



December 15, 2017

Dean's response to External Review of the Heart and Stroke/Richard Lewar Centre of Excellence in Cardiovascular Research (HSRLCE)

The Faculty of Medicine is most grateful to the external reviewers Mukesh Jain, Professor and Vice Dean, Medical Sciences, Department of Physiology and Biophysics at Case Western Reserve University, and Bruce McManus, Professor, Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of British Columbia, for their comprehensive review of, and subsequent report on, the Lewar Centre of Excellence in Cardiovascular Research. I would also like to thank Professor Michael Farkouh, Director of the Lewar Centre, and his staff for the comprehensive self-study report that was provided in advance of the review. Professor Farkouh has provided an excellent response to the external reviewers' comments and recommendations, which I am pleased to endorse.

The following addresses the key issues the reviewers raised:

1. Relationships:

The reviewers were very laudatory in their comments about leadership of Dr. Michael Farkouh and the impact that the Lewar Centre has had across the University network, with many productive relationships with cardiovascular units in the various hospitals throughout the city. They noted that the HSRLCE is a model for multidisciplinary network building in the Faculty of Medicine and the University. The HSRLCE also has well-established national as well international relationships through the Worldwide Network of Innovation in Cardiovascular Research (WNICR). The reviewers expressed interest in strengthening the relationship between the Heart and Stroke Foundation and the Lewar Family representatives. Annual stewardship meetings and engagement of representatives of the Donors Due Diligence Committee at all of HSRLCE events have been productive but there is a need to define how future donors can be engaged. The reviewers also note that there does not appear to be a significant relationship with governments, either in Ontario or federally in Canada, something which they strongly encourage developing. The HSRLCE will develop a strategic plan which will facilitate continued engagement of the Donors Due Diligence Committee, and with the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada and with Dr. Kathryn Feldman, the representative of the Lewar Family.

2. Research:

The reviewers comment favorably on the scope of research activities at the HSRLCE. They say that as assessed by international comparators, the Centre is very good, but there appears to be room for improvement. Going forward, the Centre plans to not only focus on translational research but also on clinical trials and population health research. The reviewers also comment that there are no recurring social events where varied trainees from a range of sites could get together and enhance networking

capacity. The Centre is committed to developing social events where trainees from a range of sites can get together to learn and network.

3. Education:

The reviewers were very favorably impressed with the educational activities of the HSRLCE, stating that the Cardiovascular Sciences Collaborative Program is superb. They do say that there needs to be some effort to create a multi-site video-conferencing capability that would enhance learning across disciplines throughout the fabric of the Centre. They recommend travel awards for trainees for the best poster and platform presentations at the Canadian Cardiovascular Congress. The Centre has agreed to provide such support.

4. Organizational and Financial Structure

With regard to fundraising, the reviewers recommend that a fundraising committee be struck by the Faculty of Medicine that would include hospitals, charities, and industries. They also recommend that the “brand” be strengthened to provide a much stronger face to the world. The HSRLCE plans to undertake a fundraising campaign under the direction of the Advancement Office at the Faculty level. This will help to develop strategies for branding and marketing the Centre locally, nationally and internationally.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Trevor Young', with a stylized, cursive script.

L. Trevor Young