

■ SHARED VISION

Two U of T health powerhouses unite to make a greater collective impact on public health

On July 1, 2014, the Institute of Health Policy Management and Evaluation's home faculty will shift from the Faculty of Medicine to the Dalla Lana School of Public Health. This transition creates one of the world's largest public health schools with a shared vision of improving health and health systems.

With a remarkably broad scope and unique inter-disciplinary nature, the School will have some of the strongest connections across disciplines and faculties of any public health school in the world. By working together, the School will explore questions and interconnections in clinical policy, including: how (and what) care should be delivered, health system policy (how should care and other services be organized), population health policy (how to elevate overall health and the broader determinants of health), and health system design.

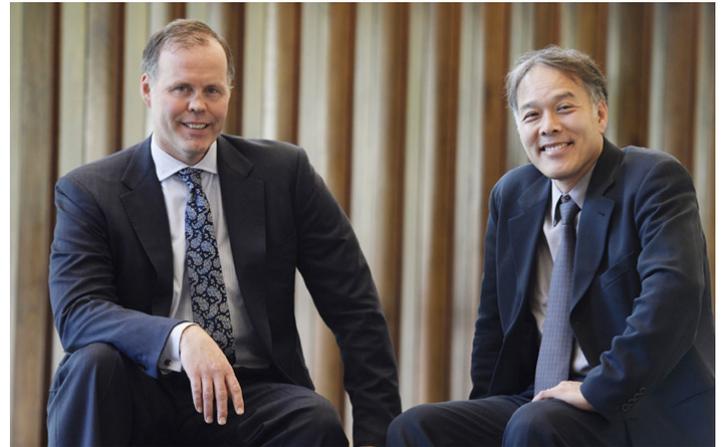
"Together, we are addressing critical issues that touch health systems around the world and provide scholarly leadership and innovative research in sustainability, population health, health systems, and the experience of patients, families and providers – a feat that we could not accomplish, as effectively, independently," said Howard Hu, Dean of the Dalla Lana School of Public Health.

The Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation's (IHPME) transition into the Dalla Lana School of Public Health (DLSPH), which became a standalone Faculty on July 1, 2013, allows the united School to achieve a broader collective impact on health at the medical, policy, community, individual and system levels. For example, the School will train systems change professionals — an area with huge growth opportunities in Ontario, nationally (particularly in Northern Canada), and globally — with expertise in health strategy and planning.

"Within the next five years or so, global governments will be looking for assistance in shaping or revising the health systems within their own countries," said Adalsteinn Brown, Director of the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation.

"Building from IHPME's capacity in policy at all levels from the clinical to the system and in knowledge transfer, the two academic units will offer a wide range of solutions that extend beyond traditional educational and independent research projects," said Brown, who also holds the Dalla Lana Chair in Public Health Policy.

The move also enhances the U of T's global position with capacity to improve health care, health system design, and public and population health through research and training.



Adalsteinn Brown & Howard Hu

Transition Q&A

On July 1, 2014, the Institute of Health Policy Management and Evaluation's home faculty will shift from the Faculty of Medicine to the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, which achieved Faculty status at U of T on July 1, 2013.

Students, faculty, staff, alumni and partners can refer to this Q&A to address transition questions. If you have any outstanding inquiries, please contact: Nicole Bodnar, Director of Communications, Dalla Lana School of Public Health.

Why make the move from Medicine to Public Health?

Today's health challenges require system-wide solutions across the full spectrum from health care delivery to policy. Together, DLSPH and IHPME bring a wide range of health and health care policy, clinical epidemiology, population and disease prevention expertise to rethink health care delivery and create a sustainable health care system.

Will there be any governing structure changes in IHPME?

The IHPME will remain an EDU-A with its own Director. IHPME will maintain its EDU-A status and its status as a distinct graduate unit; it will retain its current executive committee structure and membership; and it will continue to offer all current academic programs.

All existing programs currently offered by the IHPME will move with the EDU-A, including:

- Master of Health Science in Health Administration, M.H.Sc
- Master of Health Informatics, M.H.I.
- Doctor of Philosophy in Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, Ph.D.
- Master of Science in Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, M.Sc.

What impact will the transition have on students?

The IHPME will remain an EDU-A with its own Director. IHPME will maintain its EDU-A status and its status as a distinct graduate unit; it will retain its current executive committee structure and membership; and it will continue to offer all current academic programs.

The transition will be seamless for IHPME or DLSPH students; nothing will change on their transcript or degree parchment. All academic programs will remain unchanged.

As one of the world's largest public health schools, the DLSPH will become an even stronger magnet for the best graduate students who demonstrate scholarly leadership and real-world impact on health care, health system design and population health.

There are substantial opportunities for synergy between the DLSPH and IHPME, particularly in new graduate and undergraduate programs, shared graduate course offerings, the development of new and important lines of research and the creation of a comprehensive home for health services, clinical epidemiology, and health policy scholarship.

