

# UBC Faculty of Medicine

**MD UNDERGRADUATE  
PROGRAM**



► Where do you want to be?



a place of mind

THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Your expert care will help the citizens of British Columbia lead healthier lives; your compassion will touch the lives of people in underserved rural communities; your advocacy will make medicines available to developing nations; your research will lead to breakthroughs that will improve the health of Canadians and people across the world. That's why the UBC Faculty of Medicine's MD undergraduate program wants you to be part of the next generation of health care professionals in BC.



### 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY MEDICAL EDUCATION

With a history of excellence and a vision for the future, the UBC Faculty of Medicine is educating some of the best health practitioners anywhere. The Faculty also plays a critical role in training the health researchers of the future, from epidemiologists to health genomics scientists. Our goal is to improve human health. We achieve this in a program that is firmly anchored in the science of medicine, while embracing the compassion of humanity.

The UBC Faculty of Medicine MD undergraduate program prepares students for practice in our rapidly changing world. It was the first distributed medical education program in Canada, designed to fully train students in communities across the province, where they may one day practice.

▶ Tuesday | Led diabetes workshop at CHIU5

The program is delivered at four geographically distinct sites: the Vancouver Fraser Medical Program, and the Southern Medical Program at UBC campuses in Vancouver and the Okanagan; the Island Medical Program in collaboration with the University of Victoria; and the Northern Medical Program in collaboration with the University of Northern British Columbia.

- Clinical Academic Campus
- Affiliated Regional Centre
- Community Education Facility



## **INNOVATIVE CURRICULUM**

The UBC Faculty of Medicine MD undergraduate program prepares students for practice in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The curriculum incorporates the tools you and your classmates need to provide patient-centred care in inter-professional settings where teamwork and collaboration are essential. Our students learn largely in small-group settings, surrounded by a collegial atmosphere. You will work with tutors, faculty members and family physicians to learn the foundations of medicine, develop clinical skills, and hone your understanding of the physician's role in society.

You will attend lectures on topics such as e-health, medicine for special populations, rural medicine and society's health needs. There are numerous opportunities to explore your interests and expand your knowledge, from unique self-directed projects examining health issues to local and international global health experiences.

In the clinical years (three and four), you will enter hospital wards, community clinics, and doctor's offices across BC, meeting patients, and working closely with an assortment of knowledgeable health professionals to obtain the skills necessary to your future success.

## **INTEGRATED CLERKSHIPS**

For motivated, self-directed learners interested in one-on-one teaching and close community and patient contact, the MD undergraduate

program offers innovative integrated community clerkships (ICC). Unlike traditional hospital-based clerkships, each ICC student is assigned to a family physician, whose clinic or group practice serves as the student's home base. ICC students follow patients through the cycle of treatment, gaining knowledge of the continuity of care, collaborating with health professionals, and working with patients in the context of their community.

In a single day a student could see, for example, patients with surgical problems, internal medicine complaints, as well as obstetrics. While the encounters are different, the learning objectives are the same as they are for traditional clerkship students. ICC opportunities exist in all four programs, in communities such as Chilliwack, Vernon, Trail, Duncan, Terrace, and Fort St. John.

## **TECHNOLOGY-ENABLED LEARNING**

The UBC Faculty of Medicine works in collaboration with more than 4,000 clinical faculty and other BC universities, hospitals and health authorities to make distributed learning a reality. This province-wide approach is made possible through a robust information technology system that allows instructors and students in several disparate locations to interact, taking learning beyond classrooms and into clinics and hospitals, whether they are in urban or rural areas in the province.

# NORTHERN MEDICAL PROGRAM



▶ Saturday | Skied cross country at Caledonia

Imagine a ten-minute commute to class; cross-country skiing through the forest on your lunch break; or canoeing around Dahl Lake after your classes are through. While the natural surroundings may draw people to northern BC, it's the personal atmosphere that keeps them here. As a student in the Northern Medical Program (NMP), you will quickly become part of the university and medical communities of Prince George and northern BC, learning medicine from an enthusiastic group who take great pride in training the next generation of health care professionals.



**STACY CABAGE-STERLING** Class of 2013

### HEALTH ON THE HILL: MD STUDENT RADIO

I thrive on people's stories and experiences. Health on the Hill, a radio show produced by UBC medical students in the Northern Medical Program, has given us the opportunity to conduct interviews with various members of society, from the general public to physicians and politicians. We engage the community by concentrating on issues relevant to Prince George and the surrounding vicinity. With each show I gain new ways of looking at an issue. These different perspectives help us learn from and be more respectful of our community's diversity. As a future physician, it encourages me to explore a patient's beliefs and understanding, so that I might be a better advocate for our community's health needs. To me, the best part of medicine is melding the art and practice of both social and physical sciences. Health on the Hill is a great way to explore those connections!



Tuesday

Reviewed gastroenterology case study

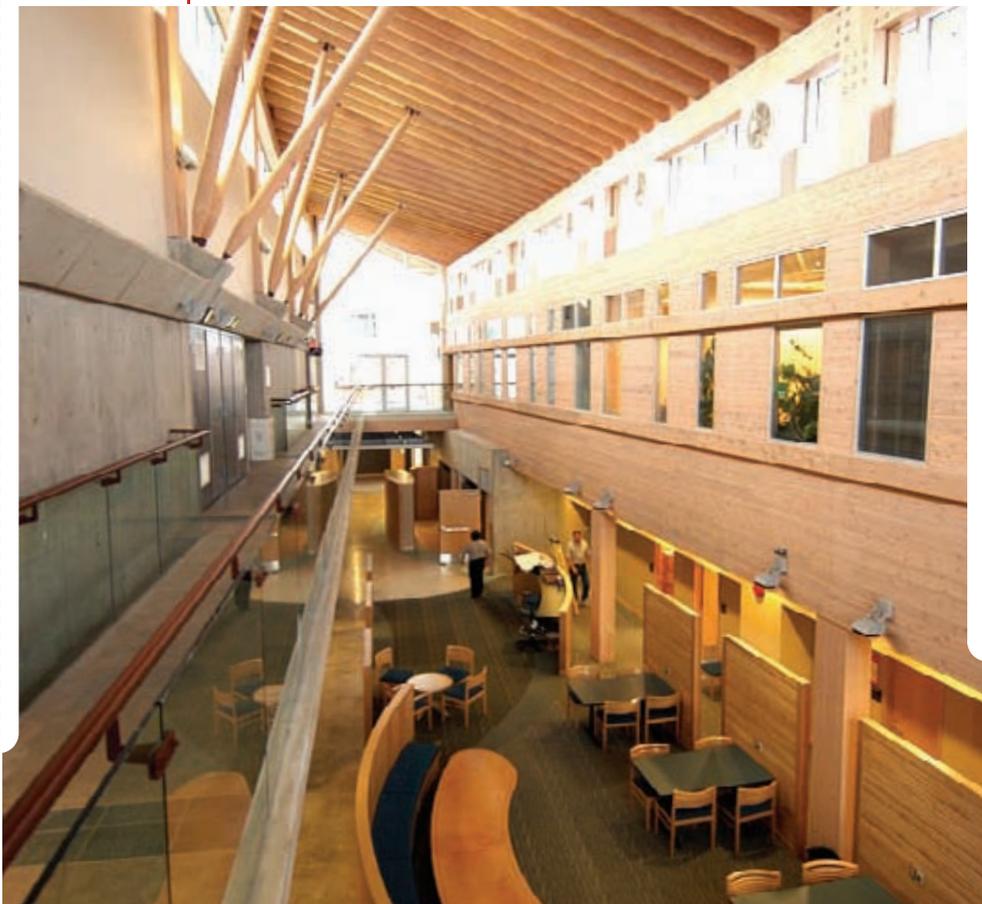
# NORTHERN MEDICAL PROGRAM



"Northerners have a pioneering spirit. My love of adventure led me back home to the north to learn medicine. The community is proud of the medical school and enthusiastic to train physicians. I knew that the people I would learn from would welcome me. We are all neighbours here."

Peytra Davies, Class of 2013

► Saturday | Submitted article for the UBC Medical Journal





## LEARNING

As one of the 32 students, you will be part of an intimate, close-knit learning environment, forming bonds with classmates, faculty, staff and members of the medical community. While rural and family medicine are a significant focus of the NMP, students also get many opportunities to learn from and work with specialists. The physician-to-student ratio gives learners access to up-close, hands-on learning experiences, and the opportunities for independent learning are considerable.

Clinical education takes place not only in Prince George but throughout the north, and integrated community clerkships in Terrace (Northwest BC) and Fort St John (Northeast BC) offer students unique opportunities to learn medicine in an innovative community-based format. Students interested in research will find many opportunities in the basic science, social science and clinical research fields. NMP students match successfully to both family medicine and specialty programs throughout Canada.

