



100

YOUR  
IMPACT

AUGUST 2015

# MSAC

WILLIAM A. WEBBER  
MEDICAL STUDENT & ALUMNI CENTRE

*Thank you for 25 years of giving*



[startanevolution.ca](http://startanevolution.ca)

Current use of the William A. Webber Medical Student  
& Alumni Centre exceeds all expectations:

nearly **700 student events** per year

**increase of 20%** since **2010**

**200+ videoconferences** per year

**more than tripled** in the last **7** years

**75 alumni events** per year

**more than doubled** in the last **4** years

**18,000+ guests** at booked events per year

**more than doubled** since **2011**

**800+ organized events** in total per year

# THE VISION

As UBC celebrates the 25-year anniversary of MSAC, we take pride in recognizing the tremendous impact the building has had on students, alumni and the wider medical community in British Columbia.

Support from thoughtful donors has turned the initial vision for a student and alumni centre, providing space for social and recreational activities, into a key resource for UBC's province-wide medical community. In fact, the UBC Faculty of Medicine has broken new ground as the only Canadian medical school with its own building designated specifically for students and alumni.

A welcoming, positive environment for UBC medical undergraduate students, residents, alumni and faculty, MSAC's amenities and activities help to reduce the fatigue, stress and burn-out that so often accompany the demands of the medical profession. MSAC encourages social and professional engagement by providing a place to share skills and insights in a supportive, relaxed setting. Regular mentoring events personalize the profession, help to alleviate student concerns and prepare them for the challenges ahead. The centre also fosters the recreational, social and creative pursuits of its members, resulting in well-rounded, capable graduates who are enriched through a range of diverse experiences. For alumni, MSAC is a gathering place for reunions and meetings of the Medical Alumni Association, as well as inviting space in which to hold personal events with family and friends.

As a result of the generosity and foresight of the donors who supported MSAC's construction, as well as the dedication of those who continued to make annual gifts to support the facility, MSAC has made a significant difference in the lives of students, alumni, residents and faculty. On the occasion of this milestone year, we thank you for your extraordinary contributions. Together, we are creating a vibrant network of UBC medical trainees, alumni and faculty and a more supportive, engaged medical community for today and the future.



*"The story of MSAC is about more than simply bricks and mortar. It's about a facility that encourages social and recreational engagement and the greater good—all the things that people do in community-building."*

~ Dr. David F. Hardwick, MD'57  
Faculty Advisor of the UBC Medical Undergraduate Society (MUS), 1975 – present



## Message from the Dean

*This year marks the momentous 25th anniversary of the Medical Student and Alumni Centre (MSAC) — a time to reflect on the success of a building that has become a lively hub for the medical school, encouraging professional connectivity, and social and recreational opportunity.*

*Thank you for your contributions to this vital centre. Your generosity has enhanced the university experience for students and supported the medical profession in this province.*

*As you may know, my term as Dean of the UBC Faculty of Medicine is coming to a close, and I will be continuing in my role as Vice Provost Health at UBC. I am proud of all that we have accomplished together during my tenure, and I look forward to welcoming my successor, Dr. Dermot Kelleher, to UBC in September.*

*As we approach yet another milestone, that of UBC's Centennial, we are especially mindful that generous gifts from donors have made UBC the internationally recognized university it is today. I hope you will join UBC on September 30 for our Centennial's opening event to celebrate our successes together.*

~ Dr. Gavin Stuart,  
Dean, Faculty of Medicine and  
Vice Provost Health, UBC

# THE STORY OF MSAC

## LOOKING BACK

From 1954 – 1985, over 1,900 UBC MDs had graduated without adequate student social facilities.

The number of medical students and alumni members has grown tremendously over the last 60+ years.

The first Class of 1954 yielded 57 graduates, while the Class of 2015 has almost 300 students.

From the early medical classes of the 1950s until the construction of MSAC in the late 1980s, UBC MD students have had to make do with limited student facilities. For nearly 30 years, designated student space consisted of only a cramped student lounge and a small combined study/lounge area at Vancouver General Hospital (VGH).

The challenges of medical school and the profession in general are renowned. Demanding schedules and rigorous training necessitate dedicated space for studying, peer engagement and downtime between classes and appointments. In addition, the faculty has both academic and clinical campuses. A large part of the training process takes place at teaching hospitals spread across the city. A centrally located base is critical to alleviate the stress of transitioning between academic and clinical sites.

Renovations at VGH in the early 1980s meant the existing, sparse student facilities needed to relocate. At the time, there were nearly 2,000 UBC medical alumni, 500 undergraduate students and 100 interns, as well as residents and faculty. Significant increases to enrollment at the UBC medical school made the issue even more acute.

Dr. David Hardwick and a group of equally inspired students, alumni and faculty leaders conceived of a dedicated facility where students and alumni could convene together. This envisioned 'community centre' would expand its mandate beyond only medical students and offer respite and much-needed opportunity for professional, social and recreational interaction for students, alumni, faculty, residents and practicing physicians.

*"MSAC fulfills the need for a central hub for the faculty; a 'home away from home' where one can change, shower, have a bite to eat or simply relax for a few moments. Members can catch up on their studies, work out in the gym, meet with their mentor or grab a few hours of much-needed sleep in order to cope with their taxing daily routines."*

- Scott Walker, MSAC Events Coordinator



Donor plaque, hanging in MSAC's Latham Hall, acknowledging individuals and organizations who have contributed \$1,000 or more towards MSAC's construction from 1988 - 1996.

The creation of the Medical Division of the UBC Alumni Association in 1984 was instrumental in making MSAC a reality. The Medical Alumni Association (MAA) made the construction of MSAC its first project, gaining the support of Faculty of Medicine Dean Bill Webber, MD '58. The initial goal was to raise capital funds for the building and an endowment fund for operating costs. Momentum increased with the agreement from VGH to lease two city blocks, recognizing the benefits of the opportune location for the current and future medical community. UBC medical students voluntarily initiated an annual levy of \$10,000 towards the project, and two

dozen key alumni kicked off a vigorous fundraising drive in 1985, including a successful phone-a-thon. Donor support surpassed expectations, bringing the ambitious vision for MSAC into clear focus.

On March 17, 1990, MSAC celebrated its grand opening. More than \$1 million had been contributed by donors like you who saw the need for a facility in which students and alumni could engage in professional, recreational and social pursuits.

*"The MSAC is the incredible place it is because of the doctors and alumni who have come before us. They understand the importance of giving back to their community, and their gifts have made such a difference in our lives. It would be an honour to follow in their footsteps as I move towards the role of a responsible physician, and I look forward to the opportunity to give back to the place that we, as medical students, call our second home."*

~ Veronica (Ronnie) Tsai,  
1st year medical student and MSAC Ambassador for 2014/15

MSAC quickly became the new life force of the UBC medical community. However, further renovations and expansion plans of the Vancouver Hospital and Health Sciences Centre meant that the remaining student facilities at the hospital would be lost, creating an urgent need for more lounge and social space, lockers, bicycle racks, showers and exercise facilities. Once again, thoughtful donors partnered with the faculty to support the MSAC improvements with generous donations in Phase II of the MSAC campaign.

The official opening of Phase II on May 25, 1996 marked completion of the project and the realization of a dream, not only for an enriched medical school experience, but also for a centre for UBC's medical community where health and happiness are fostered and life-long relationships are forged.

*"MSAC reminds us to strive for a healthy balance in our lives and provides us with facilities to stay fit—physically and mentally. Developing my artistic side at MSAC has helped me to become a better physician by fostering the ability to think flexibly on the ward. The centre also offers a unique chance for colleagues to meet in a different context, share skills and mentor each other both inside and outside the realm of medicine. MSAC gives us the opportunity to see the human side behind the physician or trainee that we see every day. I have made connections there that I will carry throughout my career."*

~ Christopher Uy, UBC MD '14 and PGY3 Neurology



A cairn recognizing the contributions of MSAC's donors was constructed from loose stones carried by UBC students during The Great Trek of 1922.

