



October 20, 2008

Professor John Blazina  
Chair, Teaching Committee  
Department of English  
York University  
4700 Keele Street  
Toronto, Ontario  
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**Re: Dr. Peter Paolucci**

Dear Prof. Blazina:

Both of us were involved with the faculty development workshops taught by Dr. Paolucci for the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry and are pleased to write a supportive letter jointly.

Peter has visited Schulich on several occasions and has given two faculty development workshops in the use of video-conferencing (VC) for teaching to our clinical and basic science faculty, the first in February 2007 and the second in May 2008. We solicited Peter's help when the Schulich Medical School at The University of Western Ontario, in collaboration with the University of Windsor, decided to open a satellite campus that would accommodate 24 Schulich medical students in Windsor starting in September 2008.

This was the School's first experience with synchronous distance education and we were faced with a short timeline to prepare both faculty and staff for its successful implementation. Peter helped us immensely. He came a day in advance for each of his workshops to ensure that hardware and room geography were optimal for his presentations. Peter's sessions were exemplary – he practiced what he preached! He addressed the technical aspects of VC as well as pedagogy and tips for teachers in preparing for and carrying out their VC lectures.

The faculty members in his workshops gave him outstanding evaluations and referred to his well organized and cheerful style. His illustrations and course handouts were practical, clear, and well written. We were very impressed with his organizational skills, his ability to meet tight deadlines, and his problem solving. His communication and people skills, attention to detail, and concern with quality were all exceptional. He was quickly able to establish a collaborative relationship with faculty members, technical staff, and administrators. More than anything, it was his focus on good teaching design that helped us focus why and how VC could be used optimally.

Peter's workshops were also vital to the School's administrative leadership in ensuring that a dedicated trainer was hired to teach faculty how to teach with VC. He has been personally generous with his time and advice and has made himself available by phone and email for other technical issues that have arisen as we've moved along. His contribution to our transition to a VC environment has been significant, and we have been grateful for his help and guidance.

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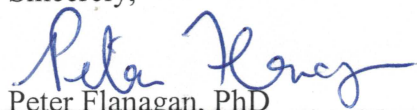
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Our contact with Dr. Paolucci was also productive in another area. Our joint collaboration resulted in an application to the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada for a Faculty Development Grant. An application entitled "Just-in-time pedagogy for videoconferencing and webcasting: an online module or faculty development" was approved in 2007 and funded with a grant of \$5000. The online module was completed in the summer of 2008 and is currently being transferred from the York University server to Schulich's. The committee can see it at: <http://www.yorku.ca/paolucci/schulich/index.html>

Dr. Paolucci is a dedicated teacher and has been invaluable to faculty development at the Schulich School. We are delighted that he is being considered for a teaching award. We endorse this effort and enthusiastically support it!

Sincerely,



Peter Flanagan, PhD

Associate Professor of Medicine and Biochemistry

Director, Faculty eLearning

Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry



Catherine Blake, MA

Faculty Development Manager

Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry