

IHPME CONNECT 02.2015

A CLEAR VIEW

CLINICAL EPIDEMIOLOGY ILLUMINATES EVIDENCE

Clinical epidemiology relies on investigation, accuracy and evidence, often in the midst of unfolding events. So, it's not surprising that Rob Fowler's career in this field has had its unexpected moments. None more so than recently, when the IHPME professor and Sunnybrook Hospital physician left on short notice to join in the global effort to understand and contain the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

This is not the first time a crisis has impacted his life and career plans. In fact, it was another infectious disease crisis that heavily influenced his path. "I arrived in Toronto from California in 2002 with a firm idea of the work I would pursue, then SARS hit and I found myself in the midst of it, which derailed those plans but set me on a new and challenging course," says Rob. "Later, H1N1 arose in Mexico, and friends and colleagues there, who knew I had experience with SARS, asked for advice."

His relationship with IHPME did, however, unfold more predictably. He connected with the Institute soon after arriving in Toronto. "IHPME has an excellent reputation in Canada, and the University of Toronto community has a global reputation in clinical epidemiology investigative skills. I'm very excited to pursue academic work and to engage students in what I believe is an essential skill for clinicians and health administrators – evidence-based decision making."

Rob is a clinical care physician at Sunnybrook, whose academic focus is on the epidemiological outcomes of critical illness. "I focus on very sick people and the combinations of problems they encounter."



This year, he took a sabbatical, traveling to Geneva to work for the World Health Organization on pandemic preparation. Once again, fate intervened when the Ebola outbreak occurred about seven months later. "My work involved examining Ebola programs of care, describing it for people in other countries, determining associations in patient factors and disease factors. It's important to identify and understand, as much as possible, how to strengthen care and improve clinical outcomes before the outbreak is over." He recently built on this work when asked to join the effort in November 2014.

While the human tragedy of Ebola has made international news, Rob points out that the investigative skills used in fighting such an outbreak can also have an impact on the everyday practice of medicine. It's a skill he sees growing in demand, not just to address infectious diseases, but to improve the health system itself. "In medicine, we see unproven therapies and descriptions of clinical therapies that are not evidence-based. We shouldn't be introducing new things into practice without evidence or with a low grade of justification," says Rob. "Hundreds of years of medical practice, repeating therapies and surgeries and treatments that are not effective, will be repeated unless, in 2015 and beyond, we embed and reinforce these skills in clinicians."

His teaching focus aims to equip IHPME students with skills to validate patient treatments so that clinical care is provided in a responsible and cost-effective way. "Whatever role graduates choose in the health system, it is an essential skill today. It is an uncommon skill set, but Toronto is rich in clinical epidemiology ability so there's a real opportunity for our health system leaders of tomorrow to stand out in the world."



IHPME FACULTY AND RESEARCHERS FEATURED PROMINENTLY IN HEALTHCARE QUARTERLY

Williams A P, Peckham A, Watkins J, Warrick N,
Tam T, Rudoler D & Spalding K

"Caring for Caregivers: Facing up to Tough Challenges",
[Healthcare Quarterly Vol. 17 No. 3 2014](#)

Warrick N, Peckham A, Watkins J, Padjen M &
Williams A P

"Caring for Caregivers of High-Needs Older Persons",
[Healthcare Quarterly Vol. 17 No. 3 2014](#)

Lemieux-Charles L & Greengarten M

*"Performance Management Systems and the Reality of Canadian
Healthcare Organizations - From Industrial to Learning Models"*,
[Healthcare Quarterly Vol. 17 No. 3 2014](#)

Peckham A, Spalding K, Watkins J, Bruce-Barrett C,
Grasic M & Williams A P

"Caring for Caregivers of High-Needs Children", [Healthcare
Quarterly Vol. 17 No. 3 2014](#)

Adalsteinn Brown

*"The Challenge of Quality Improvement at the System Level.
Whither CCO?"*, [Healthcare Quarterly Vol. 17 No. 3 2014](#)

Terrence Sullivan

*"Improving Quality and Performance in Ontario's Cancer
Services: Lessons for Constructing a Learning Healthcare
System"*, [Healthcare Quarterly Vol. 17 No. 3 2014](#)

Jenna M Evans, et al.

*"Integrating Cancer Care Beyond the Hospital and Across the
Cancer Pathway: A Patient-Centred Approach"*, [Healthcare
Quarterly Vol. 17 No. 3 2014](#)

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

2015-2016 Collaborative Program in Public Health Policy

Become a part of a dynamic training and research
community in Public Health Policy!

Engage with academic mentors, students and policymakers in
governmental and non-governmental public health agencies to
learn about real-world policy issues and public health policy
agenda setting, and enhance the professional skills required to
succeed in your profession.

