

TO: Full-time and Adjunct members of faculty, School of Medicine, Staff, UGME

FROM: David Walker, MD, FRCPC, Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences

IMPORTANT MEETING

**School of Medicine Academic Council (SOMAC)
Etherington Hall Auditorium
Monday, December 4, 2006 4:30-6:00pm**

**TOPIC: Queen's Medical School Accreditation
Where do we stand?**

Dear Colleague:

Every eight years the medical school undergoes a process of accreditation, without which status we would not exist. We are required to meet an extensive array of standards which apply to all North American Medical Schools.

The Site Survey in January 2007 is the culmination of a much longer process of self-study in which we assess our compliance with the standards, identify our strengths and weaknesses and make plans for necessary change.

Our self-study process has been chaired by John Drover, and involves five committees (Students, chaired by Ellen Tsai; Governance, chaired by John McCans; the Education Program, chaired by Sue Moffatt; the Resources Committee, chaired by John Fisher; and the Faculty Committee, chaired by Steve Pang). Each committee is populated by a mixture of faculty, staff and student members and our students have also contributed extensively to this process. The medical students have undertaken their own survey and created a separate report.

Our self-study is now complete and has been sent to Washington. It is important that all members of the School become aware of the results of this evaluation and thus I invite you a meeting where the self-study will be presented.

Collectively there is much to be proud of and so many deserve recognition for their contributions to a medical school which has accommodated a mandated increase in M.D. Program and Residency learners from 500 to 750 in just over five years.

Naturally this growth and a variety of other issues pose challenges to our espoused excellence, and we must address these collegially and thoughtfully in the months and years ahead. We owe this to our students and to ourselves.

Faculty Board has approved the creation of the "School of Medicine Academic Council" (SOMAC), in essence the governing body of the medical school. This council comprises all members of faculty and will include student representation.

The first meeting of SOMAC will be the forum for presentation and discussion of our Accreditation Self-Study. I urge you to attend.

D.M.C. Walker, MD, FRCPC
Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences
Queen's University