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The Future of Medical Education in Canada Focus: Transition to Practice

DR. KAM RUNGTA

Member, The Future of Medical Education in
Canada – The Postgraduate Project

Dr. Kamal Rungta obtained his MD in 1979 at the University of Toronto, Canada. He completed residency training in Psychiatry at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in 1983 and went on to qualify as an Accredited Clinical Polysomnographer in 1986 (evolved later to the American Board of Sleep Medicine). He served as a Co-Director of the

UBC Psychiatry Residency Program between 1996 and 2002 during which time he was promoted to Clinical Professor of Psychiatry. He served as Co-Associate Dean of Postgraduate Medical Education at UBC between 2002 and 2010. During this period the program grew from 450 residents to over 1100 residents with a shift to a geographically distributed model of delivering medical education that has been recognised internationally as an effective and innovative approach. He was appointed as the Interim Executive Dean, Education 2011 and since 2012 has served as the Senior Advisor to the Executive Dean on Medical Education at UBC.

During the past 15 years, Dr. Rungta has been engaged by the RCPSC primarily in the area of Accreditation of residency programs, Program Director and Surveyor development as well as Credentialing. He has participated in many RCPSC University Accreditation Survey teams, having chaired the University of Manitoba, McMaster University and University of Toronto surveys of postgraduate programs. He has also presented numerous workshops locally, nationally and internationally related to Postgraduate Medicine. In 2011 he was part of a RCPSC team that reviewed



residency programs at the Pontifical University of Chile in Santiago and presented on Professionalism in Medical School and Residency Training. In 2012 he participated in program consultation at the Peking First University Hospital and presented on Competency based Medical education. In 2013 he visited the King AbdulAziz University in Jeddah to review their Postgraduate medical education system and potential development of “hybrid residency programs”. In 2014 he participated on a RCPSC team visit to Kuwait and Oman. He is a past Chair of the RCPSC Credentials Committee and a former nucleus member of the RCPSC Education Committee. In November 2013 he was appointed the inaugural chair of the RCPSC International Program Review Committee tasked with developing international accreditation standards and a process to review international residency programs. He was also appointed as a member of the RCPSC Accreditation Committee in 2013. He was appointed as a director to the Board of Royal College International in 2015.

Dr. Rungta led the UBC participation in the recently completed Health Canada, Future of Medical Education in Canada (FMEC), Postgraduate project and is a member of the FMEC PG Steering Implementation Group. He co-chairs the committee responsible for the implementation of the recommendation on transitions to and from residency training.

He has maintained a part time clinical practice throughout his career, and in addition to his interest and contribution in the area of Postgraduate Medical Education he has been engaged in assisting UBC develop an Aboriginal Health Strategy, reviewing the MD Aboriginal Admissions program and the UG Electives system. He also chaired the MD Curriculum Renewal Steering Committee the MD student promotion committees.
