

IHPME CONNECT 11.2014

SUCCESSFUL EVALUATION

JOINT POSITION BRINGS RESEARCH TALENT TO BOTH IHPME AND CCAC

You may be seeing a lot of Maritt Kirst commuting by foot along University Avenue. The IHPME professor will keep up a busy schedule as she undertakes a joint position with the Institute and with the Toronto Central Community Care Access Centre, which is located a short walk south of IHPME. The partnership brings her talent for conducting large-scale program evaluation to Ontario's home care sector, while making her ideas and experience available to students and faculty.

At Toronto Central CCAC, she will work with program staff to evaluate integrated healthcare programs for medically complex patients. It's a field that's attracting increased attention as health providers and the provincial government seek to reduce service fragmentation and manage costs while delivering high-quality universal care. In Ontario one percent of people with complex needs account for 30 per cent of the overall health system costs, and five per cent account for 60 per cent (ICES 2010).

"Team members caring for medically complex patients often find communication a challenge, especially when they are not all working in the same organization. There can be duplication



in procedures. More importantly, clients receiving care from various providers may have trouble in effectively communicating what they need," says Maritt. "My work at Toronto Central CCAC will also focus on synthesizing existing knowledge around the integrated care approach and translating that knowledge back into the organization so we can then build on it."

Maritt's research career has consistently focused on helping vulnerable people find pathways towards improved wellbeing. And each of her roles continually enhanced her exposure to and interest in evaluation.

After obtaining a PhD in sociology with a focus on addictions research, Maritt received postdoctoral training and then worked as a research scientist at the Centre for Research on Inner City Health at St. Michael's Hospital. These experiences supported a strong interest in research on the social determinants of health, and health equity as well as training in program evaluation of complex health interventions.

For example, she was a Co-Investigator and led the qualitative evaluation component of the At Home/Chez Soi randomized controlled trial in Toronto. This trial assessed the effectiveness of the "Housing First" approach which addressed homelessness in individuals with serious mental health issues. "Housing First" puts an emphasis on providing safe, stable housing, without the requirement of sobriety or treatment, as the foundation for people to begin addressing their challenges and move towards recovery. The multi-site At Home/Chez Soi project has resulted in positive findings, and the Ontario government has provided continued investment

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RENEWING PARTNER-SHIPS TO STRENGTHEN CIRCUMPOLAR HEALTH SYSTEMS

On a recent trip to Yellowknife, Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation Director Adalsteinn Brown took his capacity building role very seriously.

The Dalla Lana School of Public Health is closely partnered with the Institute for Circumpolar Health Research and Professor Brown visited the Institute September 17 to 19 to contribute to its vision and mission renewal.

“The Institute is an important northern research hub for the University and we’ve enjoyed many years of collaboration,” said Professor Brown, also Chair of Public Health Policy at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation’s new home faculty.

“As we usher in an age of health system evolution that is deeply affected by the changing environment — both physical and political — it’s crucial that we strengthen our partnerships in the north and consider new research avenues that support Canadian health system improvement,” Brown continued.

Established in 2005, the Institute for Circumpolar Research (ICHR) brings people, facilities, and resources to bear on health-related research in the Northwest Territories and addresses health and wellness issues throughout the region’s communities and the broader circumpolar world.

Susan Chatwood, founding Scientific and Executive Director of ICHR, is working with Professor Brown to adopt health systems performance and measurement to a northern context. With approximately 60 per cent of the Northwest Territories covered by one electronic patient record — more than any of the Canadian provinces — there is tremendous opportunity to harness technology and reduce disparities in access and outcomes between northern and southern Canada.

“The first step in health service transformation is building research capacity and keeping an open dialogue with policy makers,” said Chatwood, who is also an Assistant Professor of Social and Behavioural Health Sciences.



Adalsteinn Brown

“With leadership support from health systems and public health experts across the University, we are partnering with local governments to transform health systems and outcomes across the north and conduct comparisons across the eight arctic states,” Chatwood continued.

Chatwood says there is a need to avoid falling into narrow paradigm of what “health systems” mean because of people’s connection to the land. She works with multiple disciplines using cross sector approaches that include wildlife management, education, justice, and architecture perspectives among others.

