Public Health and Preventive Medicine

Public health and preventive medicine is a dynamic field of medicine that directly affects the public’s health on both a local and global scale. It is a specialty focusing on disease prevention that has led to worldwide health improvements through an emphasis on health promotion and protection. Public health and preventive medicine specialists are guided by a commitment to improve the health of the entire population through population-based assessment and intervention, and share a sense of responsibility to shape public health policy and delivery of excellent public health programs.

Program Overview

Vision Statement
Innovative public health physicians striving for better health for all.

Mission Statement
Queen’s PHPM provides leadership in public health physician training through pioneering creative curriculum, developing special expertise, and emphasizing diversity of experience.

Program Values
Advocacy
Innovation
Collaboration
Leadership
Diversity
Equity
Flexibility
Fun

Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Queen’s University is a five-year program specifically designed to provide a flexible curriculum catered to the individual needs and career aspirations of its residents.
Typically, the first two years of PHPM residency primarily take place at the Department of Family Medicine’s Kingston-1000 Islands site. The innovative curriculum is based on the CFPC’s ‘Triple C’ model, focusing on Comprehensive learning; Continuity of patient care, supervision, and curriculum; and family medicine-Centred education.

Most PHPM residents at Queen’s choose to become certified in family medicine; however, residents can also choose to complete one basic clinical training year and one additional year of academic or public health training instead.

The PGY3 year begins with a two-month observership at a local public health agency, which enables residents to learn more about the variety of career fields in public health and preventive medicine. This placement is typically followed by enrolment in either the Master of Public Health (MPH) or Master of Science (MSc) degrees offered through the Queen’s Department of Public Health Sciences. Enrolment in public health degree programs at other Canadian or international universities are also possible with the approval of the program director.

Years four and five comprise core and elective placements in PHPM, including 18 months of core placements in communicable disease, environmental health, public health policy and planning, health promotion and disease prevention, and public health management and administration, as well as the completion of any outstanding graduate degree requirements.

Please note that rotation schedules vary considerably based on a resident’s interests and past experiences. This is only an example.
Rotation Sites

Mandatory rotations in the PGY4-5 years may be completed at the local public health agencies in Kingston, Belleville, Brockville, Peterborough, or York Region; Public Health Ontario in Toronto; or the Public Health Agency of Canada in Ottawa. Rural rotations in family medicine are possible in the PGY1-2 years, while international electives may be arranged with the approval of the program director.

Conferences and Workshops

All PGY1 residents are invited to attend the Queen’s Conference on Academic Residency Education (Q CARE). Senior residents are invited to attend the Q CARE+ workshop, which focuses on practice management and liability. PGY1 residents are also invited to attend a full-day research skills workshop, which introduces them to such topics as design, critical appraisal, and effective presentation skills. In addition, funding is provided on an annual basis for education leave to attend conferences and courses.

Careers

Queen’s prepares its public health and preventive medicine residents for success in a wide variety of career fields. Residents may pursue opportunities in public health, clinical practice, health service planning and administration, teaching, and research. Placements are found in health agencies, government departments, global organizations, and industry. The vast majority of our graduates are practising in local public health agencies as medical officers of health or associates.

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Program Director, Queen’s Public Health and Preventive Medicine
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Program Strengths

Queen's Public Health and Preventive Medicine is a diverse program that is both challenging and inspiring. Our residents are highly motivated and socially engaged, and benefit from the program's many strengths. Certification by the College of Family Physicians of Canada and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada broadens both personal and career opportunities. The family medicine program at Queen's is known nationally for its leadership role in medical education. Residents in the public health and preventive medicine program directly benefit from its innovative curriculum. Integration of a Masters of Public Health or Masters of Science in Epidemiology degree makes the program a leader academically.

Queen's is transitioning to competency-based medical education (CBME). Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs) have been incorporated into the program to aid resident self-assessment and evaluation.

The flexible program structure allows for choice and customization. With the support of the program director, each resident develops an individualized learning plan. Both rural and urban rotations and electives are available, as are international placements. Previous residents have completed electives in such locations as Malaysia and Nepal. Strong linkages with local public health agencies and government agencies provide a wide range of exposure and experience.

The program co-ordinates and holds the PHPM National Review Course, which brings final-year residents and practising physicians to Kingston for one week of in-depth review of the core curricula. All Queen's PHPM residents attend this course for free each year. The program has also started a two-day boot camp in core public health emergencies to prepare residents for on-call scenarios. We have also started public health emergency simulations, which are longitudinal training exercises for population emergencies.