

■ DEVELOPING IDEAS AND EVIDENCE TO IMPROVE HEALTHCARE

The Human Factor in Health Technology

There may be “an app for that”, but before health administrators can introduce a new health care application, they need to see evidence “for that”. An April CMAJ article referred to a “Wild West” atmosphere in the medical applications sector, highlighting that many are developed by those with no medical background and are promoted with little, if any, study of their effectiveness.

Featured in the article was Dr. Joseph Cafazzo, IHPME associate professor and lead for the Centre for Global eHealth Innovation at UHN. He is among those promoting higher standards in the clinical study of new applications.

“Many new tools are being imagined but there is still a need to validate health technology and applications, just as researchers have always done with new drugs and therapies,” says Joseph. All the apps developed by the Centre for Global eHealth Innovation are evaluated prior to being introduced to patients.

The Centre is one of the few research institutes in the world devoted to eHealth. Their focus spans the full spectrum of health-care, from hospitals to homes, from complex care to self-care, even global health equity issues.

“This is the future of health care – technologies that empower patients and caregivers to play a more active role in managing their condition. Health system leaders must be able to assess the effectiveness of new technologies and facilitate their implementation.”

Dr. Cafazzo is the Executive Director of Healthcare Human Factors, also part of UHN. The group applies human factors engineering to problems of healthcare delivery and patient safety.

“Health-care professionals operate within systems that include the physical setting, the organization, other team members, and equipment and technology,” says Joseph. “Human factors is the study of the way humans interact within these systems, and how this interaction affects health workers and the health and safety of patients.”

Dr. Cafazzo points out that thousands of patients are harmed in avoidable adverse events in Canadian hospitals every year. Studying human factors improves understanding of why adverse events occur and how they can be prevented. “The safety and success of new health technology depends on design and implementation, plus the human factors. These can vary from organization to organization and product to product.”

Both the Centre for Global eHealth Innovation and Healthcare Human Factors attract students and professionals from a wide range of medical, engineering, informatics, and design backgrounds, including health system scholars. “Patients are being provided with more of the information that clinicians have typically had, which empowers the patient and caregiver to do more for themselves,” he says. “Those who aspire to leadership positions and truly believe in patient-centred care will find tremendous opportunity to foster and design the health care system of the future.”



Joseph Cafazzo

■ CELEBRATING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

Kevin J. Leonard Award Launch Tuesday, May 27th

The first Kevin J. Leonard Award will be presented on Tuesday, May 27, 2014 at the Centre for Global eHealth Innovation. The ceremony will be hosted by Centre Lead Dr. Joseph Cafazzo and his team.

The award was established through the passion and dedication of many individuals who were part of Kevin’s life. The award recognizes an outstanding IHPME graduate, masters or PhD, student whose work will engage and empower patients through the use of technology to become partners in their own healthcare; and who exemplifies the ideals and principles Kevin imparted in his life and career.

■ SOCIETY OF GRADUATES

Nominate an IHPME Grad for the 2014 Leadership & Literary Awards

The two awards recognize excellence and celebrate those making significant contributions in the field of health policy, health management or health evaluation. Deadline for nomination is July 31, 2014.

For more information and to make a nomination, please visit our website. <http://www.ihpme.utoronto.ca/for/alumni/awards.htm>

Award recipients will be notified in early September and will be honoured at our Annual Recognition Dinner. For more information, please contact Corinne Berinstein by email at corinne.berinstein1@utoronto.ca

■ PUBLISHED WORKS

Scott D. Halpern and Allan S. Detsky published Graded Autonomy in Medical Education — Managing Things That Go Bump in the Night in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, March 20, 2014

IHPME PhD student Carolina Cancelliere is part of the group which has published Results of the International Collaboration on Mild Traumatic Brain Injury Prognosis, *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, Volume 95, Issue 3, March 2014

■ THESIS DEFENCE

Robert Varadi, MDCM, Beta Blocker Use and Morbidity from Chronic Lung Disease in Patients Undertaking Pulmonary Rehabilitation

Congratulations to award winners

Emily Seto has received an NSERC 2014 Discovery Grant for her research into Methods for Development of Optimized Complex Expert Systems. Discovery Grants support ongoing programs of research with long-term goals and recognize the creativity and innovation that are at the heart of all research advances.