“The land as we know it is changing and it’s leaving us vulnerable to a host of public health and health systems challenges,” said Chatwood, noting that climate change has affected ice stability, weather patterns, causing bridges to collapse and complete community isolation. Emergency measures and systems responsiveness is a high priority for systems improvements and research in northern communities.

Since 2005, ICHR has supported 11 U of T students in research projects that examine health systems, emergency response and suicide prevention in the context of northern communities. ICHR is closely linked with circumpolar centres in Alaska, Greenland, Sweden and Norway, and works to build collaborations that promote program comparisons between countries to see what gaps need to be addressed.

“Recognizing the diversity of knowledge systems within academic and Indigenous communities is crucial to fill these gaps. Public health professionals have a huge role to play in supporting harmonized approaches to a healthy community.”

On October 27, Chatwood and her colleagues will be in Toronto for Transatlantic Science Week, an event that will explore the role of research and international affairs, human rights issues and ensuring the right to self-determination in circumpolar community.



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in the model through its newly released Poverty Reduction Strategy.

Maritt has also co-led the Population Research Initiative in Mental Health and Addictions in the Ontario Tobacco Research Unit of the Dalla Lana School of Public Health. "A focus of my work was on the evaluation of Smoke-Free Ontario strategy programs for youth tobacco prevention and conducting research on co-occurring tobacco use, other substance use and mental health problems. It was an opportunity to further build my experience in large-scale evaluation of complex public health interventions."

Her current position with Toronto Central CCAC is aimed at

DALLA LANA SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH PRESENTS GLOBAL HEALTH SUMMIT

You may already know that scholars across the University are participating in a Global Health Summit, [Creating a Pandemic of Health](#), from November 3-5. The Dalla Lana School of Public Health is hosting the Summit, which aims to shift the emphasis in health care away from the traditional focus on disease and towards a concentration on health.

To create excitement leading up to the Summit, U of T News will be featuring one story per week from September 22 to November 3 about global health activities across the University, featuring faculty members in Medicine, Pharmacy, Nursing, Arts and Science (Munk School of Global Affairs), Rotman and the Daniels Faculty of Architecture.

IHPME Faculty [Onil Bhattacharyya](#) and [Jennifer Gibson](#)'s stories are featured on the DLSPH site; check them out here: <http://www.dlsph.utoronto.ca/page/making-prevention-priority> & <http://www.dlsph.utoronto.ca/page/global-health-summit-addresses-effects-power-politics-and-privilege>

ultimately providing a broader evaluation framework for integrated care in Ontario. The joint position will open new avenues for the IHPME community to be engaged in this work as Maritt has plans to provide training opportunities for students, as well as build research partnerships with faculty.

"Through my research and teaching I also want to bring a focus to realist evaluation, which is an approach that examines not just whether an intervention works, but how and why, and in what contexts. What mechanisms drive the program? Are there settings and other environmental factors that contribute to success or failure? Would the program work in another setting? Effective evaluation illuminates some of these unknowns."

CONGRATULATIONS

At the Moonshot Event, we are pleased to be honouring the 2014 Award Recipients of Society of Graduates (SOG) Leadership, Innovation and Literary Awards. Congratulations Madelyn Law for winning the Leadership Award, Sid Stacey for winning the Innovative Leadership Award, and Christopher Klinger and Moriah Ellen for each winning the Literary Award! [See their bios on the IHPME website.](#)

Chamila Adhihetty, PhD Candidate, is a recipient of an educational grant (\$3000 US) from the International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions (IAIABC). [About the IAIABC.](#)

Announcing the 2015 CANADIAN MEDICAL HALL OF FAME Inductees, including health systems leader Dr. Duncan G. Sinclair DVM, PhD, FRCPS (hon) Kingston, ON: [Bios and Photos available here.](#)

Congratulations to IHPME's [Tony Culyer](#): Announcing Tony as the **University of the Witwatersrand Wits Distinguished Visiting Scholar 2015** & as the **2015 Hall Laureate (Award) from the Justice Emmett Hall Memorial Foundation**, where you will deliver your lectureship during the 2015 Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research (CAHSPR) conference.

