

THE PMU IN A FEW WORDS

The Policlinique Médicale Universitaire, labelled for international public the Department of Ambulatory Care and Community Medicine, located near Lausanne University Hospital (CHUV), it is a center of reference for internal and general medicine as well as community health care. It serves the population in dealing with medical problems and other health issues, through outpatient consultations and emergency services.

The PMU offers a range of services in various medical disciplines: alcohol abuse, allergies, angiology, cardiology, HIV-JTD, endocrinology and diabetology, gastroenterology, hematology, consultations for lipids and obesity, podiatry, pulmonology, psychiatry, smoking cessation (counseling) and travel medicine. PMU also provides community pharmacy services and consultation for stomatology and dentistry, as well as health care for migrants through the Nursing Health Care Center. PMU also offers, in collaboration with Lausanne Federal Polytechnic University (EPFL), an on-campus «health-care point» providing free consultations for students and staff, as well as a downtown center, the PMU-Flon Medical Center, located in central Lausanne, which receives patients without an appointment.

PMU's medical staff and health-care professionals are regularly called upon to serve as experts. In this role, the institution provides many services to the community. Its experience, professional expertise and interdisciplinary approach guarantee high-quality assessments. In particular, PMU manages the Center for Medical Assessment of Fitness to Drive of Professional Drivers, the Medical Assessment Center operating (mandate from the Disability Insurance system), and advises the State of Vaud in the field of dentistry. In addition, PMU has been entrusted with the mission of managing the health of the employees of the State of Vaud (excluding CHUV) through its Occupational Health Unit.

Training and research are also part of PMU's key missions. Senior staff members pass on their skills to new generations of physicians, pharmacists, dentists, nurses and other health-care professionals. Working closely with the Faculty of Biology and Medicine of the University of Lausanne, PMU provides teaching in general and internal medicine. These courses were set up with the support of established general medical practitioners with whom PMU has built a privileged partnership. For several years, PMU has included education in its (educational) missions. Members of various professions are engaged in research activities within the institution. The long-term aim of patient- and community-oriented research in internal medicine and community health is to improve the quality of the care provided, while also ensuring the fair distribution of resources.

PMU is an incorporated institution operating under public law and is subject to State supervision. It is governed by a Board, consisting of health-care specialists and representatives of civil society with different political orientations. Its members are appointed by the Vaud State Council for five years. It is headed by a Director, who is also the Chief Physician, appointed by the State Council. The Director is also full professor at the UNIL's Faculty of Biology and Medicine.