Any student who has been accepted into a graduate-level
program at the University of Toronto may apply. The application
deadline is Friday, March 20th, 2015 at 4:00 pm.

For application forms and more information about the program,
please visit our website at www.publichealthpolicy.utoronto.ca, or
send your information request to publichealthpolicy@utoronto.ca.

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



PUBLICATIONS

Baker-Norton

IHPME's Dr. Ross Baker, and Peter Norton (U of Calgary), were featured in the National Post for their widely accepted 2004 study on the prevalence and preventability of medical error in Canada. See the full story here: <http://news.nationalpost.com/2015/01/16/inside-canadas-secret-world-of-medical-errors-there-is-a-lot-of-lying-theres-a-lot-of-cover-up/>

Biswas A, Oh P I, Faulkner G E, Bajaj R R, Silver M A, Mitchell M S, & Alter D A

"Sedentary Time and Its Association With Risk for Disease Incidence, Mortality, and Hospitalization in Adults: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis". Ann Intern Med. 2015;162(2):123-132. doi:10.7326/M14-1651

Goldhar J, Daub S, Dhalla I, Ellison P, Purbhoo D & Sinha S K

"Integrated Client Care for Frail Older Adults in the Community: Preliminary Report on a System-Wide Approach", HQ Vol. 17 No. 3 2014

Lindsay P, Furie K L, Davis S M, Donnan G A, & Norrving B

World Stroke Organization Global Stroke Services Guidelines and Action Plan. International Journal of Stroke, 2014; 9 (October); 4-13.

O'Brien K K, Ibáñez-Carrasco F, Solomon P, Harding R, Cattaneo J, Chegwidan W

"Advancing research and practice in HIV and rehabilitation: a framework of research priorities in HIV, Disability and Rehabilitation". BMC Infectious Diseases 12/2014 14(1):3851.

Dr. Rob Fowler

IHPME's new Associate Director of the CEHCR Program is featured in the New York Times for his work with IV Therapy in treating Ebola victims: <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/02/health/ebola-doctors-are-divided-on-iv-therapy-in-africa.html>

Michelle Pannor Silver

"Patient Perspectives on Online Health Information and Communication With Doctors: A Qualitative Study of Patients 50 Years Old and Over. Journal of Medical Internet Research", 2015;17(1):e19. http://www.jmir.org/2015/1/e19/

GRANT

Armstrong KA & McCabe S with Von Schroeder H, Baxter N and Zhong T

"Distal Radius Fracture Care in the Province of Ontario: Factors Impacting Management" ", Physician Services' Incorporated, \$18,500: 2015-2016.

AWARDS

Connie Clerici

Congratulations Connie Clerici, President and CEO, Closing the Gap Healthcare Group, for being a Top 25 Women of Influence. Winter 2014. www.womenofinfluence.ca

WELCOME

Professor Greg Marchildon

IHPME is pleased to announce that [Professor Greg Marchildon](#) has accepted a position with IHPME as a Professor of Health Policy and as our nominee for the Ontario Research Chair in Health Policy and System Design.

AN INVITATION

Attention IHPME Faculty and Students, you are invited to join the Public Health Learning and On-Line Education e-Bulletin listserv. The bulletin, distributed by the Public Health Agency of Canada, attempts to share public information relating to public health learning and on-line education. To sign-up, email andre.LaPrairie@phac-aspc.gc.ca



THESIS DEFENSES

PhD:

Andrea Covelli – *“Choosing Mastectomy: A Qualitative Exploration of the Increasing Mastectomy Rates in Women with Early-Stage Breast Cancer”*

Elinor Simons – *“The Timing of Modifiable Environmental Exposures During Childhood Affects the Age of Asthma Development”*

Constance Williams – *“Practical Virtues: an Evidence-based Ethical Framework for Approaching End-of-Life Care in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit”*

Debra Zelisko – *“Managing Conflicts of Interest in Health Care: The Roles of Professionalism & Regulatory Colleges”*

Renata Axler – *“Commercialization, Collaboration and Conflict of Interest: An Institutional Work Analysis of Academic Entrepreneurship in Canada”*

MSc:

Debbie Li – *“A population-based analysis of the clinical course of colonic diverticulitis and its evolving management”*

Ahmad Elnahas – *“The Impact of the Ontario Bariatric Network on Health Services Utilization following Bariatric Surgery”*

Joanne Ho – *“Adverse Cardiac Events Among Older Ontario Patients on Venlafaxine: A Population-based Study”*

Dolly Han – *“Real-World Cost-Effectiveness Analysis of Second-Line Pemetrexed Versus Docetaxel in the ON Non-Small-Cell Lung Cancer Population”*

Anita Benoit – *“The Relationship between Stress, Depression and Antiretroviral Therapy Adherence among Women Living with HIV in Toronto, ON”*

EVENTS

IHPME Annual Research Day 2015!