## NORTHERN PRIDE

The NMP is a grass-roots program, arising from a citizen-led campaign addressing the shortage of health care professionals in northern and rural areas. That “can do” attitude is the northern way, and communities remain fully supportive of medical students.

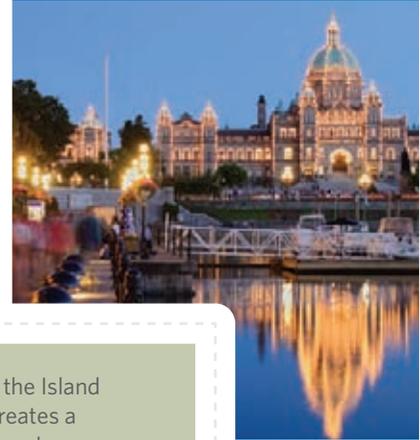
The University of Northern BC (UNBC), home to the NMP, is a university both in and for the North, and this mission has instilled a strong sense of ownership, purpose and adventure among students, alumni, faculty, staff and the communities. UNBC is one of Canada’s best small universities with a passion for teaching, people and the environment. UNBC facilities are fully available to NMP students.

## LIVING

Prince George is a friendly, active community set against beautiful natural surroundings. Its balanced lifestyle, where hard work is rewarded with time to relax and enjoy family and friends, makes life in BC’s northern communities so satisfying. For students with families, Prince George is a family-oriented community with many opportunities for children of all ages.

There is a vibrant local music and arts scene, as well as restaurants, galleries and shops, and an abundance of outdoor activities available year-round. Prince George is perfect for an active, nature-loving student who strives for a balance between the demands of their studies and their health and well-being.

# ISLAND MEDICAL PROGRAM



With a class size of just 32 students, everyone will know you by name in the Island Medical Program (IMP)! One-on-one interaction with faculty and staff creates a welcoming, friendly, and personal environment for learning. And with fewer learners, you will build direct relationships with preceptors, clinicians and patients. A relaxed atmosphere permeates the program, yet students are very focused on learning, working both independently and in small peer groups to meet their goals.

► Saturday | Barbecued at Cadboro Bay



**VIDA OMIDVAR** Class of 2012

### **RURAL MEDICINE IN HAIDA GWAI**

The opportunity to study rural medicine in Haida Gwaii made me feel like the luckiest med student in the world. What I enjoyed most was the time we had to spend with each patient rather than the dizzying feeling of running in and out of the rooms. It was interesting to see so many diverse cases and learn of treatment plans. The quality of teaching I received was outstanding and the physicians were passionate in caring for their patients and sharing their knowledge with the students. The Haida people also made it very easy for the doctors and staff to provide care and education. Every day, I felt welcomed to the community by many of my Haida patients. Thanks to my experience in Haida Gwaii, surrounded by the nature and the lovely people of the island, I'm considering rural medicine as a future career.



