



Preceptor Newsletter

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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Department of Family Practice
Faculty of Medicine



Hello preceptors!

(past, present, and potential)

It is indeed that time of the year again when we are all gearing up for the Fall season and everything that goes with it. I hope you have all had a chance to have a much-needed break, good times with your families, and taking away some pleasant summer memories.

Now that it is Fall, here at UBC students and faculty alike are of course readying ourselves for the upcoming Fall term.



Camille Bush

Lead, Clinical Faculty and Placement Support

Thank you to all of you who have seen your way to having a student in the coming term(s). And thank you to all who have done so in the past and those who are considering doing so in the future!

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I know I don't have to tell you how very important your work is to the education of future midwives and ultimately to the future of midwifery in BC as well. As Clinical Preceptors, you are indeed the hands and eyes on the ground for our educational program and serve as professional role models that students will recall for years to come. Your work with our students is nothing short of crucial.

To those of you who this year did not see yourselves as in a position to support a student, I would ask you to see if the situation might be different for you next year.

I will be starting to actively approach practices as early as Feb/Mar 2022 for the following September. Please start to think in those terms and discuss possibilities with your practice partners early next year. And, of course, I am happy to receive emails from those of you who are interested in precepting ANYTIME! EVEN NOW!



Process for you to become a *Clinical Preceptor:*

Step 1:

Email me at camille.bush@ubc.ca, letting me know of your interest.

Step 2:

Once you hear back from me (and it will be quick!), go to our UBC Midwifery Program website [Clinical Faculty](#) page. There you will see two forms; one for Preceptor Applications AND one for Clinical Faculty Applications.

PLEASE SEND ME THE COMPLETED PRECEPTOR APPLICATION INITIALLY.

Step 3:

Once I receive this, I will check to see if you have done the Preceptor Course (modules and workshop) and let you know how to access these if you have not.

Step 4:

Once the modules and workshop have been completed I would ask you to complete the Clinical Faculty Application and email it as directed to Ara Silva at UBC Faculty of Medicine (her address is on the form).

Step 5:

Once your CF application has been approved you will receive a welcoming letter from Ara and be informed of the benefits associated with now having the status of being UBC Clinical Faculty. I would add here that this status is now becoming a REQUIREMENT for being able to be PAID as a preceptor which is certainly something we want you to be able to do.

This essentially summarizes the current process for becoming a preceptor. More on what this means can be found in Notes from the Program Director further on in this newsletter.



Preceptor Workshops/Training

We understand that this is a work in progress that has been interrupted to a great degree by the pandemic and fewer opportunities for workshop attendance due to increased demands on ALL our midwives throughout the province. These workshops will now largely be online to accommodate as many midwives as possible to obtain their training.

And as before, once you have done both the workshop and sent me the completion certificates of the modules, you will be issued an invoice which you can submit for your \$250 honorarium. As the rollout of workshops has been hampered for the past year+, there will be some flexibility for a period of time re: the completion of the workshop itself.

Those of you who have students coming up this year will soon receive an email from me confirming your CF status as I currently understand it. I welcome clarification on this from you!! The goal of all this being of course that you are ready and able to get paid for your work.

UPCOMING PRECEPTOR WORKSHOPS:

- September 24th
- October 15th
- October 18th

Each workshop will be on UBC Zoom and last approximately 6 hours, including 3 breaks of varying length, usually going from 09:30 - 15:30. I aim to have a minimum of 4 participants and max-

imum of 8 in each workshop as this encourages participation of midwives of varying communities and experience levels. Making for more interesting workshops.

**** Please let me know what dates work for you as soon as possible. If none of the above dates work as there may be some flexibility in this if enough people need the same alternate date. We want to make this work for everyone.***

That's it for now! I look forward to hearing from any of you seeking a workshop or modules link as well as interest in future precepting. Always happy to hear from any of you about that. And have a great easing into Fall.

Warm regards,
Camille



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From the Program Director

COVID continues. This time last year, before we knew COVID vaccines would be available, we thought COVID would spread through populations and run its course. I didn't imagine the emergence of vaccine resistant variants such as the delta corona virus. All of you preceptors have done heroes work in protecting your clients, our students, yourselves and all our families and friends from the worst effects of COVID. Midwifery programs in many parts of the Global South closed temporarily in 2020 and 2021 as health care providers and resources were diverted to battle COVID. Thanks to the preparation by UBC faculty and administration, UBC Midwifery was able to deliver all coursework, even the first year online.