The dedication cairn was unveiled on May 11, 1995 in the centre of the MSAC courtyard at a ceremony honouring hundreds of thoughtful donors who have supported the MSAC campaign over the years.

A replica of the original stone structure on UBC Main Mall, the MSAC donor cairn stands as a testament to the generosity of the many contributors and friends who believed in a centre for UBC's medical community.



# 25 Years of MSAC at a Glance



Dr. Hardwick and a group of keen students first proposed the idea of a student and alumni centre.

1983



A site at the northeast corner of 12th Avenue & Heather Street was leased from VGH.

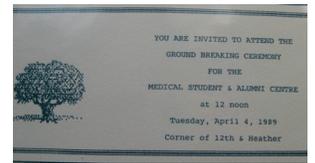
Fundraising began. By the end of the year, MAA had raised \$48,000 for the centre.

1985



A groundbreaking ceremony marked the official beginning of construction.

1989



1984

The Medical Alumni Association (MAA) was established. Its first project was the construction of MSAC.



1988

Three phone-a-thons organized by MAA raised most of the funds needed to begin construction. More than 60 volunteers phoned alumni all over BC. It was the most successful phone-a-thon in UBC's history with \$160,000 in total pledges.



1990

MSAC's grand opening included a ribbon cutting ceremony led by Bill Webber's successor, Dean Martin Hollenberg. Students conducted a 'reverse trek' from UBC to the MSAC site. The fundraising goal of \$960,000 was reached in March.



# William A. Webber Medical Student & Alumni Centre



The unveiling of a donor cairn in the courtyard of MSAC recognized the support of hundreds of donors.

1995



MSAC expanded with the addition of a locker room and the Heritage Time Capsule wall. Each class of medical graduates now has its own time capsule drawer for special memorabilia relating to that class.

2004



MSAC officially became the William A. Webber Medical Student & Alumni Centre.

2007



MSAC North will be in progress at the University Hospital of Northern BC in Prince George.

2016

1996

Opening ceremonies were held for Phase II of MSAC. More than \$1,250,000 had been raised to date.



2005

Videoconferencing equipment connects MSAC's many student activities to UBC Medicine's distributed sites in Prince George and Victoria.



2015

**MSAC celebrates its 25-year anniversary!**

MSAC Victoria will be nearing completion by year-end.



Looking Forward

The MSAC legacy needs your continued support. Your ongoing gifts will help construct and complete centres for our distributed medical programs in Prince George, Victoria and Kelowna.

# THE HEART OF THE MEDICAL SCHOOL



*Painting nights encourage creative exploration.*



*Students perform in the 2013 MedPlay.*



*Students organize workshops to provide more hands-on training.*

Affectionately dubbed the “Heart of the Medical School”, MSAC is now an active centre of life for medical students, alumni, faculty and members of the British Columbia medical community. Your remarkable contributions to this facility have helped to provide a supportive network for learning enhancement, interprofessional collaboration and creative exploration.

With welcoming interior spaces where one can study, socialize, take part in fitness, recreational and creative pursuits, participate in special interest clubs and workshops, and explore community support initiatives, MSAC is an inviting refuge away from the pressures of class, clinical studies and the workplace.

*“There is always a bustle of activity going on at the MSAC, from specialty interest groups and suturing workshops to yoga classes, weight training and just studying by the cozy fireplace. Every time I stopped in, I would get caught up in an inspiring conversation that would re-energize me and set me up for a great day. This personal connection with others is what originally drew me to medicine, and the many positive interactions with peers, faculty and mentors at the MSAC have reinforced that draw.”*

*~ Erin Love, 3rd year medical student*

Dance groups, choirs, string ensembles and a student jazz band rehearse at MSAC regularly, while the increasingly popular Arts in Medicine art show features works by students and faculty. Mentors, CaRMS applicants, prospective medical school students and alumni groups hold informational sessions, receptions, class reunions and even weddings in the unique space at MSAC. The facility offers alumni and other members of the UBC medical community low-cost rental of the two main halls and boardroom space.

