INTEGRATED POPULATION MEDICINE (IPM)
A BRIEF OVERVIEW

In Population Medicine we teach our future doctors to understand people’s health within the broader community. We want them to learn that many social factors affect people’s health and access to care, not just their physical condition.

WHAT IS IPM ABOUT?

IPM is designed to help Stage 3 medical students understand what life is like for people living with a chronic health condition or disability. We want them to understand the impact the condition has on them, their family and friends, and what it’s like for them managing their condition at home, in the community and in the health system.

To do this, they have been asked to find a person living with a chronic health condition and to work with them for 12 months. During this time they will complete a variety of tasks to show us what they are learning.

WHAT DOES IPM INVOLVE?

After the patient has signed a consent form, we ask the student to arrange a minimum of four meetings with them over 12 months to talk about their experiences with a chronic health condition. Each student seeks to learn from and share these experiences by:

- Meeting with their patient and the patient’s family or carers;
- Accompanying their patient to a healthcare appointment as an observer;
- Contacting their patient by phone or email in a series of conversations about their healthcare experiences;
- Recording and reflecting on the knowledge gained from these contacts.

Students will acquire information around these themes:

- Social determinants of health and health equity
- Risk prevention and health promotion
- Patient-centred care
- Evidence-based care
- Access to care

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE INVOLVED?

If you are interested in IPM, there are several ways for you to contribute to this program:

- PATIENTS: Help us to identify and match suitable patients living with a chronic disease. If you regularly see suitable patients who may be willing to take part in IPM, we can add your contact details to our database of clinicians. Students can contact these clinicians to find a suitable patient. Please email your details to our Administrator, indicating the types of patients you would be able help students with.
- FEEDBACK: If you would like to provide feedback on the program in general or a particular interaction you have experienced as part of the program please do not hesitate to contact us.
- TUTORING: From time-to-time we are looking for new IPM tutors, preferably clinicians with an interest in Public Health. Our tutors teach face-to-face about four times per year and mark students’ written submissions online. Tutoring roles are available at all of our urban and rural clinical schools. These roles are unpaid but can provide valuable tutoring experience and some other benefits. Please contact us for more details or to register your interest as a tutor for IPM.