

IHPME CONNECT 08.2015



CONNECTING TO CARE:

RESEARCH SHOWS PEDIATRIC IMMIGRANTS EQUALLY AS LIKELY TO REVISIT ER AS NON- IMMIGRANTS

The \$1,000 Thomas and Edna Naylor Memorial Award in Health Services Research was established by former University of Toronto President David Naylor in memory of his parents. In 2015, the award was given to Natasha Saunders and Dallas Seitz. Profiled here is Natasha Saunders' thesis paper.

Emergency room doctors are often under pressure to see as many patients as possible. IHPME student Natasha Saunders wondered whether some of those patients, worried parents seeking pediatric care, were under some pressure themselves to communicate with clinicians and understand instructions. Her Naylor Award winning thesis paper explored the frequency of pediatric emergency room re-visits by families new to Canada.

"Children are among the highest ER users, and my research

explored whether being an immigrant, where subtleties in culture and language, such as how people from different parts of the world explain and perceive illness or how care providers interpret medical histories, was a factor in return visits," says Natasha. "The research proved to be something of a good news story. Overall, in Canada we are doing an adequate job and new Canadians appear to be receiving accessible and quality care successfully, using this one metric."

The large population-based study looked at factors, such as length of stay in Canada, visa class, and region of origin. None played a significant role. However, one subgroup — those who do not speak English or French — did show a higher rate of return visits. "Translation services are available to ER care providers, but it could be that they are not used as fully as possible. In some settings in the United States, physicians are given financial compensation to use translation services. Perhaps we should be looking at similar methods in Canada to ensure physicians are incentivized and compensated for the extra time it takes to use translation services," says Natasha.

The annual award is given to an IHPME graduate student in the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation for the best paper or article, based on their Master of PhD thesis in the field of health services research. It is awarded at the Institute's Annual Research Day, and students successfully defending a thesis in the previous 12 months are eligible. Submissions are judged on potential or demonstrated relevance to clinical practice, management decision making or policy formulation, and scholarship and originality.



“I was very fortunate to have the mentorship and support of a great thesis supervisor in Dr. Astrid Guttmann,” says Natasha. Guttman is a clinician scientist in the Division of Paediatric Medicine and Chief Science Officer and Senior Scientist at ICES,

as well as an Associate Professor of Paediatrics with a cross appointment to IHPME. “Her insights into using administrative data to answer policy relevant questions were incredibly valuable and I have learned so much from her leadership and guidance.”

SUMMER AT ICHR

IHPME MSc student, Sophie Roher, was in Deline, North-west Territories at the Dene Nation Leadership meetings last month. Working with the Institute for Circumpolar Health Research (ICHR), she is assisting with a scoping exercise on Aboriginal Wellness Services in Canada. While out helping fish for delegates’ meals, she landed a 15 lb. trout (impressive) from Great Bear Lake. Learn more about IHPME and Dalla Lana School of Public Health’s efforts in northern health research: www.ichr.ca/#!uoft/cw3



Sophie Roher, MSc student

JOINT UNITED NATIONS PROGRAMME ON HIV/AIDS

[Tracy Yuen talks about her internship at UNAIDS in the Economics and Evaluation Division.](#)

2015 marks the end of the Millennium Developmental Goals (MDG) and the start of the Sustainable Development Goals. I could not have picked a better time for my internship at the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), as it was a time for many UN agencies to reflect back on their progress and plan how to move forward. Working with the Economics and Evaluation Division, my work focused on estimating HIV expenditure in low- and middle-income countries. In order to monitor program efficiency and to promote government accountability, each country was to report annual public domestic, private and international expenditures allocated to HIV. Majority of my time was spent validating the reported numbers, which involved countless Excel spreadsheets and elaborate algorithms. The end results of this project was featured in the MDG report [How AIDS Changed Everything](#) presented at the 3rd International Conference on Financing for Development in Ethiopia, and freely available on the online database, AidsInfo (<http://aidsinfo.unaids.org>).

As an intern, I was also able to attend several high-level meetings held at the Palais des Nations, namely the 68th World Health Assembly and the 29th Human Rights Council. Listening to delegates from member states discussing pressing issues and testimonials from affected individuals brought a sense of reality and urgency to global issues that pop up on my newsfeed daily. It was also interesting to see how the World Health Organization is handling recent criticism following the Ebola crisis.

Another highlight of my time in Geneva was the Health Cluster Emergency Surge Training, a weeklong workshop on the roles of public health professionals in disaster response. The week was capped off with a 2-day simulation exercise where we were deployed to a fictional country hit with a massive earthquake and had to practice the technical skills we learnt throughout the week. Given the recent events in Nepal, this training could not be more timely! I was also awed by the stories from lecturers and attendees, who have worked in the some of the most complex conflict zones including South Sudan, Syria and, most recently, Sierra Leone.