Financial support from donors and UBC Work Study contributed to the founding of the MSAC Ambassadors program in 2010. The program involves the selection of two first-year students to assist with events at the facility and ensure optimum service levels for all members and guests. The regular presence of the Ambassadors creates a peer-supported environment at the building and helps to connect students from all graduating years, residents and practicing physicians. MSAC’s low rental fees, variety of spaces and after-hours event support have made it a premier location for hosting UBC Faculty of Medicine events.

*"In my role as an MSAC Ambassador, I have learned very quickly that MSAC is basically the nerve centre of our faculty. It is packed seven days a week with groups rehearsing, medical workshops, special interest groups and mentor evenings. The networking opportunities are invaluable—I've gotten to know my fellow students on a different level, talked to alumni about their experiences as residents, and met doctors, specialists and experts in their fields. When I look back on my medical education, it's not going to be those late nights up studying that I remember; it's going to be the group of lifelong friends and professional contacts that I met and the experiences that we shared together. That is what makes MSAC so unique."*

~ Jonathan Ng, 1st year medical student and MSAC Ambassador for 2014/15

Medical students are able to explore their theatrical sides in the annual MedPlay held in Hardwick Hall at MSAC. Rehearsals for the impressive Spring Gala also occur at the centre. These artistic pursuits provide students with an essential release from the daily pressures of medical school. The creative outlets not only refresh and invigorate students, but also help to build confidence, teamwork, leadership and organizational skills that will benefit them throughout their professional careers.

*"I had no idea how much of an impact the MSAC would have on my life. I discovered in the first week of my first year that MSAC was the meeting place—the sole constant in the ever-changing landscape of our medical education. With the Bhangra Club, the Hip Hop Crew, the Black and Blues Jazz Band, rehearsals for Med Play and the Spring Gala.... pretty soon my calendar was packed with MSAC activities. This made me busier, of course, but the sheer enjoyment, interaction with my peers and change in focus helped me to face my studies with a re-energized perspective."*

~ David Mongar, 3rd year medical student

MSAC is also home to The Faculty of Medicine's alumni office which links graduate students back to the Faculty and UBC, offering invaluable opportunities to connect with medical alumni worldwide, as well as support the next generation of UBC medical students. Working closely with the Medical Alumni Association, the alumni office organizes academic and social activities for medical alumni, encouraging collegial and mentorship connections. The advantageous spaces at MSAC are often used by the office to hold class reunions, professional workshops and other activities to engage alumni and students.



Working out in MSAC's well-equipped gym is a favourite activity for the UBC medical community.



Bhangra dance rehearsal in MSAC's courtyard.

# SUPPORTING THE WIDER COMMUNITY

## THE MSAC NETWORK

The MSAC Network contains four separate videoconference systems that link Vancouver medical students to their classmates in the Island, Northern and Southern Medical Programs, and to other students on elective at hospitals throughout BC. This interactive connection to the distributed sites helps students and faculty in other areas of the province feel part of the UBC medical community.

Spring Gala auditions, student council meetings, various clubs and interest groups all use MSAC's videoconferencing facilities to link Prince George, Victoria, Kelowna and Vancouver.

*"The MSAC Network is an important step in helping to expand our presence so that our distributed medical programs in BC can have access to the same beneficial meetings, workshops and informational sessions as our Vancouver-Fraser site. Even our student plays are broadcast live so that all UBC programs can enjoy the performances in real time."*

~ Nancy Thompson,  
MSAC Services Coordinator

MSAC facilitates meetings and events for many medical student-led community support initiatives under the auspices of Medical Undergraduate Society (MUS):

- *Community Health Initiative by University Students (CHIUS)* is an interdisciplinary UBC medical student and resident club that strives to improve access to health services and offer experiential learning primarily in the Vancouver inner city community.
- *Stand Up for Mental Health* encourages mental health patients to approach their illness with humour using stand-up comedy to heal in an innovative way. The routines are presented for an audience of medical students at a yearly event organized jointly by the Psychiatry Interest Group and Student Interest Group in Neurology.
- *The Aboriginal Health Initiative (AHI)* strives to increase awareness of issues relating specifically to Aboriginal health, as well as provide mentorship opportunities connecting medical students to practitioners providing care in Aboriginal communities.
- *The Global Health Initiative (GHI)* seeks to enhance global health education and provide hands-on training to UBC medical students via skill-building workshops and the opportunity to participate in global health projects in countries such as Uganda, India, Honduras, Kenya and Canada.