Tom Closson, IHPME adjunct faculty, makes keynote address and is honoured by the Ontario Society of Professional Engineers at the Centre for Global eHealth Innovation, TGH event: http://ospe.site-ym.com/events/event_details.asp?id=499132&group



GRANT PROMOTION

The 2014 SIM-one/IDEAS/CPSI Simulation for Safety & Quality Improvement Grant Program focused on simulation-based QI projects in Ontario hospitals and other healthcare delivery agencies is now open. The application deadline is November 28, 2014. <http://www.sim-one.ca/rd/simone-grant>

IHPME PROMOTIONS

Liane Ginsburg ~ *Status-Only*

Toni Zhong ~ *Status-Only*

Stephen Peckham ~ *Status-Only*

Mike Saks ~ *Visiting Professor*

PUBLICATIONS

Raisa Deber, et. al.

Special Issue Journal 08/10/2014 in Healthcare Policy, Volume 10 Special Issue: *Approaches to Accountability*. Longwoods Publishing. <http://www.longwoods.com/publications/healthcare-policy/23848>

Andrea C Bishop, G Ross Baker, Todd A Boyle, Neil J MacKinnon

Using the Health Belief Model to explain patient involvement in patient safety. Health expectations: an international journal of public participation in health care and health policy 10/2014

Karen Born, Sophia Ikura, Andreas Laupacis

Journal of Health Services & Policy Research. <http://hsr.sagepub.com/content/early/2014/09/08/1355819614546960.full.pdf+html>

Whitney Berta, Audrey Laporte, Walter P Wodchis

Approaches to Accountability in Long-Term Care. Pub Med 09/2014 10(SP):132-144

Carolyn Steele Gray, Whitney Berta, Raisa B Deber, Janet Lum

Home and Community Care Sector Accountability. Pub Med 09/2014 10(SP):56-66

Whitney Berta, Tazim Virani, Irmajean Bajnok, Nancy Edwards, Margo Rowan

Understanding whole systems change in health care: insights into system level diffusion from nursing service delivery innovations – a multiple case study. Evidence & Policy A Journal of Research Debate and Practice 08/2014 10(3)

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was quoted in the Educational Gerontology publication, "Why Give Up Something That Works So Well?": Retirement Expectations Among Academic Physicians: <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/03601277.2014.970419#>.

Juliet Rumball-Smith, Walter P Wodchis, Anna Koné, Tim Kenealy, Jan Barnsley & Toni Ashton

CIHR Team Grant. *Under the same roof: co-location of practitioners within primary care is associated with specialized chronic care management* <http://www.biomedcentral.com/1471-2296/15/149>

Anna Durbin

Use of mental health care for nonpsychotic conditions by immigrants in different admission classes and by refugees in Ontario, Canada. Open Medicine: A peer-reviewed, independent, open-access journal 28/10/2014



EVENTS

The Moonshot Event

November 20, 2014

Recharge & connect with IHPME alumni, faculty, students and thought leaders for a magnificent evening of tapas, drinks, awards and appreciation.

REGISTER NOW: <http://my.alumni.utoronto.ca/ihpme-moonshot>

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.

Location:

Steam Whistle Brewing, 255 Bremner Blvd, Toronto

Global Health Equity & Innovation Summit: Creating a Pandemic of Health

November 3 – 5, 2014

Presented by the Dalla Lana School of Public Health.

For more details please visit:
<https://pandemicofhealth.ca/>

Fall Workshop on Big Data for Health Policy

November 5 – 6, 2014

The second installment of the oversubscribed 2-Day Big Data Workshop, hosted at The Fields Institute. Generous Sponsorship by the Institute of Health Policy, Management & Evaluation (IHPME) and by SAS.

Prospective Students & Applicants to MHSc, Information Webinar Session 1

November 11, 2014

5:30pm

For more details please visit:
<http://ihpme.utoronto.ca/events/mhsc-information-webinar-1/>

Research Ethics in the Health Sciences Info Session 2014-2015

November 18 – 20, 2014

For more details please visit:
<http://ihpme.utoronto.ca/events/research-ethics-in-the-health-sciences-info-session-2014-2015/>

Health Quality Transformation 2014

November 20, 2014

Health Quality Transformation is Canada's largest annual conference on quality in health care. 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.

Location:

Metro Toronto Convention Centre

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

