

# NEWSLETTER

UGME Curriculum Renewal | March 2023 Edition



## Curriculum Renewal Champion – Kurtis Kitagawa

### A patient partner’s perspective

Kurtis Kitagawa is a patient partner involved with the curriculum renewal project. About five years ago, he decided to give back to the health care system. He systematically identified and followed up on opportunities to: (a) **help patients** become more effective partners in their own health care, starting with primary care; (b) **ensure access** to specialized mental health care, especially for those who do not have private insurance; and (c) **support** interprofessional collaboration to assist patients with complex health needs. We asked him to share his experience with us.

### An opportunity to codesign



Over the years, I have been involved in curriculum development and renewal in a variety of contexts including: integrating employability skills development into the K–12 curriculum; developing pathways into the skilled trade; and helping offenders earn third party credentials.

I am interested in assisting with the curriculum renewal of the University of Ottawa’s medical school to bring my experience in developing rubrics for assessing knowledge, skills, attitudes, behaviours, and strategies for teaching and achieving different curriculum objectives.

#### CURRICULUM RENEWAL MILESTONES

**February 2023:**

Take a look at the [UGME 2022 Curriculum Renewal Progress Report](#) that outlines the following:

1. *Our accomplishments*
2. *Our milestones*
3. *A timeline of the implementation stages*

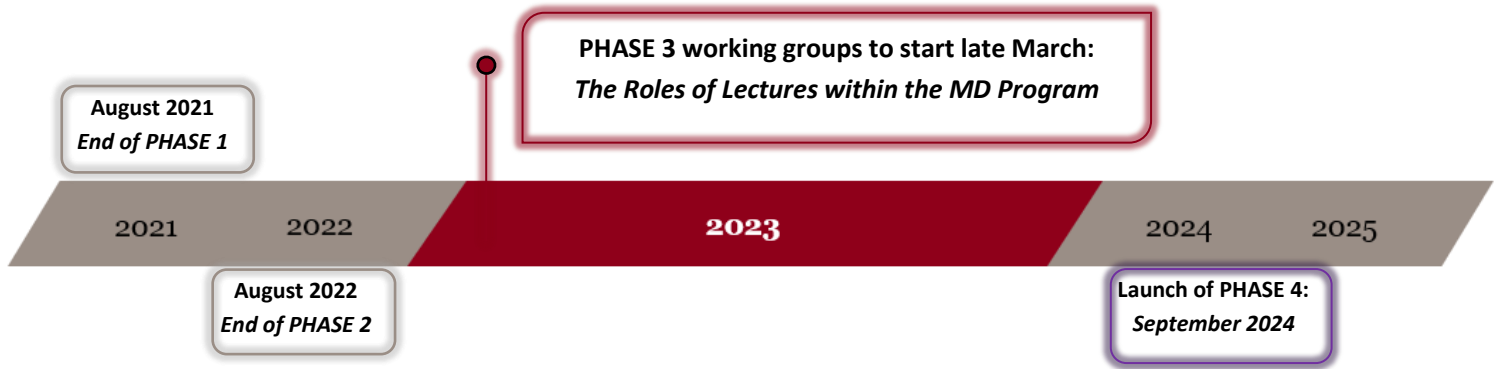
**February 2023:** The Curriculum Redesign Working Group’s recommendation for a "spiral curriculum" was endorsed on February 23<sup>rd</sup> by the UCC.

I was involved at a relatively early stage; however, it was clear that much planning had already gone into getting the project going. Nevertheless, there has been ample opportunities to codesign at every stage.

### Displaying professionalism

A perennial challenge in education is engaging learners to take responsibility for what they are learning, how they are learning, and how they are applying what they have learned. I think it’s fair to say that we’ve all been guilty of wanting to know what we need to know for the next exam and focusing on certain aspects to the exclusion of others. When it comes to professional education, such as the undergraduate medical education, we must ensure that medical students earn their *bona fides* in one entrustable professional activity or another, and that they don’t lose sight of the fact that they are meant to be able to apply what they’ve learned, consistently and humanely throughout their careers, and not just when a preceptor is signing off on a particular demonstration.

## Curriculum renewal project – *Where are we now?*



Ideally, medical students need to remember that even when acquiring knowledge and skills, they must develop and demonstrate a professional attitude and ethical behaviours. Professionalism is one of the main competencies medical students should aim to achieve during their education. After all, doctors work with patients who have needs and feelings, who want to be heard, who often like to talk about what is happening, and who want to have a say in their care and treatment. Fundamental principles of professionalism should be exhibited through professional responsibilities, such as integrity, benevolence, altruism, continuous development, and excellence.

## Future generations of health care professionals

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- Interested in being a member of the UGME Competency Committee? Contact the AEC office project manager, Muriel Miezán: [mmiezan@uOttawa.ca](mailto:mmiezan@uOttawa.ca)
- March 2023:** Stay tuned – BEHIND THE SCENES podcast, **Episode 5**, with Dr. Douglas Archibald, Dr. Christopher Ramnanan and Dr. Michel Désilets, on the topic of curriculum redesign.
- Follow us on Twitter: [#CurriculumRenewal](https://twitter.com/CurriculumRenewal)
- For any questions on the curriculum renewal, please contact: [currenew@uottawa.ca](mailto:currenew@uottawa.ca)

I believe everyone involved in the curriculum renewal project wants to ensure that medical students get the best possible medical education and that the experience is enjoyable and enriching for the students as well as the instructors. I would like for the University of Ottawa graduates to distinguish themselves in their various residency programs and beyond and bring credit to their home institution. What I'd really like to see come out of this project is:

- More opportunities for interactions between medical students and patients – while they are still students;
- A greater emphasis on undergraduate medical education as the start of a lifelong learning journey that will include ongoing formal continuing professional development; and
- Informal opportunities for growth, including giving and receiving feedback from fellow medical doctors, patients, members of interprofessional teams, administrative staff, clinical managers, or others.

I am hopeful that through the curriculum renewal project, the students and future generations of health care professionals are well equipped and informed for the challenges to come.

*Thank you for the opportunity to share my experience – Kurtis Kitagawa*