



continuing to actively recruit the best students

**Recommendation 2:** *The Department should increase enrolment in PATH 499, its research project course in the Life Sciences Program.*

**Departmental Action:**

1. Two new clinician scientists have been recruited and their research programs are anticipated to increase the number of potential PATH 499 slots.

**Recommendation 3:** *The Department should ensure adequate resources, especially wet lab space, for graduate students.*

**Departmental Action:**

1. Renovations are underway to increase the departmental wet lab space for principal investigators and their graduate students by 700 square feet. The renovated space will house one of the two newly recruited clinician scientists and

**Recommendation 6:** *need for clinicians who are doing subspecialty work to increase their academic productivity.*

**Departmental Action:**

1. The department has recruited two new clinical researchers with very active research profiles. The first is Dr. Victor Tron who is already on site being productive. The second is Dr. Jeremy Squires who will join the department in July 2008.

*Follow-up on these recommendations and issues will take place during the annual academic planning and budget process between the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences and the Vice-Principal (Academic).*

**Attachment:**

Review Team Report



*some issues regarding the recruitment of graduate students as well as availability of financial support in the form of teaching assistanceships.*

*The Department stands out for its services provided to the general public and the research community.*

## **Research**

Research is a major strength of the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine. Research areas in which faculty members enjoy international recognition include cancer, molecular haemostasis, and amyloidosis and cholesterol metabolism. Approximately a third of departmental members is involved in these areas. Their work is supported by funding from major agencies such as CIHR, NCIC, DczGC and

## **Undergraduate and Graduate Academic Programs**

### **Undergraduate Academic Programs:**

The undergraduate teaching responsibilities of the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine fall within the Life Sciences program in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences and also the undergraduate medical program in the Faculty of Health Sciences. Teaching in the undergraduate medical program was not assessed in the Self Study Report, or the External Consultants' report, as the primary purpose of this Internal Academic Review did not encompass the clinical teaching aspects of the Department, except in the postgraduate medical program.

Overall, the undergraduate courses offered in the Life Sciences program by the Department are well received and the high calibre of the faculty teaching these courses is appreciated by undergraduate students. Yet there are only three courses offered. PATH410 is the major introductory course offered by the Department and it is offered in conjunction with the graduate course PATH824. The other two courses, PATH425 and PATH430 are smaller seminar-style courses and only offered in alternate years, with the latter one taught in conjunction with the graduate course PATH826. As quoted from the external consultants' report, the "lack of high profile presence at the undergraduate level" may be hindering the Department's success in the internal recruitment of graduate students. The fact that the interest and the demand for undergraduate courses in pathology and molecular medicine exist warrants that the Department create more undergraduate courses under the Life Sciences program, with the introduction of some lower level to the fourth year of undergraduate studies.

The external consultants were also concerned that the Life Sciences program has evolved from being considered a training program for research in the biomedical sciences to a pre-medical program. Thus, earlier and greater exposure to undergraduate courses in pathology may pique the interest of students to pursue graduate studies in biomedical research. In addition, it would give opportunities and direction to those undergraduate students who have decided early on in their undergraduate careers that laboratory research-based graduate studies is their definite path upon graduation.

Similarly, while the demand for undergraduate honours thesis opportunities is generally not being met across all departments in the Life Sciences program, this especially seems to be true in the Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine (less than 15 undergraduate students per year since 1999/00, with only 10 in 2005/06). With the large number of faculty in the Department, it should provide more opportunities for students wishing to pursue a PATH499 thesis project. As undergraduate thesis projects are a popular means of internal graduate student recruitment, this action would also serve a second departmental goal to increase graduate student enrolment.

### *Recommendations:*

- The Department should increase its profile within the Life Sciences program. This could be done by the creation of more undergraduate courses and their introducti





*Academic Requirements:*

to now being viewed as the almost obligate ‘premedical curriculum’ for entry into medical school.” This shift in focus has led undergraduate students aiming for doctoral studies to feel lost in the Life Sciences programming. DPMM faculty also teach in programs and courses that are external to the Department, including courses offered in the School of Nursing and in the Rehabilitation Medicine program.

The DPMM offers residency programs in Anatomic and General Pathology and in Hemopathology. DPMM clinical faculty also play a major role in teaching pathology and laboratory medicine to residents in numerous postgraduate programs, including General Surgery, Gynecology, Urology, Nephrology, Gastroenterology, Hematology and Oncology. They participate in the teaching of students in various laboratory technology programs offered through St. Lawrence College and the Michener Institute in Toronto.

### **Service to the University, the Profession and the Community**

The Department of Pathology and Molecular Medicine provides important services to the university, profession and the community.

#### **Academic Services:**

Faculty members of the Department participate in a wide range of academic leadership roles in the following sectors:

##### *Granting agencies (both Canadian and International):*

- 6 faculty members participate in review committees for the Canada Research Chair program, American Association for Cancer Research, Association of Hemophilia Clinic Directors, US National Cancer Institute and Breast International group.
- Various faculty members are actively involved as reviewers for major Canadian agencies including the NCIC, HSF, NSERC and CIHR.

##### Advisory boards:

- 4 faculty members

##### *Societies:*

- 3 faculty members

The Department has a collection of plastinated sections that provides valuable educational resources for the training of residents as well as undergraduate medicine and Life Science students (e.g. the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology makes use of plastinated pathological specimens as part of the MC(ponent of theSpi)]2 0 0 12NSERC and CIHR.

