on the website). The conference will be held at the UBC campus and will be led by Dr. Sabrina Wong and will focus on primary healthcare. The conference will feature a great lineup of local, provincial, national, and international leaders in primary care research.

**Amea Manges, Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Public Health Practice – Report attached.**

The Epidemiology Concentration now has 20 students, ranging from first-year to fifth-year students. This is a great development, though it presents some challenges in terms of managing students across various levels.

**8 Administration – Shermila**

A list of ten names of potential external reviewers was submitted to FoM for the upcoming SPPH review. Division Heads, Program Directors and Centre Directors will be contacted to provide input for the Self-Study.

**9 Communication** – no updates

**10 Education** – Lisa

A survey was sent out to students about newsletters and communication channels. The students are interested in receiving job opportunities, especially in public health. A public health job listserv has been created where students can get job postings right away. If anyone on the education team receives a job posting, they will forward it directly to the listserv without delay.

**11 IT** – no updates

**12 Other Business Arising** – none.

**13 Announcements/Celebrations**

**Amea Manges** (Staff and Faculty Awards Committee)

The Faculty of Medicine Distinguished Achievement Awards are coming up, for more details and to submit nominations get in touch with Amea Manges

**Veena Sriram**

The Center for India and South Asia Research, co-sponsored by CAE, is hosting an event with one of the foremost historians on the impact of colonialism on medicine on February 7. Kiran Kumbhar from the University of Manitoba will be speaking at 9 a.m. on the topic of Global Health and its connections to colonialism.

Veena mentioned the U.S. withdrawal from the WHO and suggested creating an event or program to discuss its impacts or putting together a roundtable discussion or event on this topic. Those who are interested in more information, please reach out to Veena

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

**Next SPPH Faculty Meeting: Friday, February 28, 2024.**