



**Faculty of Medicine**  
Medical Undergraduate Program  
Rm. 1342 Life Sciences Centre  
2350 Health Sciences Mall  
Vancouver, B.C. V6T 1Z3  
Tel: (604) 827-5962  
Fax: (604) 822-8720

## **Doctor, Patient and Society 410 At Home Interview Project 2010**

November 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you as Course Director of the Doctor, Patient and Society course in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of British Columbia. One of the goals of the course and the Faculty is to provide medical students with greater contact with people in the community, leading to a fuller understanding of health issues outside of the clinic setting. We are in the process of arranging for the 258 first year medical students to conduct at-home interviews with individuals and family members of individuals with disabilities and chronic conditions. We hope that you will be able to assist us in this activity.

We would appreciate your assistance by helping us to find families and individuals in the Vancouver/Lower Mainland British Columbia area, who are connected with your organization and are willing to be interviewed in their homes at some point during January, February, and March 2010. (Students will receive the assignment in January, but their reports will not be due until May.) The interview should be about 1 to 1 ½ hours. It will cover such topics as individuals' basic biographies, their experience of their condition, how it has affected their family and social life, and their experiences with health professionals, medical institutions, and service agencies. It is hoped that any individuals or families who come forward would possibly be available for two separate interviews.

This is not a research study, but a learning activity which forms part of the medical students' training. As students, they are not in a position to provide medical advice. Participants are encouraged to offer any other information that they believe will be important for a doctor to understand about their condition and the care that would be most helpful. Also, if students ask questions that they believe are inappropriate, I hope that the person interviewed will explain why it is inappropriate.

Each student will write a brief paper about the familial and social aspects of the chronic illness or disability based their interviews and library research. The student will also give a brief presentation to approximately 8 of their peers.

All information that interviewees provide will be kept confidential. No information will be used in the student's presentation or report that will personally identify an individual or family member without their specific permission. Only the Course Directors, who are responsible for organizing this assignment, will have access to the consent forms that identify participants. The names of participants will not be available to other students or the students' instructors. Interviewees have the choice of using or not using the names of health care practitioners, institutions, and organizations during the interviews. These names will also be kept confidential and will not be used in the student's report.

Participants may at any time decide to stop participating in this activity or may decide not to answer some questions. The decision to participate, not to participate, or to withdraw will have no effect on the medical care that the patient may receive through the clinics affiliated with the University of British Columbia Faculty of Medicine.

This project meets the guidelines of the University of British Columbia Behavioural Research Ethics Board. If you have any concerns about your treatment or rights as a research subject, you may contact

the Research Subject Information Line in the UBC Office of Research Services at 604-822-8598 or if long distance e-mail to RSIL@ors.ubc.ca. If you have any questions regarding the At Home Interview Project, call the DPAS 410 Program Assistant at 604-827-5962.

Interviewees will also be asked to provide a general evaluation of the student's interview, based on their general department, preparation, and the insightfulness and appropriateness of their questions. These comments will be returned to the directors at the course office in a pre-addressed stamped envelope. Interviewees are asked to identify themselves only if they wish the Course Director to contact them if there are concerns.

We would like to provide students with the names of participants and contact phone numbers during the second week of January 2010. Please contact the Doctor, Patient and Society course Program Assistant to let us know how many potential interviewees you may have. The Program Assistant will be coordinating interview scheduling with the students.

Ms. Erin Hohmann, Program Assistant, Faculty of Medicine  
Telephone: 604-827-5962      email: dpas410@interchange.ubc.ca

Thank you for your willingness to help in the training of new doctors. We hope that by providing students with experiences of this type early in their careers, they will have greater insight into the effects of health conditions on the lives of individuals and families when they see them as patients.

If you have any questions or concerns either now, or once the interviews begin, don't hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian Conway  
Course Director  
Doctor, Patient and Society 410  
UBC Faculty of Medicine