► Tuesday | Practiced slit-lamp ophthalmoscope

# ISLAND MEDICAL PROGRAM

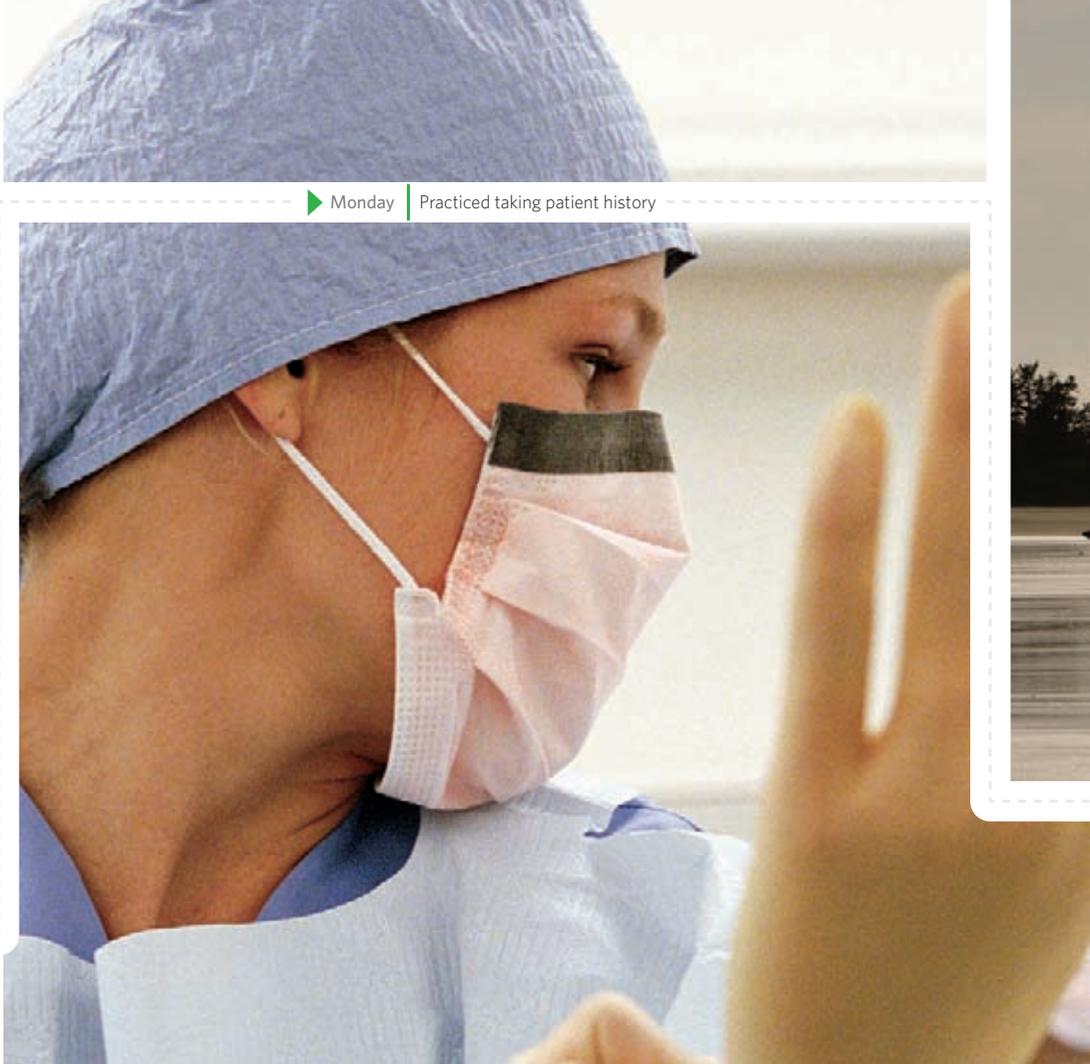


"After meeting with my Island Medical Program (IMP)

mentor and hinting at my interest in Internal Medicine, he kindly offered to meet with me on his own time to coach me through an approach to clinical cases, set up opportunities with patients at his office, and allowed me to shadow him at the hospital. This enthusiasm makes the IMP a great place to grow and learn."

Kris Poinen, Class of 2013

Monday | Practiced taking patient history





## **MEDICAL EDUCATION THE IMP WAY**

The Medical Sciences building, home to the IMP, is a showpiece of innovation and sustainability at the University of Victoria (UVic), featuring state-of-the-art lecture theatres and anatomy, research and multipurpose laboratories. As an IMP student you will have full access to University of Victoria student services, including athletic facilities and the new library and learning centre.

Clinical education experiences in the IMP reflect the health-related challenges facing mid-sized urban communities, as well as smaller, remote and coastal communities. As an IMP student you will have access to all of the major specialties and most subspecialties as well as community medicine based in smaller centres. You will gain clinical experiences across Vancouver Island, including the central island communities of Duncan and Nanaimo as well as north island locations such as Campbell River, Comox, Port McNeill and Port Hardy.

## **RESEARCH**

The University of Victoria is the second-largest health educator in BC, with a strong focus on biomedical research and health-related programs. The Medical Sciences Building serves as the home for both the IMP and UVic's Division of Medical Sciences. Students can pursue research with faculty in the Division, particularly in the field of neurosciences and medical genetics.

An IMP research mentoring program links students with UVic and Vancouver Island Health Authority investigators doing research in the basic and clinical sciences, as well as population health.

## **STUDENT SUPPORT**

Physicians in the community act as mentors, providing guidance on work-life balance and surviving the rigours of medical school. The Vancouver Island Health Authority provides top-notch facilities, ensuring our students get the best education possible. And we are extremely fortunate to have donors who have helped establish several scholarships and bursaries specifically for IMP students.

