



Postgraduate Education, UBC Department of Psychiatry Scholarly Activity Project Policy

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Rationale

The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada has mandated that all residency programs must include a scholarly activity project, in recognition that active participation in scholarly activity is a necessary component of preparing future psychiatrists to fulfill their role as scholars and educators upon graduation. Guided participation in scholarly activity during residency training enhances the ability to critically evaluate clinical and scientific information from a variety of sources and provides residents with the requisite skills for a lifetime of maintenance and enhancement of their professional skills.

This policy outlines the PGE expectations and commitment of resources to assist our residents in meeting the mandate to complete a scholarly activity as part of their residency training. Residents can fulfill their scholarly activity requirement by completing a research project, systematic review of the literature, case report and systematic review, quality assurance project, or a scholarly educational project. Scholarly activity for all five categories requires a systematic approach to formulating the question, acquiring the relevant information/data, critically analyzing/appraising the information, and disseminating the results.

Choosing a project/Formulating the question.

This is the most challenging but often the most rewarding aspect of scholarly activity. Residents are encouraged to keep their minds open for potential scholarly activity projects as they question (as they should) the scientific basis that justifies our clinical practice and to explore concepts or phenomena within psychiatry. Residents are encouraged to formulate their question, initiate a background literature search and identify a supervisor for their scholarly activity project. Residents who do not wish to develop their own project from scratch may seek to join potential supervisors' projects based on shared areas of interest.

To facilitate this stage of the project there will be an introduction to scholarly activity seminar in the PGY1 academic series. Each regional program will identify local clinical/academic faculty mentors who agree to supervise resident scholarly activity projects. For example, programs may keep a list of supervisors (which could be the same supervisors for clinical rotations) with a brief outline of their academic interests and a brief description of a project that they feel would be appropriate for psychiatry residents.

By the end of their PGY2 year residents will have selected a project, identified a supervisor and submitted a 500 word structured outline of their proposal to the Research and Scholarly Activity Committee for approval. **Information/Data collection and analysis**

One of the key roles of the mentor/supervisor will be to assist in the design of a feasible project that can be completed in a timely manner by a resident. The supervisor may also play a key role in providing expertise or access to expertise and resources to facilitate the analysis of the collected information/data.

The PGE will provide formal assistance to residents for this stage with an Academic Day seminar series (PGY2-4) on research methods that may include hands-on assistance with individual resident data sets. The PGE will also provide faculty development workshops for potential scholarly activity supervisors.

Each regional program will ensure that there is dedicated time allocated during the PGY2-4 years for residents to complete their scholarly activity project. Residents can also request a longitudinal half-day scholarly activity elective during this period (see the website at www.scholarlyactivity.psychiatry.ubc.ca for details). Each regional program should also identify key resources including access to computers, standard research tools (eg SPSS or other statistical software), and access to a research resource staff (for example, a research coordinator who can help assist residents with their data analysis, as necessary).

By the end of their PGY4 year, residents will have completed this phase of their project. Scholarly activity supervisors will complete the standard research ITER at completion.

Dissemination of Results.

Residents can disseminate their results by publishing in a peer review journal and/or by presenting their results (in oral or poster format) at a conference, the annual Department of Psychiatry Research Day, or the Resident Research Forum. The Resident Research Forum will be an annual event exclusively for residents and supervisors (likely an evening dinner meeting) that will feature short presentations by residents at different phases of their projects (e.g., PGY2 lit review and research outline; PGY3 mid-project progress and lessons learned; PGY4 preliminary and final results).

The PGE will identify resources for conference leave, poster preparation and travel for residents to present their results at conferences.

By Dec 31st of their PGY5 year, residents will have presented the results of their project at least once and submitted a final written report to the PGE for evaluation by the Research and Scholarly Activity Committee (see Evaluation).

Evaluation

Residents will submit an initial 500 word outline (using a structured template) to the PGE for approval by the Research and Scholarly Activity Committee by the end of PGY2.

Residents will also complete a final written report to be submitted by mid PGY5 to the PGE for evaluation by the Research and Scholarly Activity Committee. This written report can be in the form of a manuscript suitable for publication, or in a structured extended abstract format (approximately 1500-2000 words, with a template provided by the Research and Scholarly Activity Committee). The Research and Scholarly Activity Committee will review the written report and either recommend to the PGE that the resident has met the requirements for the mandatory scholarly activity project, or return the report back to the resident and his/her supervisor with request for revision and resubmission.

The resident's scholarly activity progress will be reviewed annually with the Regional Program Director and the PGE Director. After completion of the project, the resident's supervisor will complete the Research ITER. The resident will also evaluate the supervisor using the standard process.

Summary of Process and Responsibilities for Scholarly Activity Project

For the Resident	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify supervisor and scholarly activity project by end of PGY2. • Submit outline of project to PGE (Research and Scholarly Activity Committee) for approval by end of PGY2. • Review progress annually (including provision of annual list of any publications) with Regional Program Director and PGE Director. • Complete data analysis by end of PGY4. • Submit final written report to PGE (Research and Scholarly Activity Committee) for approval by mid PGY5. • Complete dissemination by mid PGY5. • Evaluate their supervisor.
For the Supervisor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend faculty development, if needed. • Supervise resident for scholarly activity project (outline, completion, report, dissemination). • Complete Research ITER at end of project.
For the Regional Program Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify supervisors. • Identify resources (e.g., statistical consultation, funds for projects, posters, etc). • Ensure dedicated time during rotations for completion of project. • Review progress annually with residents.
For the PGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oversight of program (with Chair, Scholarly Activity Committee). • Review and approve project outlines (Research and Scholarly Activity Committee). • Review and approve final written report (Research and Scholarly Activity Committee). • Review progress annually with residents (PGE Director). • Review research ITERs (PGE Director and Chair, Research and Scholarly Activity Committee). • Provide faculty development for supervisors. • Provide methodology curriculum in Academic Day (introduction in PGY1, longitudinal course in PGY2-4).

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Organize annual Resident Research Forum (with Research and Scholarly Activity Committee).• Provide conference leave for dissemination.• Identify resources (funding for research projects, posters, travel, etc.). |
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