“ All of you preceptors have done heroes work in protecting your clients, our students, yourselves and all our families and friends from the worst effects of COVID. “

Photo by Frank Alarcon on Unsplash

All this COVID coping has taken a toll. Peoples' emotional resiliency has been stretched to maximum lengths over and over. Many have lost family members and friends to COVID and are managing grief. Familiar work routines became complicated. We have become accustomed to much of the COVID coping, but it still wears on all of us. You preceptors will notice this in what I've heard you describe as, “student performance that just doesn't match my former students,” and “We talk about skills two or three times and sometimes the student just doesn't remember.” We all need to remember that stress affects both cognition and memory. Student knowledge hasn't been hardwired by years of practice. I call this forgetfulness COVID brain. Sometimes your students are performing differently than students in prior year because we had to move clinical skills training

during COVID. The new second year students have not had clinical skills labs yet but they are scheduled for this coming year in places that will prepare them for their clinical work with you.

I have named academic year 2021-2022 the Year of Whatever. By that I don't mean whatever in a sloppy, disinterested way. I mean that UBC Midwifery will do **whatever** it takes to graduate midwives ready to join you in serving the women and pregnant individuals of Canada. If you have questions about your students or our coursework, please contact the course tutor or course lead. Again, we thank you for adapting to teaching during COVID and welcome your support during the Year of Whatever.



Covid Protection Update

UBC follows health directives from the BC Ministry of Health, which are additionally vetted by Worksafe BC. As the 4th wave of COVID, largely the delta variant, spreads, UBC has updated instructions for the return to classes in September 2021. As of the 24th of August, here are specifics:

- Faculty, including clinical preceptors, may not ask students about their vaccine status. This is protected health information.
- UBC will require [vaccine cards](#) for class enrollment and participation in group events. These details are still being completed. This should assure clinical preceptors that students have been vaccinated.
- UBC will require masks in all indoor spaces.
- Students will need to follow Ministry of Health guidelines when in outpatient clinical spaces and follow any additional hospital authority guidelines when working in hospitals.

Measures to protect the health of students, preceptors, faculty and clients change to meet provincial and local health needs. Any changes will be broadcast to clinical preceptors and students as soon as they are received. UBC also regularly updates its [COVID management website](#).



New Midwifery Competencies

From the Canadian Midwifery Regulators Council (CMRC)

The CMRC released new competencies for midwives in December 2020. While only 2 new competencies were released, the CMRC developed a new framework that aligns with competency frameworks used in medical and other health professional schools in Canada. UBC Midwifery already met competencies in the new framework but members of the faculty have spent part of the summer doing a new curriculum map using the language of the new framework. The map demonstrates to program accreditors course by course where competencies are taught and assessed. The curriculum map enables faculty to see what must be included in the courses they teach and assures that the UBC bachelor degree meets national competencies. The new competencies are:



- Advocates for the use of Indigenous health knowledge and healing practices for Indigenous clients consistent with the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada
- Promotes and adheres to anti-racism policies that guide recognizing, reporting, documenting and responding to racism in the health care system, including anti-Indigenous racism

Preceptors will see these new diversity and inclusion competencies supported by many new programs that have been developed or are being developed within UBC. These competencies have been added to student evaluations in T-Res.



Midwifery Program Accreditation

Students sometimes question whether the midwifery bachelor degree gives them the skills needed for entry level practice. The curriculum map described in the section on new competencies is one measure of program curriculum breadth. The bachelor degree is additionally reviewed through the Accreditation Committee of the [Canadian Association for Midwifery Education](#). Midwifery faculty produced a 64 page self-study report for CAMEd and accreditation reviewers. This report is linked to more than 200 source documents that describe organization and support from UBC and the Faculty of Medicine and operations of the midwifery program. Copies of this report may be requested from [Cecilia Jevitt, the Midwifery Program Director](#). External reviewers from McMaster University, Ryerson University and the University of Saskatchewan will conduct a virtual accreditation visit that will spread over a week. Clinical preceptors and students will be invited to talk with the reviewers. Watch for an invitation if you're interested.



Following CAMEd accreditation, UBC Midwifery will have an external review by the Faculty of Medicine and accreditation by the BC College of Nurses and Midwives. The same self-study report will be redrafted for use in those reviews. Clinical faculty and students will also have an opportunity to give feedback during those reviews.