## **LIFE ON VANCOUVER ISLAND**

Victoria, the provincial capital of BC, offers the attractions of a large city but with a cozy feel. It is home to the Royal BC Museum, opera, symphony and theatres, as well as a lively downtown full of unique restaurants, shops, art galleries and nightspots.

Vancouver Island is perfect for outdoor adventures such as biking, hiking, running and skiing. You are never far from the ocean, so there are plenty of water sports too, including surfing, kayaking, sailing and scuba diving. Or take a walk on one of the many beaches.

# SOUTHERN MEDICAL PROGRAM

► Sunday | Waterskiied Lake Okanagan



You are here to take part in an adventure spanning the many wonderful communities of BC's Interior, from peak to valley, from rivers to lakes, all while learning medicine from a talented and passionate team of health professionals.

The Southern Medical Program (SMP), the fourth and newest site in UBC's MD undergraduate program, is generating excitement in the halls of UBC's Okanagan campus, in hospitals, clinics and offices of health professionals, and in the communities where you will serve.



**YUNJIN SARA PARK** Class of 2011

### **INTEGRATED COMMUNITY CLERKSHIPS**

I looked for a program that could give me one-on-one teaching, independence, and the flexibility to tailor my learning. The integrated community clerkship (ICC) was perfect. The confidence you gain shines through in your future electives and practice. The strong ties you create with the community are phenomenal and add to your learning. One of my most memorable experiences was following a patient with esophageal cancer from initial presentation and diagnosis to treatment and follow-up at the BC Cancer Agency. It is pretty amazing to be part of a patient's ongoing care and see how truly interdisciplinary medicine is. The ICC's have a history of turning out great physicians in a variety of fields, such as surgery, pediatrics, pathology, ophthalmology, family practice and so many more. The ICC Program gave me a clear picture of what kind of practice I want in the future and helped foster the confidence to achieve it.



► Monday | Examined muscles of pelvic floor in 3D

# SOUTHERN MEDICAL PROGRAM



"The faculty and staff knew my name before I told them who I was.

I worked one-on-one with physicians, receiving a great deal of bedside teaching. I performed all of the procedures and consults without competition from residents or other students. I felt very welcome and valued as a learner."

Alexandria Baxter, Class of 2011



► Wednesday | Performed ultrasound at Penticton Regional



## BEGINNINGS

The new Health Sciences Centre, located on the UBC Okanagan campus, is home to students in the first two years of the program. The building features high-tech classrooms and lecture theatres, research and teaching laboratories, and administration and faculty offices. University services and facilities are available to all students.

At the Kelowna General Hospital Clinical Academic Campus (CAC), you can interact with peers and faculty in the new 180-seat lecture theatre, practice clinical skills, and research a diagnosis in the library. Grab a coffee with a resident from the UBC Department of Family Practice Rural Residency Program, also based at the CAC.

Kelowna General Hospital is a major tertiary care centre, bolstered by a recent expansion that includes a new six-story ambulatory care center and the Interior Heart and Surgical Centre. The BC Cancer Agency's Centre for the Southern Interior is also nearby, creating a core of health services and research.

## COMMUNITY-BASED LEARNING

In third year, you can choose between traditional rotations in Kelowna and Kamloops, or unique integrated clerkships based in communities such as Vernon and

Trail. There are numerous opportunities for electives across BC and beyond in the fourth year to prepare you for residency training. Working closely with expert health professionals and residents, you will have access to the full spectrum of health care.

Access to transportation and a passion for road trips is a must — what better way to explore the scenic Interior region than by travelling the hillsides to learn at community clinics and hospitals.

## BALANCE

Life in the SMP isn't just about studying. It is the ideal environment to strike a balance between the joys of living and learning. The four-season weather and natural splendour of the region makes for the perfect outing to restore your senses. There's swimming in the summer, skiing in the winter, golf courses and vineyards, and when the sun sets, cruise into town for music, arts, restaurants and cultural attractions in Kelowna.

At the end of your busy day, take pride and satisfaction in being a part of the Interior's latest and most promising attraction, the Southern Medical Program!

# VANCOUVER FRASER MEDICAL PROGRAM



Thursday | Listened for heart murmur at BC Children's

Vancouver is home to a thriving culture of medical education, patient care, and research, where world class educators, clinicians, and researchers teach you the skills you need to be a part of the next generation of health professionals. Even though you will be one of 192 students in the Vancouver Fraser Medical Program (VFMP), there is an abundance of educational resources, student support services, clubs and activities to help you find your place in the program.



