



a place of mind  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Dear resident,

Welcome to a brand new stage in your medical career, one where you can shine as screenwriter, producer, director and main character of your own masterpiece. The next few years will likely determine how the rest of your professional life will play out. If that sounds intimidating, just consider the independence it affords. However, to whom much is given, much will be required. This implies you need to figure out how to best use your talents to benefit others. How can you change the face of medicine? One patient at a time, you say? What if there was an opportunity to exponentially expand your mark and contribute a discovery or two to the many that populate your textbooks?

Behind your fetal fibronectin swab, the steps of the colpocleisis you just performed or the chemotherapy drug you prescribed hide an infinite number of questions of other inquisitive minds who wrote their scripts before yours. Patient care and scientific inquiry are intricately

related in medicine; one cannot advance without the other. The primary mission of medical academic institutions is to ensure the two are in perfect harmony. Our role as your supporting crew means that we provide time, mentorship and the right partners for you to formulate unanswered questions and provide answers where they are most needed.

You don't have what it takes? When you picked this career, you were likely intrigued by the infinite complexity of the human body and wanted to play a part in helping it thrive. You worked hard to get here and often placed others' needs ahead of yours. Unbeknownst to you, you already possess the two qualities required for research: a curious mind and dedication to work.

You'll never do research again after you graduate? As a busy clinician, you may be asked to recruit patients for a clinical trial. As an administrator, you may be required to manage funds for research. As a residency program director, you may be invited to encourage a brand new generation of bright minds to participate in a program of inquiry. As a teacher of medical students, you may be asked about the evidence behind the efficacy of a certain procedure. Your ability to critically appraise scientific literature around new and existing treatments will serve your patients every day.

The Royal College Competency by Design program stimulates us to guide you through all steps of research, from initial question to completion of a scholarly project, with dissemination of findings. Enjoy the ride, and never stop looking for answers!

Happy researching!

Roxana Geoffrion MD

Chair, Resident Research Advisory Committee