



May 2021  
Volume 8: Issue 31



*Susan Patrick, PhD*

## PCU-WHS Announces Appointment of Director of Academic Program Development and Delivery

PCU-WHS is pleased to announce the appointment of Susan Patrick as Director of Academic Program Development and Delivery. Susan has a background in scientific research, university-level instruction, and course and program development. She has a PhD in Neuroscience and a BSc in General Science from the University of Alberta.

Susan has spent the past seven years developing, implementing, and instructing the anatomy and physiology components of the entry-to-practice Pharmacy curriculum at the University of Alberta.

In an interview with Susan, she said, “Prior to my joining this faculty, all anatomy and physiology instruction had been face-to-face in conventional classroom style. It was my proposal to convert most of the anatomy and physiology instruction to the online environment, and the results were embraced by the faculty and the students. I thoroughly enjoyed working with the students, and envisioning a variety of different interactive ways of learning and experiencing complex material. It is with great pleasure that I now apply my skills and experience to course delivery at PCU-WHS.”

Susan’s previous committee work (nearly six years as a member of the Curriculum Committee and nearly three years as a member of the Assessment Committee) and active collaborative roles in accreditation review and program transition from a BScPharm to an Entry-to-Practice PharmD curriculum provided experience in outcome mapping and program and course assessment. She has developed courses and course materials as well as instructing the courses, and she has also been involved in the assessment of learning needs, conversion of face-to-face to online and blended learning experiences, and evaluation of the effectiveness of learning activities and assessments.

Susan’s earlier career was centered on neuroscience research in various capacities at the University of Alberta and at Emory University. During her research at the University of Alberta, Susan also pursued teaching within the Departments of Physiology and Physical Therapy. This experience in communication of research findings, face-to-face instruction, and course design was invaluable when she later took on responsibility for the development of online and blended learning experiences.

“Now, with PCU-WHS, I have found a new home for the application and enhancement of my skills – and for acquiring many new ones as well! The discipline and implementation of disability management and return to work are starting to receive much needed and well-deserved attention, nationally and internationally. I am humbled and privileged to now be working with such a dedicated, impassioned, and energetic group of people striving to accomplish the goal of returning and retaining valuable and contributing members of society in the workforce. I look forward to working with all of you!”

Wolfgang Zimmermann, President of PCU-WHS said, “We very much look forward to Susan’s expertise, experience and commitment in supporting our collective goals of building a more equitable future for workers who acquire a disabling condition which may result in job loss and often being pushed to the margins of society.

In addition to our expanding academic and continuing education program delivery, the recently awarded BC government grant designed to provide significantly expanded educational and program opportunities for BC workplaces also provided support in expanding career opportunities that will gradually change our workplaces to be in support of ‘Building a Culture of Accommodation’ at work.”



## About PCU-WHS

Pacific Coast University for Workplace Health Sciences (PCU-WHS) is a statutory, not-for-profit, post-secondary, degree granting education and research institution for the special purpose of creating and disseminating new knowledge including applied research in the fields of workplace safety, health promotion, return to work and disability management, comprehensive rehabilitation, and disability leadership studies.

In addition to the Bachelor of Disability Management, the University offers an Advanced Certificate in Return to Work as well as numerous continuing education certificate programs and courses for professionals who are already established in the field. The broad curriculum of courses range from 12 hours in duration for an individual continuing education module, up to four years in total for the full Degree program. All options are offered online attracting students from across Canada and around the world.

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