Will this change impact DLSPH students taking public health policy courses?

DLSPH students who are currently focused on public health policy will remain in their home division. Any new programs in health policy will be offered through IHPME. The course offerings and MSc/PhD enrollment at IHPME will be expanded to reflect this addition.

What will happen to IHPME's Society of Graduates and DLSPH's Public Health Alumni Association?

Both alumni groups will remain distinct with no changes to structure, leadership, vision or mission. DLSPH and IHPME will look into opportunities to host joint events and other collaborative activities going forward.

What does this transition mean for faculty?

The transition will be seamless for faculty members. On July 1, 2014, IHPME faculty members will receive a re-issued letter of appointment reflecting the change in Faculty. Nothing in the status of their appointment will change. All current cross-appointments (except for cross-appointments in DLSPH) will remain the same as will rank, tenure, and eligibility for promotion.

■ WELCOME

New Partnered Position for Omid Shabestari

Dr. Omid Shabestari becomes IHPME's latest partnered position, taking up a health informatics position with Cancer Care Ontario in health informatics. IHPME's Partnered Positions initiative provides an opportunity for new faculty to work at the University as well as within a field setting. Partnered positions also exist at Bridgepoint Collaboratory for Research and Innovation and the SickKids Research Institute. IHPME is planning a total of five partnered positions.

Before joining Cancer Care Ontario, Omid was an assistant teaching professor at the School of Health Information Science, University of Victoria. His academic experience includes developing several predictive models and extensive research in telecare services. He has also worked in consulting and health management positions, including eight years as a Chief Medical Information Officer.

■ RECOMMENDED READING

The HUB Newsletter

The HUB Health Research Solutions of St. Michael's Hospital recently launched the Spring 2014 newsletter. An academic research organization fully affiliated with the University of Toronto, the HUB's newsletter features tips on clinical research, health economics and knowledge translation. *Subscribe to the HUB Newsletter at <http://www.hubresearch.ca>*

■ CONGRATULATIONS ON ACADEMIC PROMOTIONS

The Academic Board met on Monday, June 2 and approved a list of academic promotions. Congratulations to IHPME's Cynthia Jackevicius, who becomes Associate Professor, and to Wendy Ungar, who becomes Professor.

What does this transition mean for staff?

The transition will have no impact on staffing. DLSPH and IHPME already sit on adjacent floors in the Health Sciences Building so there will be no reallocation of space or offices to support the transition.

Will there be any changes to the LEAD program?

IHPME will remain the home of the Leadership Education and Development Program (LEAD) for undergraduate medical students. Plans for a series of joint MD-Master's degrees offered through IHPME are underway.

What will happen to IHPME's partnerships across U of T?

This transition builds on IHPME's and DLSPH's relationships in the Faculty of Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy and Information Sciences. It also provides an opportunity to forge even stronger links with key partners such as ministries, provincial agencies, Toronto Academic Health Science Network hospitals, and other health organizations to support people-focused and health systems research.

How will this transition enable fundraising?

Both IHPME and DLSPH face an increasingly competitive local and global market as they seek research funding and philanthropy. Major fundraising campaigns are underway at most Ontario hospitals that rival the University's "Boundless" campaign and that play to similar messages regarding the potential contributions of the DLSPH and IHPME to improving health and a sustainable health systems.

The collaborative, inter-disciplinary narrative resonates strongly with donors who wish to see a greater return on investment, and DLSPH will build on this story through the transition to benefit IHPME and DLSPH.

■ THE INTERNATIONAL MSC IN HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT & MANAGEMENT

Ulysses Takes Toronto

The MSc in Health Technology Assessment & Management ("Ulysses program") is a unique international program that brings students and faculty from around the globe together for four concentrated modules to learn and exchange knowledge on health technology assessment.

From May 5 through May 16, fifteen students from Canada, Italy, Spain, Slovakia, Slovenia, Russia, Malaysia, China, and Saudi Arabia visited Toronto for two courses. In addition to imparting essential HTA knowledge and skills, the program provides an unparalleled opportunity to learn about how HTA is conducted around the globe and the particular issues facing health care systems in different countries. The students have completed their first year of the two-year program, with modules in Montreal and Toronto. In October 2014 they will take two courses at Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore, Rome, and in May 2015 their final two courses at the University of Barcelona. While the language of instruction is English, the spirit is truly multi-national.

IHPME Events

■ Health Technology Assessment for Decision Makers

July 14-16, 2014

THETA, together with the Maritime SPOR SUPPORT Unit will host the 2014 Health Technology Assessment Institute for Decision Makers.

LOCATION: Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia

For more events and details, visit IHPME's External Events website

<http://www.ihpme.utoronto.ca/about/events/exevents.htm>