

# IHPME CONNECT 09.2014

## RISING STARS

# IHPME STUDENT AWARDED VANIER SCHOLARSHIP

On May 1 of this year, IHPME MD/PhD student Natasha Lane commenced her three-year Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship, a career boost for her and a proud moment for the Institute. Vanier Canada Graduate Scholars are chosen for their leadership ability and their potential to foster innovation and improve quality of life for Canadians. The Canadian Institutes of Health Research, one of three federal research institutions that award the scholarships, selected Natasha as one of 58 recipients from among 155 finalists across Canada.

### **What's the focus of the research you'll be pursuing with this scholarship?**

My research is focused on older adults who have multiple chronic diseases. It's important because we know that chronic diseases often co-occur in older adults. What we're still trying to figure out is how different combinations of diseases interact or "talk to" each other in these patients. Some diseases get along pretty well. Others are downright terrible together and make it really difficult for patients and clinicians to stay on top of their multiple (interacting) treatments.

I think that the interactions between diseases are really key when it comes to figuring out how long patients will live with their disease or how their physical functioning is affected. The goal of my research is to figure out which types of chronic

disease combinations are worse than others and how they affect patient health.

### **Why have you chosen this area?**

On a personal level, I like working with older adults and find geriatric health issues the most challenging and rewarding to address. I also feel a sense of urgency about this research. The number of patients in the health system with multiple chronic diseases is rising dramatically. We need to change the way we do clinical research and fund healthcare to account for the complexity of individuals with more than one health condition. I'm excited about my work because I think it's a critical first step in informing these changes.

### **What can the health system learn from this data?**

My research will provide a means to identify which patients have the most troublesome (high risk) combinations of conditions, and which ones are more likely to fair well with less intense health service use. This type of information is needed as the health care system restructures to meet the needs of older adults with multiple chronic diseases.

### **How will you conduct this study?**

Every time an OHIP card is swiped, the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences de-identifies the data and stores it in high-security files that scientists like me can then access to

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do research. I'll be combining this statistical data with clinical insights from physicians who care for older adults.

**What was your initial reaction when you heard that you had received a Vanier scholarship?**

I did a (silent, office-appropriate) happy dance and called every member of my immediate family. Then I started writing thank you notes. There were students in IHPME and the MD/PhD program who had won the Vanier in the past and really invested time in helping me put my best foot forward for the application. I haven't

met a Vanier Scholar that I don't really admire, so I'm thrilled to be in such good company and grateful that past winners helped me to get here.

**What plans do you have for the future?**

After completing my PhD thesis, I will resume my medical training, and hope to specialize in internal medicine and geriatric care. My goal is to work as a clinician scientist and continue doing research in older adults.

# IHPME LAUNCHES BRAND TO CULTIVATE INTELLECTUAL EXCHANGE IN HEALTHCARE

University of Toronto's Institute for Health Policy, Management and Evaluation announces the launch of [www.ihpme.utoronto.ca](http://www.ihpme.utoronto.ca) as flagship for its new brand, one that carries the full energy and humanity of the Institute. An eight-month collaboration between IHPME and communications strategy and design partners Strategy Happens and SOCO Creative, the project increases the Institute's relevance and accessibility for its many communities.

# CONGRAT- ULATIONS

**Aviv Shachak**

Is now an Associate Professor at both IHPME and the Faculty of Information.

**Pamela Valentino**

Successfully defended her MSc Theses, The Spectrum of Hepatic Involvement in Pediatric IBD: An Analysis of the Development of Abnormal Liver Enzymes and Associated Clinical Variables

# PUBLISHED WORKS

**The Faculty of Medicine**

Published an article about clinical epidemiology student Andrew Beckett: <http://medicine.utoronto.ca/news/answers-abroad-chat-military-surgeon-andrew-beckett>.

**Terrence Sullivan and Adalsteinn Brown**

Published "Inching towards accountability for quality: Early days for the Excellent Care for All Act", Healthcare Management Forum, Vol. 27, No. 2. Original Articles: Page 56. Article available at <http://www.healthcaremanagementforum.org> (Subscription/purchase required)

# 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](mailto:rhonda.cockerill@utoronto.ca) and [ihpme@utoronto.ca](mailto:ihpme@utoronto.ca)



# EVENTS

## IHPME Seminar Series 2014-15: Child Health and Social Policy

Co-hosted between IHPME, Department of Paediatrics (DoP), University of Toronto, and the SickKids Research Institute (RI) Wednesdays at 12:00pm to 1:00pm

**October 1, 2014**

“Challenges and Opportunities in Child Health and Social Policy”

### Speaker Panel:

**Dr. Terry Sullivan, PhD**, Professor and Senior Fellow, IHPME & Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto

**Dr. Denis Daneman, MB, BCh, DSc (Med)**, Chair of Paediatrics, University of Toronto Paediatrician-in-Chief, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto

**Dr. Janet Rossant, PhD, FRS, FRSC**, Senior Scientist and Chief of Research, SickKids Research Institute, Toronto

**Nancy Kennedy, MA**, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health System Strategy and Policy, Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC)

### Facilitators:

**Fiona A. Miller**, IHPME; **Astrid Guttmann**, ICES, IHPME, SickKids

### Location:

Room 1248-1250,  
Black Wing, The Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids),  
555 University Avenue, Toronto, ON M5G 1X8

## GSU Scholarly Activity (Lunch & Learn) with Dr. Andreas Laupacis from Healthy Debate

**Monday, October 30, 2014**

from 12:00pm - 1:00pm in HSB, Room 412

## IHPME and its Alumni Society Present THE MOONSHOT EVENT with Health Quality Ontario

**November 20, 2014**

Join us as we celebrate the impact of our past and present communities on transforming the next generation.

**Keynote Announced! Stephen M. Shortell PhD, MPH, MBA**, Professor and former Dean, University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health will update guests on the current status and implications of achieving more effective health services.

### Location:

Steam Whistle Brewing, 255 Bremner Blvd, Toronto

### More Information:

<http://ihpme.utoronto.ca/events/test-nn-ihpmehqo-the-moonshot-event/>

## IHPME Annual Holiday Party

**December 4, 2014**

at 5:00PM

Hosted in the Music Room at Hart House

## Panel: Accountability in the healthcare sector

International Research Society for Public Management Conference in Birmingham, UK

**March/April 2015**

<http://www.irspm2015.com>

Chaired by Drs. Grueb (IHPME Postdoctoral Fellow, 2007), Martin and Klinger

Call for papers, deadline October 15, 2014

## Health Quality Transformation 2014

Canada's largest annual conference on quality in health care, [Health Quality Transformation 2014](#), takes place November 20, 2014 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. The conference is an opportunity for health system providers, leaders, and users to exchange ideas, learn from proven successes and contribute to the transformation of Ontario's health system.

This year's conference will feature many IHPME faculty and alumni, including Professor Ross Baker and Dr. Joshua Tepper, who will kick off the event. [Health Quality Transformation 2014](#) and the [IHPME Moonshot Event](#) are occurring on the same day this year, and both will be excellent opportunities to network and get the latest news in health system improvement.

To learn more, contact [Health Quality Ontario](#) or visit the [Health Quality Transformation 2014 website](#).

