



INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE

OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

Patrick W. Kelley, MD, DrPH
Director
Board on Global Health
Board on African Science Academy Development

July 2, 2012

David Naylor
President
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Sarita Verma LLB, MD, CCFP
Professor of Family Medicine
Deputy Dean, Faculty of Medicine
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Dear Drs. Naylor and Verma:

Congratulations once again on the selection of the Canadian Interprofessional Health Leadership Collaborative (CIHLC) as the North American collaborative chosen to participate in the Institute of Medicine (IOM) Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education. The CIHLC proposal was chosen from among five competing North American applications so your accomplishment is quite noteworthy. Your proposal, involving not only the University of Toronto, but also Queen's University, Laval University, the University of British Columbia, and the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, was extremely impressive and presented a much needed vision for interprofessional leadership development to strengthen health systems.

The IOM Global Forum on Innovation in Health Professional Education seeks to be a global platform for leading members of academia, government, the health care industry, professional associations, and foundations to further develop and support the implementation of the messages from the recent Lancet Commission report entitled: *Health Professionals for a New Century: Transforming Education to Strengthen Health Systems in an Interdependent World*. We are proud to have among the founding membership not only the pacesetter leadership of the CIHLC, but also representatives of institutions in China, Thailand, Belgium, India, Uganda, South Africa, and the United States. Among this elite group we see the CIHLC as representing a cornerstone in the foundation given the strengths of the Canadian health system and the complementary and collective strengths of the institutions comprising the CIHLC.

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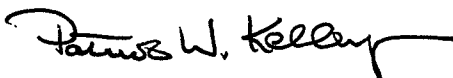
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At the semi-annual workshops of the IOM Global Forum, we will be setting aside time for the Canadian, Indian, Ugandan, and South African collaboratives to share their progress in implementing inter-professional education initiatives. The ensuing discussions and the sharing of lessons learned will be captured and disseminated for the benefit of health educators and health system leaders around the world.

To achieve health equity in the face of today's health care delivery challenges, health professional education needs to evolve and the emphasis of the CIHLC on building cross-disciplinary leadership competencies, capacities, and tools for health systems change has great potential to be transformative. Those working in health systems in all countries need to take on new and more broadly empowered roles. Health practitioners now need to be able to work in inter-professional teams and to lead across the various levels of an ever more complex health system. We are looking to the CIHLC to be the leader among the four collaboratives given the pre-existing strengths of the component institutions and the tradition of the Canadian health system for innovating to increase access to affordable care. We also hope that the CIHLC will benefit from the Forum's ongoing debates among leaders in the reform of health professional education.

As your impressive program evolves, please let me know if I can be of any assistance. Your collaborative's focus is right on target with the conclusions of the Lancet Commission. To achieve your collaborative's goals will require time, energy, and resources but this should be seen as not only an investment in the education of individuals, but also as an investment in the effectiveness and efficiency of the health system. The capabilities of the five institutions making up the CIHLC and the leveraging you have outlined in your proposal stand to put Canada at the forefront of a global movement to solve some of the most critical problems facing health systems today. We all look forward to learning from the CIHLC experience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick W. Kelley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Patrick W. Kelley, MD, DrPH