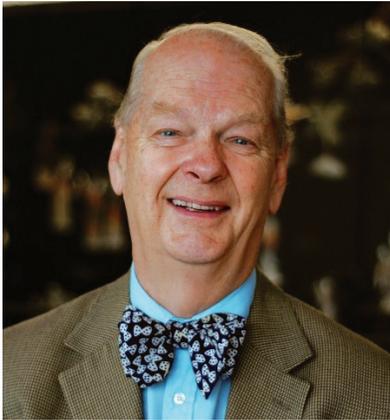
Community engagement with disadvantaged populations helps students to understand how the social determinants of health impact the marginalized people they may one day care for, either locally or globally.

Your gift has enabled MSAC to provide enhanced educational opportunities in unique and compelling ways. The range of diverse experiences not only connects medical students to the wider community they will be practicing in, but also challenges them with tangible situations.



CaRMS Match Day 2014

# LOOKING FORWARD



*“MSAC is an extremely successful, highly utilized social and recreational facility, which enables the building of a strong academic alumni community. At 25 years, we’re 25% of the way there with MSAC here in Vancouver. By the end of 2015, we’ll be 50% of the way there with MSAC Victoria nearing completion. One hundred years from now, with this kind of foundation, we have the prospect for building a lasting UBC community.”*

- Dr. David Hardwick

Thanks to your conviction and philanthropic support, decades of UBC medical students and alumni have enjoyed the immense benefits of MSAC here in Vancouver. The next step is to expand this legacy to help UBC’s distributed sites and teaching hubs to create MSAC spaces of their own.

An MSAC Island facility will be nearing completion at the end of 2015 at the Coronation Annex of Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria. An MSAC North-dedicated space is also under construction at the University Hospital of Northern BC in Prince George. In addition, planning is in the initial stages for MSAC Fraser at the Royal Columbian Hospital. These spaces are a critical investment in sustaining student and alumni engagement in UBC’s distributed sites, and will ensure equal access for all UBC medical students to the valuable artistic, social and educational benefits of the MSAC model. To date, MSAC has benefitted from 3,738 donations from 1,585 donors who have supported the construction and operation of MSAC.

We are celebrating the success of the William A. Webber Medical Student and Alumni Centre in Vancouver this year thanks to your generosity. Ongoing donations are needed for the legacy of MSAC to expand throughout the province. Your future gifts will contribute to the construction of much-needed MSAC spaces for UBC’s other distributed medical sites. By continuing to support the MSAC Endowment Fund, you will ensure the benefits of these unique centres grow over the next 25 years and beyond. Your renewed support will continue to foster a strong, healthy community of medical graduates across British Columbia.

*“When I go to the MSAC, I know I’ll see people who care about me and understand the challenges of being in medical school. MSAC provided me with a safe space to try new things, like suturing, painting and producing a play. The leadership skills I built there will be a valuable asset in my future career. I also learned how exceptional my classmates are as we planned events together, solved problems, laughed our way through artistic mishaps, and discovered the vast support network that we have. Many of my favourite memories of medical school took place at the MSAC, and the friendships I forged through those shared experiences are an endless source of humour and support.*

- Jennifer Clune, 2nd year medical student

## *Thank you*

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**For more information, please contact:**

**Lisa Slater**

Development Officer, Faculty of Medicine

317 - 2194 Health Sciences Mall  
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z3

604-822-7087  
lisa.slater@ubc.ca

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