CAME Voice/Voix

Unleashing Innovation: Excellent Healthcare for Canada
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In June 2014 Health Canada launched the Advisory Panel on Healthcare Innovation to identify the most promising areas of innovation in Canada and internationally "that have the potential to sustainably reduce growth in health spending while leading to improvements in the quality and accessibility of care". The panel, led by David Naylor, former Dean of Medicine and President of University of Toronto, identified five areas: patient engagement and empowerment; health systems integration with workforce modernization; technological transformation via digital health and precision medicine; better value from procurement, reimbursement and regulation; and industry as an economic driver and innovation catalyst.

While the focus was not medical education *per se*, as medical educators we nevertheless need to consider its implications for the content and design of our curricula, as well as our approaches to teaching, assessment, and feedback. For example, how do we ensure that our students will put their patients first, listen to their patients, verify that their patients have understood what they were told, and ensure the patient has access to appropriate sources of information? How will we teach learners in environments in which patients co-own and have access to their own health records? Are we doing all we can to meet undergraduate accreditation standards that require our students learn interprofessional collaborative skills to be able to function effectively in health care teams? Given the advent of sophisticated biomarkers, how can we ensure that our preceptors are prepared to incorporate precision medicine into their teaching and role model its use for illness prevention, diagnosis, and treatment for our learners? Given Canada's huge landmass and thin population density, as well as our longstanding commitment to telehealth then how should we be teaching mobile health and virtual care? If, as the report recommends, the health system changes and physicians take on a larger leadership role, then what place does training for leadership have in our programs?

These are small but important considerations taken from a report that offers encouragement to change the course of the Canadian healthcare system by finding "new or better ways of doing valued things". However, it will require bold federal action, prudent investment, collaboration and shared political resolve for us to move ahead. Whatever the outcomes will be, *Unleashing Innovation: Excellent Healthcare for Canada* should be on the reading list for all Canadian medical educators.

If you are interested in reading more, the executive summary and the full report can be accessed at http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hcs-sss/innovation/index-eng.php

You can also view Dr Naylor's webcast to the Cumming School of Medicine here: https://vimeo.com/143907440la webémission du Dr Naylor à la Faculté de médecine Cumming ici : https://vimeo.com/143907440