

IHPME CONNECT 10.2014

HEALTH INFORMATICS

AVIV SHACHAK'S PASSION FOR LEARNING HELPS APPLY KNOWLEDGE IN HEALTH CARE

It's been said that the journey is more important than the destination. While that may be true, Aviv Shachak's circuitous route to health informatics led him to an ideal setting: IHPME. His passion for active learning is engaging students, and his expertise in applying information technology is helping clinicians improve care for patients.

He began his academic career in biology. Undergraduate study in life sciences at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, in Israel, led to a M.Sc. in Horticulture at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. Like many graduates, he then had decisions to make. "I had the opportunity to join a research team and pursue further studies in the life sciences, but at the time, I could not see myself working four more years in a lab," says Aviv.

For several years, Aviv taught high school science, which sparked a curiosity about learning and how information is applied. "I saw a gap in the way information was used in the classroom, versus how it is generated and used in research. I began working on new tools for science education."



CONNECTNEWSLETTER

To hone his knowledge, he obtained a Ph.D. in Information Science at Bar-Ilan University in 2005. He then pursued post-doctoral work in medical Informatics at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology. "A friend who was a nurse introduced me to health informatics and that led to my current interests. It was not a straight line. What attracted me to health informatics is the way it encompasses more than just technical aspects of information, but also social aspects and human aspects and the effective application of information and information technology."

Aviv now applies his knowledge towards maximizing the benefits of using technology and information systems to improve patient safety and patient-centered care, and make health care more accessible. The growth of electronic health records, in particular, is fueling demand for health informatics expertise. He highlights that while the benefits of information and communication technology in health care are significant, especially in mobile health applications, telehealth, and decision support, there are important challenges to address. "The ability of clinicians to interact with this technology varies, depending on their background. Some physicians are very adept, others are not so comfortable with technology. In either case, it is possible for new types of types of errors to be created," says Aviv.

Technology also impacts the doctor-patient relationship. "Some physicians find it hard to divide attention between the patient and the computer monitor. This can reduce eye contact, rapport and emotional communication with the patient."

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To address some of the challenges, he is piloting a new tool in partnership with Sunnybrook Family Health Team. It guides resident physicians by presenting them with decision options while interacting with a virtual patient and reviewing the patient's information; for example, providing options to review information before the patient enters the room or after. "Computers have great potential as a tool in patient education. Health informatics combines human performance with technological performance to realize the greatest benefit for patients," says Aviv.

A CONNECTED COMMUNITY

LINKEDIN SUPPORTING DEEPER IHPME ENGAGEMENT

Last winter, when the Society of Graduates (SOG) reviewed IHPME's existing alumni database, it was clear right away that it was not capturing the full breadth, reach and impact of the IHPME community. Though the Institute prides itself on the achievements of its alumni, the database of about 1,900 entries had employment information for only about 20 per cent of the people listed.

"The positive side was that we saw names dating back to the 1970s, but we were clearly not keeping up with a large number of graduates as they built careers. Social media, particularly LinkedIn, provides an opportunity to better understand and define the Institute's alumni asset," says Aleem Bhanji MHS, who is a Project Manager, Health System Integration for Complex Populations and Primary Care at Toronto Central Community Care Access Centre.

Last May, working with IHPME staff, the SOG put a greater focus on their LinkedIn group, and invited more people to participate. Membership doubled over the summer to 800 people, and will likely surpass the current alumni list later this year. "This is about improving engagement to improve understanding of the leadership strength and impact of IHPME alumni. The platform just didn't exist before to be able to do that," says Aleem.

Though the SOG had established LinkedIn forums before, this renewed effort targeted all community IHPME members. Director Adalsteinn Brown, SOG President Jodeme Goldhar and Graduate Student Union President Nelson Shen co-signed a letter inviting all IHPME faculty, students, graduates and friends of the Institute to join.

The LinkedIn group is one part of a sustained effort to encourage alumni to contribute to the Institute's vision and goals. "Building

His passion for learning extends, of course, to his own classroom. Aviv uses unconventional teaching styles to make classes more active. One concept, known as a "flipped class", sees passive learning – the lectures – done at home, while active learning -- case studies, role plays, or debates -- are done in class. His students also create "Wikis" on an assigned topic. Each student then edits and comments on the wikis created by classmates. "The methods come from my understanding of learning. Good learning requires interaction."



Aleem Bhanji

a greater sense of affiliation, engagement and community among alumni, and between alumni and the Institute, enhances the SOG's contribution to the single strategy and single vision of IHPME's five-year strategic plan," says Jodeme. "This could also be a forum for improving linkages between research and practice and enhancing student learning opportunities."

Everyone is welcome to use the LinkedIn forum to promote lectures and events, celebrate success stories, share job opportunities, and exchange ideas. "Everyone has a LinkedIn profile. We hope everyone in the IHPME community will embrace the improved communication and join the conversation," says Aleem.

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



IHPME CO-HOSTS INTER- NATIONAL MEETING TO ADDRESS DEMENTIA

On September 15, 2014, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) held a workshop in partnership with the Ontario Brain Institute and IHPME to discuss the value of big data in dementia research. The meeting brought together over 50 leading researchers, medical doctors, policy makers, analytics experts, and patient advocates.