Dr. Murray Krahn has received the Dr. Jill M. Sanders Award of Excellence in Health Technology Assessment from CADTH. The award recognizes and celebrates individuals whose outstanding achievements have significantly advanced the field of health technology assessment, evidence-based drug reviews, or optimal technology utilization in Canada. CIHR MSc awards have been granted to:

- Jolene Fisher for Morbidity and Mortality of Surgical Lung Biopsy in Interstitial Lung Disease;
- Melanie Penner for Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Sub-Specialized Multi-Disciplinary Autism Spectrum Disorder Diagnosis Compared to Community Diagnosis
- Meera Rayar for Initiative to Maximize Progress in Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Therapy (IMPACT)
- Sophie Roher for Examining the Ethical Considerations of Offering Fertility Preservation Options to the Families of Male Paediatric Oncology Patients
- Ujash Sheth for a Time-Series Analysis of Acute Achilles Tendon Rupture Treatment in Ontario.

■ IHPME Research Day
Change Management and Challenging the Status Quo

May 7, 2014
9 am registration

MORE INFORMATION:
<http://www.ihpme.utoronto.ca/about/events/researchday/gsufllyer.htm>

IMPORTANT REMINDER:
The Society of Graduates will have a dedicated booth on Research Day, as well as a wine and cheese networking event – a great opportunity for students and alumni to meet and mingle.

■ Theta Rounds
Making Public Decisions about Health: Cost-Effectiveness and Cost-Benefit Analysis

Friday, May 9, 2014
Louise Russell, PhD

TIME: 1:00 - 2:00pm
VENUE: Leslie Dan Pharmacy Building, 144 College St., Rm 850

■ Applied Cancer Research Conference (ARCC) 2014
Hosted by the Canadian Centre for Applied Research in Cancer Control
May 11-12, 2014

Cancer Health Economics and Health Technology Assessment workshop led by IHPME Faculty Member Dr. Jeffrey Hoch; and Speed Networking session where students can meet decision makers and researchers from across Canada. Student registration only \$50.

LOCATION: Hilton Toronto, 145 Richmond St W.
MORE INFORMATION: www.cc-arcc.ca

■ CAHSR (Canadian Association of Health Services and Policy Research)

10th Annual Conference 2014
May 12-15, 2014

MORE INFORMATION:
<http://www.cahspr.ca/en/conferences/current/2014>

■ EnRICH Innovative Trial Design Short Course

May 21-23, 2014
LOCATION: SickKids Research Institute, Peter Gilgan Centre for Research and Learning, Toronto

■ HSR Seminars
People with Industry: HTA in the real world

May 21, 2014
Kim Furlong, Director of Federal Government Affairs at Amgen
Farah Jivraj, Health Technology Assessment Strategy at sanofi-aventis
Tony Kim, Senior Manager, Pricing and Reimbursement at Celgene
David Shum, Director, Reimbursement Strategy and Health Economics at Hoffmann-La Roche

LOCATION: Room 208, Health Sciences Building, 155 College Street, University of Toronto

Seminars run on Wednesdays from 4:00-5:30 pm

MORE INFORMATION: <http://www.ihpme.utoronto.ca/about/events/hsrseminar13-14.htm>

■ SOG Education Day 2014
Cost, Quality and Equity: Is it a zero sum game in the new fiscal reality?

Thursday, May 22, 2014
8:30am - Full Breakfast and Networking
9am - 12:30pm - Keynote Address, Panel Discussion and Q&A

At this event, the winner of the Award for Emerging Health System Leaders, in honour of Louise Lemieux-Charles, will be announced.

LOCATION: Telus Tower, 25 York Street, 3rd floor, (south of Front Street), Toronto

REGISTRATION:
<https://secureca.imodules.com/s/731/start.aspx?sid=731&gid=45&pgid=6606&cid=12196>
General - \$95 (non-alumni are welcome)
Student - \$50

■ Kevin J. Leonard Award Launch

Tuesday, May 27, 2014, 3:00 - 5:00pm
LOCATION: Centre for Global eHealth Innovation, R. Fraser Elliott Building, 190 Elizabeth Street, 4th Floor
REGISTRATION:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kevin-j-leonard-award-launch-tickets-10974933321>

For more events and details, visit IHPME's External Events website
<http://www.ihpme.utoronto.ca/about/events/exevents.htm>