

■ MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Adalsteinn Brown

Our Institute has earned a global reputation for academic excellence and thought-provoking research. Our people produce innovative ideas that make a meaningful difference to strengthening health care systems, and, in the process, help millions of people live healthier lives. So, it's encouraging to see how we've come together and directed this passion for continual improvement towards strengthening the Institute for Health Policy, Management and Evaluation itself.

I want to thank everyone who worked so hard over the past several months to develop the Institute's 2013-2018 strategy. It was especially inspiring — and productive — to gather with over 100 faculty, alumni and students at a retreat last spring.

We entered the retreat with two insightful papers that helped focus the conversation, and we left with a stronger consensus on three shared goals for the Institute:

- Develop a platform for ideas and evidence to improve healthcare and health
- Build partnerships that increase the opportunities for Institute members to achieve the Institute mission
- Strengthen the brand, educational offerings, and support within the Institute.

As a new academic year begins, we're well-positioned to shift from strategic thinking to determined action. In particular, I want to highlight that we'll be moving forward on a communications plan that will raise the Institute's profile and demonstrate our impact to wider audiences.

As we move forward on all the elements of our strategy, we'll continue counting on your ideas, commitment and passion for making the Institute stronger. I especially want to welcome and encourage new students and faculty to help us fulfil our strategic goals and, most important, to fully participate in the life of the Institute so you can build the personal and professional relationships that can inspire and sustain you throughout your career.

Best wishes to everyone on a successful academic year,



Welcome to your newsletter

IHPME Connection will now be published monthly. This newsletter is intended to help build stronger connections and we hope you'll help make it a success.

The Institute is stronger when we engage our entire community, so send information on seminars, social gatherings or other events. We're a community that celebrates success — share with us any important milestones and achievements and IHPME Connection will help get the word out. Your input will help us ensure we're including the information you need

and we look forward to receiving any ideas or suggestions.

Submissions should be received by the second Friday of each month for inclusion in the next month's edition. Please send information and submissions to:

- rhonda.cockerill@utoronto.ca
- krysia.ketelaars@utoronto.ca

p.s. If you know of anyone who needs to be added to the IHPME Connection mailing list, please let us know.

Student Union President Nelson Shen

Nelson Shen knows a thing or two about making new students feel at home. The third year PhD student moved across the country to study at IHPME so he could continue his academic focus on e-health. “When I’d listen to interesting speakers at conferences or be excited about a research paper, they’d often have one thing in common — they were at IHPME”, says Shen. “Once I arrived here, involvement with the student union helped me to make a new home in Toronto. But more than that, I managed to make strong connections professionally, as well as lifelong friends.”

With that experience, he’s committed to enhancing the IHPME experience for more students, and to ensuring engagement continues, even after the academic year gets in full swing. “Once graduate students get deep into their work on research papers, there is a tendency to forget about everything else — but the student union should be committed to closing that gap and ensuring everyone gets the most out of student life.”

Shen would also like to see a more representative sample at student union events and other IHPME activities, pointing out that he’d like to engage more professional students in IHPME activities. “We need to learn why their participation is not higher — it could be they have limited time and outside commitments — but it’s worth exploring so other students can benefit from their perspective. It’s about building a real community.”

Ultimately, success in building a more robust student community will contribute to a stronger institute. “Coming from another province, I know that IHPME’s brand is very strong, but we all benefit if we continue to bolster it,” says Shen, who points to his experience with the curriculum committee as evidence that faculty welcome input to improve the student experience. After taking part in the Institute’s Spring 2013 retreat, which helped produce the Institute’s 2013-2018 Strategic Plan, he’s committed to ensuring students have a strong voice: “We need students to continue to be engaged in charting the path forward.”

REMEMBERING A FRIEND, HONOURING A COLLEAGUE

The Kevin J. Leonard Award

Like any community that loses one of its own, the people of IHPME have come together to honour and remember Kevin J. Leonard, who passed away on July 15, 2013.

Kevin was a strong patient advocate and passionate about the organization he started in 2005, Patient Destiny, which promoted “Patients as partners in their healthcare”. In addition to his professional achievements, his family, friends and colleagues remember a warm, funny and caring human being.

To honour and remember his legacy, the Kevin J. Leonard Award will be given to an outstanding student of the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation who has furthered the cause of patients as partners in their healthcare and who exemplifies the ideals and principles that Kevin imparted to his own students and colleagues over the course of his career and his personal life.

IHPME and the Centre for Global eHealth Innovation are funding the establishment of the award through the Office of Advancement at the University of Toronto. Please consider donating to the Kevin J. Leonard Award through the following online link: <https://donate.utoronto.ca/ihpme>. Your gift will ensure that the next generation of healthcare pioneers are recognized and supported throughout their education.

IHPME Events

■ Health Services Research Seminars 2013-14

Examples of Health Technology Assessment (HTA) in Mental Health October 9, 2013

Jennifer Beecham is Professor of Health and Social Care Economics at the University of Kent and a Professorial Research Fellow at the London School of Economics and Political Science.

HTA, Multiple Criteria Decision Analysis and Resource Allocation November 6, 2013

Stuart Peacock is Co-Director of the Canadian Centre for Applied Research in Cancer Control. The first of its kind in the world, it brings together some of Canada’s leading social science, population health and clinical researchers, and decision-makers.

Examples of HTA: HIV/AIDS to Injection Facilities to Medical Savings Accounts December 11, 2013

Greg Zaric is an associate professor in management science at the Ivey Business School. He currently holds a Canada Research Chair in Health Care Management Science.

All seminars run from 4:00 - 5:30 pm

LOCATION: Health Sciences Building, Room 208, 155 College St.

Free admission, no registration required

■ Society of Graduates Annual Recognition Dinner

October 10, 2013
(Cocktails: 5:30 pm)

Meet the Recognition Award winners and learn about the significant and extraordinary careers that come out of IHPME.

LOCATION: Toronto Ballroom, Metropolitan Hotel
108 Chestnut Street, Toronto

REGISTER ONLINE:
http://my.alumni.utoronto.ca/sog_2013dinner

■ Health System Performance Research Network

Caring for People with Multiple Chronic Conditions

October 22, 2013, 8:30 am - 1:30 pm

The symposium will discuss the challenge and opportunity associated with better addressing the needs of people with multiple chronic conditions and important next steps to implement improved care models.

LOCATION: St. Andrew’s Club and Conference Centre
The Garden Hall, 16th Floor
150 King St. W., Toronto

REGISTER ONLINE: <http://www.ihpme.utoronto.ca/about/events/hsprn-symposium.htm>

■ Healthachieve

November 4 - 6, 2013

The signature conference and exhibition of the Ontario Hospital Association for almost 90 years, HealthAchieve has long been one of the largest and most respected health care events in North America.

LOCATION: Metro Toronto Convention Centre

■ Clinical Epidemiology Institute 2013

November 11 - 15, 2013

The program combines an introduction to the fundamentals of research methodology with the practical skills of critical appraisal.

LOCATION: Health Sciences Building, Room 208, 155 College St.

REGISTER ONLINE: <http://www.ihpme.utoronto.ca/about/conted/cei/ceireg13.htm>

■ Master of Health Informatics, Master of Health Science, PhD, MSc Graduation

November 13, 2013, 6:00 pm

LOCATION: Convocation Hall