“The data generated by research studies on dementia can be combined with the data already contained in health records to improve care for people living with dementia. When the deep insights derived from these data are linked to policy and practice questions, we can ensure that people with dementia get the best care and that our health system is best organized to support them and their caregivers,” said IHPME Director Adalsteinn Brown in addressing the meeting.

CONGRAT- ULATIONS

Professor Kathleen Pritchard

Is one of 19 U of T scholars who were ranked among the top scientific researchers of the world, according to Thomson Reuters. Through her role as senior scientist at Sunnybrook Research Institute, Pritchard has aimed to advance research in the detection, prediction and treatment of breast cancer.

Yvonne Bombard

Received a CIHR new investigator award. The awards provide outstanding new investigators with the opportunity to develop and demonstrate their independence in initiating and conducting health research through provision of a contribution to their salary.

Jodeme Goldhar

has been named one of the Canadian Women Changing Healthcare by Patient Commando. Patient Commando creates social impact by providing a platform that amplifies the patient voice. The awards recognizes the achievements of female visionaries who are leaders in the transformation of healthcare.

THESIS DEFENSES

MSc:

Ruby Redmond-Misner – *The Role of Primary Cancer Diagnosis in Determining Cost and Caregiver Burden of Palliative Home Care*

Andrew Lustig – *The PREVENT Study: Psychiatric Reporting to Ease Vehicular Events Near Traffic*

Emily Pearsall – *An Exploration of the Role of Persons who Influence the Uptake of Evidence in Nursing Practice*

Dima Saab – *Hospital Readmissions among Patient who are Homeless in Toronto*

Stephanie Hylmar – *Exploring characteristics of networks that enable knowledge transfer and exchange (KTe): a mixed methods study*

Gayatheri Naganathan – *The Core Features and Perceived Value of Family Support for Ethnoracial Homeless Individuals with Mental Illness: findings from the At Home/Chez Soi Project*

PhD Final Oral Examination:

Josephine Jacobs – *The Impact of Caregiving Intensity of Labour Market Outcomes*

Myla Moretti – *A Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Maternal Genotyping to Guide Treatment for Postpartum Pain and Avert Infant Adverse Events*

Anna Ballon-Kaushansky – *“Entre-Partnering”: A Case of Privately Funded Health Care in Publicly Funded Ontario Hospitals*

Ba Pham – *“Cost-effectiveness of Pressure Ulcer Prevention and Calibration Analysis”*

Ruth Sapir-Pichhadze – *Antibody-Mediated Injury and Kidney Transplantation*



EVENTS

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

Monday, October 20, 2014

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

GSU Scholarly Activity with Michael Hillmer from MOHLTC

Thursday, October 23, 2014

from 12:00pm - 1:00pm in HSB, Room 208

Pan-Canadian Health Human Resources Network Webinar

The Role of Organizational Context in the Delivery of Care

October 28, 2014

from 1:00 – 2:00 pm, EST

Advisors: Dr. Jenna Evans, Agnes Grudneiwicz

For information: www.chnet-works.ca

The Moonshot Event REGISTER NOW

November 20, 2014

Join IHPME, its Alumni Society and Health Quality Ontario as we celebrate the impact of our past and present communities on transforming the next generation.

Keynote speaker **Stephen M. Shortell PhD, MPH, MBA**, a leading thinker on health system transformation in the US, and a professor and former Dean of the University of California's Berkeley School of Public Health will share his insights on achieving more effective health services and the major implications of change.

Registration Now Open! The date is fast approaching. [Get your tickets](#) before this exciting evening event sells out. For more details visit: <http://ihpme.utoronto.ca/events/the-moonshot-event/>

Location:

Steam Whistle Brewing, 255 Bremner Blvd, Toronto

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.

PUBLISHED WORKS

Joe Cafazzo

The Consumer Health Gap: Are We innovating for the Future, or Simply Addressing the Past?

<http://www.longwoods.com/content/23869>

Adalsteinn Brown

Consumer E-health Solutions: The Cure for Baumol's Disease?

<http://www.longwoods.com/content/23872>

Shirlee Sharkey

All Aboard! <http://www.longwoods.com/content/23864>

Michael McCartney, MSc 1985

Has recently published *"Taming the Tiger"*, a book on spiritual health and meditation. Michael has extensive training in Vajrayana Buddhism and writes from the perspective of a health scientist and meditation practitioner, www.amazon.ca/Taming-Reuniting-Spirit-Michael-McCartney/dp/0968334156

A J Culyer

"Four issues with cost-effectiveness analysis: a view from the side-lines". In *Health Technology Assessment and Health Policy Today: A Multifaceted View of Their Unstable Crossroads*, Madrid: Springer, 2014, 1-18.

M Paulden, James F O'Mahony, A J Culyer, C McCabe.

"Some inconsistencies in NICE's consideration of social values" *PharmacoEconomics*, 2014, DOI 10.1007/s40273-014-0204-4.

Irfan Dhalla

Published, *Effect of a Postdischarge Virtual Ward on Readmission or Death for High-Risk Patients* in the October 2014 issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Article available here: <http://jama.jamanetwork.com/article.aspx?articleid=1910109&resultClick=3>

