

Dr. Kevin Smith,
Presidnet & CEO
University Health Network
200 Elizabeth Street
Toronto ON M5G 2C4

Dear Dr. Smith,

I am writing as a the Co-Head of UBC Social & Cultural Psychiatry Program. We once had a Cross-Cultural Psychiatry Outpatient Clinic (established in 1988) based at Vancouver Hospital that provided ethnocultural mental health services in up to 10 different languages with ethnic matched psychiatrists who worked in the system. Unfortunately a decision was made to close the program in 2018. For the past few years the immigrant mental health needs of Greater Vancouver have not been met by any 'general clinic", we are struggling to provide culturally competent training sites for our psychiatry residents and the ability to do research has also been impacted without a clinical site.

We all know that for decades AIM has been a culturally competent program that it had been instrumental in addressing the mental health inequities experienced by Chinese and Asian Canadians in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA). It has served as an exemplary model for the University Health Network (UHN) and the University of Toronto, earning broad recognition. At a time of national and international retrenchment against equity, diversity, and inclusion in mental health, the closure of an ethnic-focus clinic, such as AIM, sends the wrong message to the GTA, the patients of the UHN, and the international community.

I request that you reconsider re-instating the AIM clinic and engage in meaningful dialogue with the affected stakeholders to restore the trust and partnership that is necessary to continue with the good work in providing culturally competent mental health care in GTA.

Respectfully Submitted,

Hiram Mok, MA, MB, BCh, BAO, FRCPC
Outpatient Psychiatry Executive Lead Vancouver Coastal Health
(MHSUOPS, Access & Assessment Centre, UBC Mood Disorders Clinic, OSI Clinic, UBC Sexual Medicine, Venture)
Consultant Psychiatrist, Mary Pack Arthritis Centre
Clinical Professor & Co-Head UBC Social & Cultural Psychiatry Program
Distinguished Fellow & Pacific Rim College of Psychiatrists,
Specialist Register General Adult Psychiatry GMC [London]

I gratefully acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territory of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səl̓íl̓wətaʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.