**ALEXIS CRABTREE** Class of 2016

**RESEARCH**

I wanted an opportunity to learn medicine, while pursuing my research on emerging diseases and issues of social justice. The MD/PhD program allows me to develop skills as a researcher, and stay focused on the clinical applications of my work. The faculty go above and beyond to mentor students so that they develop as independent researchers. As happy as I am with other aspects of the program, the mentorship and friendship of my peers has been the best part for me. My colleagues are smart, driven, and they genuinely care about making the world a better place. They are some of the most inspiring individuals I know.



# VANCOUVER FRASER MEDICAL PROGRAM



"I like the diversity of the Vancouver Fraser Medical Program. You can shadow doctors in many different hospitals. Or, for fun, spend a day at Whistler, see a concert in Seattle, or bike along the seawall. We're a big group, but we share a sense of community. No matter what fun activity you want to do, there is someone interested in joining."

Henry Stringer, Class of 2013

▶ Saturday | Played lead in Med Student Play





In the first two years, you will work together in small peer groups. In the clinical years, you will learn alongside residents and fellows from the UBC Faculty of Medicine's many specialty programs. You will interact with students in different years of the program, and share common experiences and challenges. The relationships you build now will last well into your professional career.

### **FROM CLASSROOM TO CLINIC**

Clinical education in the VFMP is largely traditional, discipline-based rotations in clinical settings throughout Vancouver and the Fraser Valley region. At clinical academic sites, such as the Vancouver Hospital, St. Paul's Hospital and Royal Columbian Hospital, you have the opportunity to rotate through various specialties and sub-specialties, and see a variety of patients and clinical problems typical of large urban populations. You also gain good generalist experiences in the smaller hospitals and family practice offices throughout the lower mainland and Fraser Valley. For those interested in community-based education, the VFMP offers a 3<sup>rd</sup> year integrated community clerkship in Chilliwack, BC.

As a UBC student, you have access to all university student amenities and facilities. The Life Sciences Centre at the UBC Point Grey campus and the

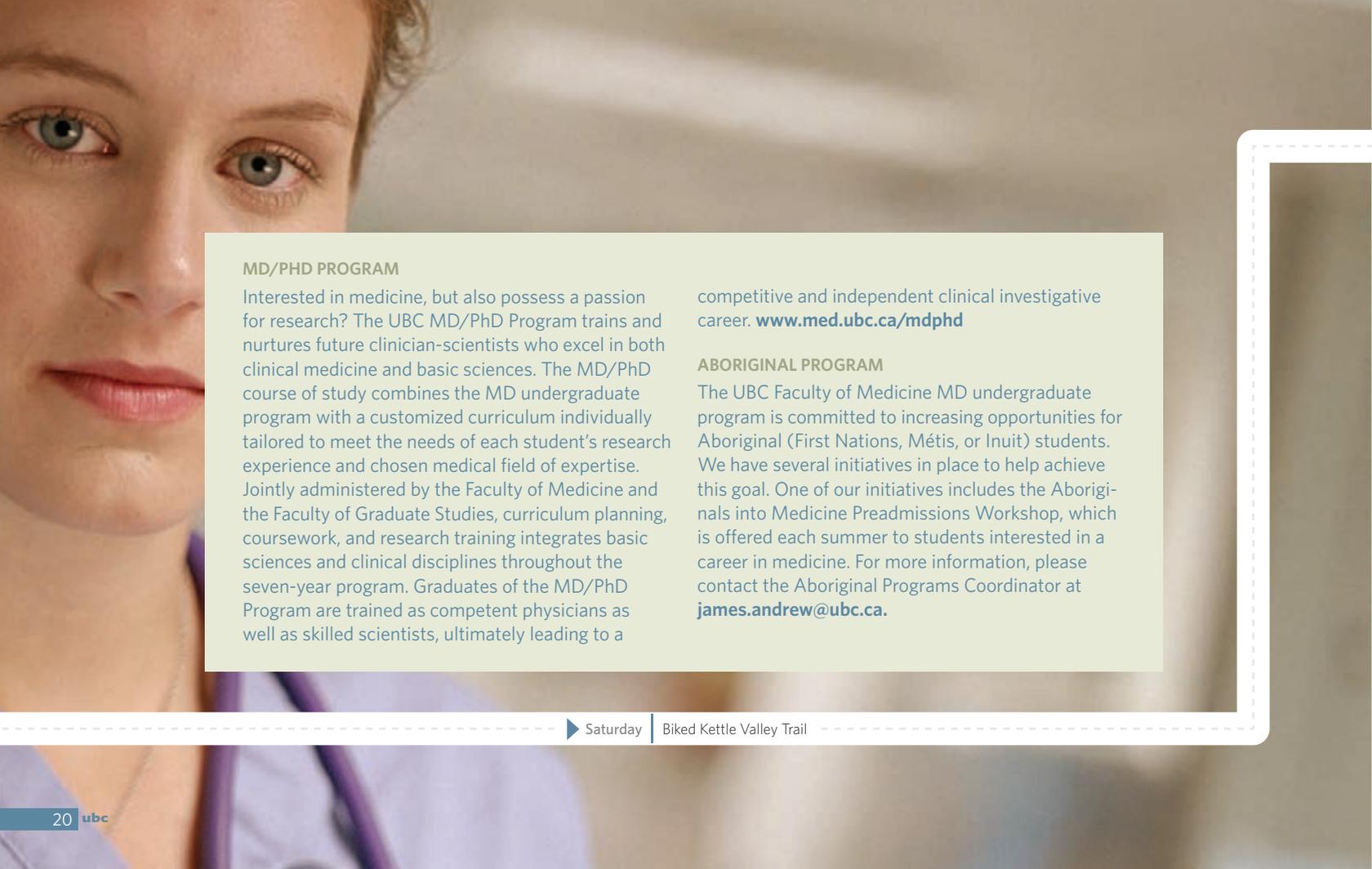
Gordon and Leslie Diamond Health Care Centre, located next to the Vancouver Hospital, provide students with state-of-the-art equipment, lecture theatres, problem-based learning rooms, and space to meet and study. The Diamond Health Care Centre also houses the Biomedical Branch of the UBC Library.