Overall, my internship could be described as a fast-paced, educational summer camp for healthcare nerds. This experience has also helped me regain perspective, as graduate students often get too caught up in academia. Lastly, I would like to

thank the Economics and Evaluations Division at UNAIDS for hosting me this summer and the generous financial support from the Dalla Lana School of Public Health Global Health Student Research Travel Award.

AWARDS

Eyal Cohen and Onil Bhattacharyya

The 2015/16 [Harkness Fellowship in Health Care Policy and Practice](#) was awarded to two IHPME faculty, [Eyal Cohen](#) and [Onil Bhattacharyya](#). We are very proud of these two for winning such a prestigious fellowship. Congratulations Eyal and Onil!

Rob Smith

IHPME MSc student, Rob Smith, received the [Junior Massey Fellowship](#). This in addition to a [CIHR Masters Award](#) and a scholarship from Mount Sinai Hospital. Congratulations Rob on a fantastic academic year!

Alexis Villas

Congratulations to IHPME MSc student Alexis Villas, CHE for receiving the Robert Wood Johnson award! For more details: www.cchl-ccls.ca/site/awards_robertwoodjohnson

THESIS DEFENSES

MSc:

[Jocelyn Pang](#) (supervisor W. Wodchis) – *“Association of Primary Care Structures with Patient Utilization of Acute Health Services”*

[Tommy Lok Hin Tam](#) (supervisor W. Wodchis) – *“Validation of a Health-Related Quality of Life Measure Based on the Minimum Data Set by Mapping and Regression”*

FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

Full SGS Membership

[David Juurlink](#)

[Maira Kapral](#)

EVENTS

The Moonshot Event - *Register Now!*

October 14, 2015

5:00 pm

INSPIRE. LEAD. CHANGE. Join us as we celebrate the impact our students and alumni have on transforming health care, today and for the next generation.

Jointly hosted with Health Quality Ontario following “Health Quality Transformation 2015”. **Announcing Society of Graduates' 2015 Leadership, Innovation and Literary Awards.** Click for details on [how to apply](#). Deadline Sept. 15.

Location: Steam Whistle Brewing, The Hall, 225 Bremner Blvd. (Roundhouse Park), Toronto

Registration is Open. Early-bird student rate available, while quantities last. Get your tickets fast for this exciting event!

Please visit ihpme.utoronto.ca/events/moonshot-event-2015/

IHPME Health Leadership Series Continues this Fall!

October 29, 2015

5:00 pm

Join IHPME Director Dr. Adalsteinn Brown and featured speaker [Dr. Niek Klazinga](#), Professor, Dept. of Social Medicine, Academic Medical Centre University of Amsterdam at Hart House on Thursday, October 29 for IHPME's third Health Leadership Talk.

The lecture event starts 5:00pm and includes a Q&A period with Dr. Klazinga, and a networking reception with appetizers and a host bar. More details to come.

Location: Hart House, Debates Room, 2nd Floor, 1 Hart House Circle, Toronto



Healthy Work Environments Institute: Creating Healthy Work Environments

September 21 - September 25, 2015

The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) is pleased to offer its semi-annual Institute. The Institute is a week-long course designed for all nursing staff, health-care leaders and human resource professionals, seeking to enhance their skills in leadership, collaborative practice, conflict management, self-care, and professional practice to create a healthier workplace.

Location: King City, Ontario

To learn more and register, please visit: rnao.ca/events/creating-healthy-work-environments-institute

HTA Institute 2015

September 28 - September 30, 2015

Health Technology Assessment for Decision Makers

The HTA Institute will bring together experts from a range of disciplines to provide attendees with pragmatic tools for HTA. This three-day intensive course will be useful to individuals who use HTA to make decisions relating to drugs, devices, and programs.

Registration Deadline: September 4, 2015.

Full course details: <http://theta.utoronto.ca/HTAI>

IHPME on Flickr

IHPME is now on Flickr! You can view photos from our many meetings and events. You may also share your photos with the IHPME community.

Whether you're a student, faculty or staff member or partner to the Institute, we would be delighted to see your story. Contact ihpme@utoronto.ca to make an upload.

WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

Our monthly newsletter profiles members of the IHPME community and lists upcoming events.

We're pleased to receive submissions of 400 words or less for consideration in upcoming editions. If you'd like your event listed, please send full details.

Contact: rhonda.cockerill@utoronto.ca and ihpme@utoronto.ca

