Executive Summary of the 2011-2012 Cyclical Review of the MSc and PhD in Cellular and Molecular Medicine
Submitted by the Graduate Program Evaluation Committee
October 29, 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Cellular and Molecular Medicine</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Degrees</td>
<td>Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Cellular and Molecular Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fields</td>
<td>1. Development, Cancer and Regenerative Medicine 2. Cellular and Molecular Pathophysiology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date of visit by external evaluators</td>
<td>May 8 and 9, 2013</td>
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<td>Final evaluation</td>
<td>Good quality</td>
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**Strengths of the program**
The program in Cellular and Molecular Medicine is strong. The external evaluators noted that its faculty members are leaders in their field and that graduate students are well-funded as a result. The program builds a sense of community among students who are dispersed geographically, through participation in a required research seminar. Steps are being taken to also create a bilingual element to the program as one of its strengths.

As a leader in implementing a culture of continual quality improvement, program administration responded in detail to issues identified during the evaluation and has put into place a series of workable solutions. Of its own initiative, administration conducted additional surveys of students to better understand problems and find solutions. As a result, concerns about the functioning of thesis advisory committees, the content of the required seminar course and access to teaching assistants have been addressed. Most importantly, administration is ensuring that all professors who supervise in the program, including a large number of adjunct professors in various research laboratories throughout the Ottawa region, are aware of and carry out their responsibilities as supervisors or thesis advisory committee members with excellence.

**Areas for improvement**
Because many students in the program enter non-academic positions upon graduation, further support must be developed for students to identify and prepare for non-academic careers. These initiatives need to be specific to the program and should be in addition to more general initiatives in this regard by the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

**Recommendations**
1. Ongoing attention is needed to communicating detailed information on roles to all thesis supervisors and thesis advisory committee members.
2. Further attention is needed to develop program-specific activities in order to inform students about academic as well as non-academic careers.
3. Continuing attention must be given to completion rates in both the MA and PhD programs and to the time-to-completion of PhD students.

**Deadlines**
Recommendations 1 to 3 are to be addressed in the next cyclical review, which is to be completed no later than July 1, 2019.
Authorities
The director of graduate studies for the program, the chair of the Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine and the vice-dean of graduate studies of the Faculty of Medicine are responsible for the continual improvement of the program.