Help Students Learn Gestational Age Assessment

Early pregnancy testing and use of ultrasound dating has limited the need for perinatal providers to depend on clinical assessment for newborn gestational age determination; however, this is still an international midwifery competency that UBC students need to learn. Students learn this material during their newborn class work and are tested on that knowledge in the Canadian Midwifery Regulators national exam following graduation.





To assure that students practice gestational age assessment, we ask that preceptors have students complete the [Ballard Assessment of Gestational Age in the Perinatal Services BC Newborn Record 1 and 2](#). This assessment is most accurate when done in the first hour of life along with the initial newborn exam. Need a review on the Ballard Assessment? Does your student need a review of Ballard? Dr. Jeanne Ballard donated the use of her assessment tool and educational materials to the world. Photos, videos and instructional materials to quickly review the use of the Ballard scale can be found here at <https://www.ballardscore.com/>.

Clinical Faculty Representatives in the *UBC Faculty of Medicine*

The Midwifery Program thanks Kate Blake and Terry Lyn Evans for representing midwifery clinical faculty to various committees in the UBC Faculty of Medicine. Kate Blake represents midwifery to the Dean's Clinical Faculty Committee which includes clinical faculty members from all health professions including medicine, physical therapy and speech and audiology. Terry Lyn assists members of the Department of Family Practice in reviewing clinical midwifery applications for promotion.



Kate Blake, RM

*Representative, Faculty of Medicine
Clinical Faculty Committee,
Clinical Instructor*



Terry Lyn Evans, RM

*Representative, Family Practice
Clinical Faculty Appointments and Promotions Committee
Clinical Associate Professor*



Clinical Midwifery Promotions

UBC Midwifery is proud to announce that three clinical faculty members received promotions during 2020. Courtney Broten, Valerie Simmons and Lee Yeates were all promoted to Clinical Associate Professor. Clinical Associate Professors have at least 10 years' teaching experience and developed specialties within midwifery education. Courtney has a master's degree in health professions education and is known for her work in curriculum development and learning assessment. Valerie is the Vancouver Island Lead for UBC Midwifery and has organized student education in Victoria and across the Island since that cohort's inception. Lee is well known to midwives in BC for her policy and interdisciplinary work. Lee will be teaching professional issues for the 3rd year students this coming year.



The UBC Faculty of Medicine recognizes and values its clinical faculty. Those interested in promotion are encouraged to contact the Midwifery Program Director, [Cecilia Jevitt](#), for information.

Hormonal Contraception and STI Prescribing

Required for UBC Students

UBC Midwifery is phasing in a new benefit for clinical faculty: Cecilia Jevitt arranged budget to cover the costs of the UBC CPD modules for prescribing hormonal contraception and STI screening and treatment for 20 clinical preceptors a year. The two modules are being offered to clinical faculty preceptoring 4th year students during this academic year. This spending is required by accreditation standards; however the budget is small and the Program needs to phase in this benefit. Next year, the clinical preceptors for the 3rd year students will receive this offer and the following year, the Program will reimburse the costs for





the 2nd year preceptors. Preceptors who have completed these modules during the year when the benefit is offered to them will receive reimbursement then.

The 4th year students coming to you will have completed both the hormonal contraception and the STI treatment modules. They cannot practice these skills unless preceptors are credentialed for these skills. These two areas of practice are on the CRMC core competencies for midwifery students and are tested on the CRMC national exam, thus the more practice students have the more learning in these areas they will accumulate.

Faculty have heard the argument that there is no extra payment for these prescriptions. We view them as part of routine prenatal and postpartum care. Writing them is rapid and a service to the individuals in midwifery care. UBC graduates last year and in future years have these two areas of practice integrated into the bachelor degree curriculum and do not need to complete these modules post-graduation. This is one method of nudging BC midwifery closer to the provision of broad-scope women's health care.

Cecilia Jevitt, RM PhD
UBC Midwifery Director

The UBC Midwifery Program manages subscriber information for the UBC Midwifery Clinical Faculty Preceptor mailing list and is an announcement only, opt-in mailing list. You have been added to this list if you have received your Clinical Faculty Appointment (CFA).

The Mailing List Service is provided by UBC and your contact information is not stored outside of Canada at any time. UBC is subject to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA), which is the privacy law that governs all government bodies in British Columbia. This law protects personal information (recorded information about an identifiable individual). It only allows UBC to collect and use personal information for purposes connected with its programs or activities, and it requires UBC to keep this information secure and confidential.

If you need to update your email address, or remove your email address, please email alicia.rebman@ubc.ca.



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