

Doctors bare it all for global relief

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News Staff

For the past few weeks, members of the local medical community have been peeling off their scrubs and posing for a global fundraising cause.

Two dozen medical and dental students from the University of Alberta, along with local health professionals and doctors, have recently finished modelling nude for 25 local artists to create over 40 art pieces in a range of stylistic mediums and body forms.

Participants will be donating the portraits to a silent auction that takes place today at the Red Strap Market, with proceeds going towards the Change for Children's Community Health project in El Salvador and similar aid-relief campaigns funded by International Health Initiatives.

Event organizer and artist Roger Garcia and his family have been working with Change for Children for ten years. Garcia said that this year's event—called Doctors and Derrières—is unique because 100 per cent of the funds will go directly to improving the daily lives of El Salvadorians plagued with flooding rivers caused by recent earthquakes.

"This project is really cool because [due to the flooding] people there don't have access to roads. They live right next to a river that always floods," Garcia explained. "These people continue to live there, so this money is going [towards] enabling sick people to have access to medical staff, who will take them to a hospital."

Last year was the first year of the auction with all the proceeds going to rebuilding a school and working with destitute children Zambia. Other medical students dedicated their time and money to build healthier communities in



SUPPLIED: GERRY RASMUSSEN

Kenya and India.

David Rydz, a student from the U of A's medical class of 2008 and former nude model for the event, said that the concept of raising money in such a revealing fashion helps dispel negative stereotypes about medical professionals and shows a softer side of the sciences.

"It's a little more interesting for people because medical students have a stereotype around them," Rydz said. "I mean, if you got a bunch of frat boys to pose nude, it just wouldn't be the same thing—people wouldn't be surprised. It's unfortunate that med students get portrayed as 'by the books' and 'straight-edged.'"

Patent policy may draw faculties' anger

University's control of patents for on-campus developments a rare occurrence

PATENTS • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"I don't know of any university that has a 'rebuttable presumption' that the university's automatically a participant in your area of research," Sigurdson said, noting that, if implemented, it would apply equally to students.

"This is a tremendous change from [the old policy]—particularly the course of their activities with outside bodies. The concern there is that it can dampen the culture of innovation that everyone would like to have, because there is always concern from an outside party that the University is automatically a partner."

Deborah Holloway, Communications Officer for the University's Vice-President (Research), explained that the Administration isn't in a position to comment on the proposed new Patent Policy until it's been ratified by the Board of Governors, and that while no date had been set as of press time, the policy will likely go before the Board at their 22 June meeting. However, on the AAS:UA website, the University defends the new policy as having addressed "a number of gaps in the old policy."

Sigurdson noted that the inclusion of students under the policy has raised some concerns that it might negatively impact student co-op programs.

"Students typically assign invention rights to the sponsoring company," he said. "There is concern that that would be changed and that it would hamper the interaction with the out-

side company."

Despite the possible impact on students, Graduate Students' Association (GSA) President Julie Charchun said that there hasn't been much discussion of the new policy.

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**LORENZ SIGURDSON,
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING PROF**

"From the GSA's standpoint, we haven't heard a lot from grad students with concerns about patents," Charchun said. "It is relevant for us; we are going to be watching what happens with this vote, and I mean it is important for grad students to retain as much intellectual property rights as possible."

While Charchun also noted that there was the potential of the policy impacting co-op programs, she stressed that, as of yet, it was unclear what that impact might be.

"If it's going to affect grad students, it would probably tend to be more

grad students in faculties such as engineering or medicine, or agriculture, forestry—those types of departments where patents are more likely."

Mark Morris, who will officially begin his term as Visiting Scholar in Residence in the Faculty of the Arts on 1 July, 2007, agreed with Charchun that the patent policy was unlikely to be felt across campus, and said he saw it having virtually no impact in the humanities.

"By-and-large, patents aren't a question in the humanities," Morris said, while pointing out that many of his colleagues were "keeping an eye on it" because of a worry that such a policy might hypothetically be extended into University copyright law.

Morris considered whether or not including students in the policy is appropriate and an ethically debatable question, however.

"I think the relationship of a student to a university is very different from the relationship of somebody who's been hired by the university," Morris said, adding that, while he had no problems with the policy itself, he felt it raised question of whether it's healthy for universities to start to become businesses.

"This kind of patent-law rules at the University is part and parcel with the whole movement to make the universities commercially exploit what's discovered in the universities—that's very recent, and the great tradition in Western humanist universities has been precisely not to do that."

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