

Project Title: Virtual Problem Based Learning – Creation of a virtual PBL pilot project

Project Summary (150 words maximum)

UBC has a distributed model of medical education with multiple sites. Currently students participate in problem-based learning (PBL) groups at their respective sites with local tutors. This limits the student's flexibility as well as exposure to their colleagues and wider variety of tutors available throughout the medical school. Recommendations from the Task Force on Undergraduate MD Curriculum Renewal¹ include the adoption of improved flexibility in undergraduate medical education.

Phase 1 of this project was a needs assessment examining the role of virtual PBL in undergraduate learning. The needs assessment reflected the student's interest in a hybrid model of PBL that utilized both traditional and virtual components. Based on the findings of the needs assessment, the next phase of this study is to examine possible virtual PBL learning platforms and develop a pilot which is a hybrid of virtual and traditional PBL.

1. *Dean's Task Force on Undergraduate MD Curriculum Renewal – Faculty Retreat Report, January 2010.*