It's that time of year again, as the IHPME-GSU Planning Committee gears up for the student-led Research Day, hosted at HSB on **May 6, 2015**.

Check our website for continued updates: <http://ihpme.utoronto.ca/events/ihpme-annual-research-day-2015/>

This year's Research Day theme is EQUITY. The IHPME-GSU Planning Committee presents: “Advancing Health Equity: Action for Research, Policy and Practice”.

Lisa Simpson, MB, BCh, MPH, FAAP, President & CEO of AcademyHealth, Washington, D.C. is Research Day 2015 Keynote Speaker!

Health Services Research and Policy Case Competition

Supported by IHPME and HSPRN, hosted by The Student Chapter of AcademyHealth@University of Toronto

February 10, 2015

Cost: \$20 registration per student. Registration is open. Thousands of dollars in prizes!

Details found here: <http://ihpme.utoronto.ca/events/health-services-and-policy-case-competition/>

CADTH Lecture Series on Health Technology Assessment

February 10, 2015

1:00pm to 2:30pm

CADTH is hosting a series of lectures by prominent scholars and opinion leaders to share their perspective on some of the most pressing issues facing health technology assessment (HTA) and health care today. Title: Judging the Gift from the Box: Reflections on the Power and Significance of Bernie O'Brien's “Power and Significance”.

Location: 2nd Floor Council Chambers, 865 Carling Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario

Please sign-up here: <http://ihpme.utoronto.ca/events/cadth-lecture-series/>



PRESENTING Health Leadership Series – IHPME and Dr. Peter Donnelly host “Violence: A critical focus for public health policy”

February 12, 2015

5:00pm to 8:00pm

IHPME is bringing together healthcare leaders and policymakers in a new Health Leadership Series. The Series' Inaugural lecturer Dr. Peter Donnelly, Public Health Ontario's new President & CEO, will provide a local perspective and authoritative voice on violence as a public health policy issue.

Location: Hart House Music Room, 2nd Floor, 7 Hart House Circle, Toronto.

RSVP to ihpme.events@utoronto.ca. Space is limited. Appetizers and drinks will be provided.

Full details: <http://ihpme.utoronto.ca/events/health-leadership-series-peter-donnelly/>

IHPME Seminar Series 2014-15 with Dr. Charles J. Homer

February 18, 2015

12:00pm to 1:00pm

With [Dr. Charles J. Homer, MD, MPH](#), Chief Executive Officer and President, National Institute for Children's Health Quality.

Location: Room 039320, Peter Gilgan Centre for Research and Learning, 686 Bay Street, Toronto

Full details: <http://ihpme.utoronto.ca/events/ihpme-seminar-series-february-18/>

HPME-SOG and CCHL Present - Ideas worth exploring: Lessons for future leaders in Integration.

February 23, 2015

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Featured Speakers: Marian Walsh, CEO, Bridgepoint Active Healthcare; Matthew Anderson, CEO, William Osler Health System; Jennifer Zelmer, Executive VP, Canada Health Infoway;

Michael Sherar, President & CEO, Cancer Care Ontario; Stacey Daub, CEO, Toronto Central CCAC

Location: Bridgepoint Active Health, 14 St. Matthews Road, Toronto, ON

Agenda and registration details found here: <http://ihpme.utoronto.ca/events/ihpme-cchl-gta-chapter-event/>

Mixed Methods Workshop: Debates, Strategies, and Challenges

February 25, 2015

8:30am - 12:30pm

The Health Care, Technology and Place Program (HCTP) and the Centre for Critical Qualitative Health Research ('CQ') are pleased to offer a half-day session on mixed methods research. The session aims to provide an overview of mixed methods in health sciences research including benefits, challenges, and strategies for success in designing and conducting mixed methods health research.

Location: Health Sciences Building, Room 208, 2nd Floor.

Full Details and Mandatory Workshop Preparation Materials: <http://ihpme.utoronto.ca/events/mixed-methods-debates-strategies-and-challenges/>

The Public's Health: A Symposium on Public Health Histories

March 5 - 7, 2015

Includes: Pedagogy Roundtable, Academic Conference & Reception with special addresses by Howard Hu, Dean, Dalla Lana School of Public Health and Peter Donnelly, President & CEO, Public Health Ontario, and a Public Day on Discovering the Public's Health History.

Location: St. George Campus

Full Details and Registration: <http://ihpme.utoronto.ca/events/the-publics-health-symposium/>