### **SOLVING HEALTH CHALLENGES**

Vancouver is a world leader in health sciences research. With a growing network of researchers, labs, clinicians and educators inside the Faculty of Medicine and our health partners, there are tremendous opportunities for you to conduct research, and work on unique student projects.

### **SOCIAL LIFE**

When you need to take a break from your studies, head over to the Medical Student Alumni Centre nearby, where you can relax, attend club meetings, hang out with your peers, or work out in the gym. As a UBC student, you will have access to a wealth of student groups, clubs, facilities, and amenities. Vancouver is rich in cultural attractions, arts and entertainment, and diversity. There are extraordinary beaches, mountains and other beautiful natural attractions all within a short commute. It's a fantastic place to make new friends and meet new challenges.



### MD/PHD PROGRAM

Interested in medicine, but also possess a passion for research? The UBC MD/PhD Program trains and nurtures future clinician-scientists who excel in both clinical medicine and basic sciences. The MD/PhD course of study combines the MD undergraduate program with a customized curriculum individually tailored to meet the needs of each student's research experience and chosen medical field of expertise. Jointly administered by the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Graduate Studies, curriculum planning, coursework, and research training integrates basic sciences and clinical disciplines throughout the seven-year program. Graduates of the MD/PhD Program are trained as competent physicians as well as skilled scientists, ultimately leading to a

competitive and independent clinical investigative career. [www.med.ubc.ca/mdphd](http://www.med.ubc.ca/mdphd)

### ABORIGINAL PROGRAM

The UBC Faculty of Medicine MD undergraduate program is committed to increasing opportunities for Aboriginal (First Nations, Métis, or Inuit) students. We have several initiatives in place to help achieve this goal. One of our initiatives includes the Aboriginals into Medicine Preadmissions Workshop, which is offered each summer to students interested in a career in medicine. For more information, please contact the Aboriginal Programs Coordinator at [james.andrew@ubc.ca](mailto:james.andrew@ubc.ca).

► Through knowledge, creating health

Whether you choose the Island Medical Program, the Northern Medical Program, the Southern Medical Program or the Vancouver Fraser Medical Program, you will train in state-of-the-art facilities, make lasting friendships, gain new perspectives, and learn medicine from highly skilled clinicians and faculty—all in a community learning environment that suits your lifestyle and career goals. As a graduate of the UBC Faculty of Medicine MD undergraduate program, you will have the knowledge, training, and experience to meet the health challenges of tomorrow.



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