

IHPME CONNECT 04.2017

RESEARCH DAY 2017: INSIGHT TO IMPACT



Research Day 2017 Planning Committee

On May 3, at Research Day, the IHPME community will be gathering to share ideas and insights on the future of health care delivery. Also in the crowd will be the future of the IHPME community itself – the new students recently accepted to the program.

Shantel Walcott, co-chair of the Research Day organizing committee, knows this to be true, because she was one of those people. “I first attended Research Day as a new student to IHPME, so it’s been a rewarding experience to see how much goes into making it successful,” says Shantel, who is pursuing a master’s degree in Health Services Research, with a focus on evaluating the clinical utility of diagnostic genetic testing.

Co-chair, Shawna Cronin reinforces that Research Day is as much about building connections as it is about inspiring action beyond the Institute. “Research Day is most successful when you can attract the broadest range of people from inside and outside the Institute. So, we’re making an effort to generate interest among people in programs that are not always strongly represented at Research Day,” says Shawna, a PhD student in Health Services Research, who is focusing on the primary care management of people with dementia.

This year’s theme, Insight to Impact: Achieving Health System Change, will see panels and speakers exploring the different ways that evidence and knowledge move through the health care system. The focus will be tilted towards broader health system policy changes, rather than process-specific innovations. “The committee chose this theme to promote a discussion around the value of academic research in addressing real challenges facing the system. In the organizing committee’s discussions, there was lots of interest in knowing

more about what is happening after academic research goes out into the world,” says Shantel.

Panels will explore case studies in transferring academic knowledge to health system improvement. Panelists include Karen Michell, executive director of the Council of Academic Hospitals of Ontario, and Karim Keshavjee, and adjunct professor at IHPME and a clinical IT architect. “We’re hoping to identify some of the ways research has led to new ideas that came into being; how the ideas worked and why,” says Shawna.

The day’s keynote speaker is Dr. Werner Brouwer, a professor of health economics at the Institute of Health Policy & Management, Erasmus University Rotterdam. His research explores economic evaluations in health care, and has covered topics such as measuring the value of informal care and productivity costs, as well as the monetary value of health gains.

Both co-chairs are grateful for the hard work of a highly engaged committee, and for the support of faculty. “Committee meetings have not only been fun, but the team is always willing to do what’s needed,” says Shawna. She highlights that engaging in Research Day planning provides exposure to the diverse backgrounds of committee members, and reviewing potential panelists broadens awareness of applications and research initiatives happening in Toronto and beyond.

Shantel, a part-time student also appreciates the chance to connect with more people at the Institute. “Faculty and staff meet you with a smile when you arrive at their office to talk about Research Day and they have been extremely supportive throughout this process,” she says. “It’s also a great chance to

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get outside your own ‘thesis bubble’ and make more connections at the Institute.”

As the committee make its final decisions on organizing the 2017 installment of Research Day, both co-chairs are anticipating a robust discussion on panels, and in presentations. “I look forward to hearing from those who transfer research into health system improvements. The knowledge and experience of practitioners is not traditionally seen as ‘evidence’ but the everyday expertise applied by people in the system can be valuable in directing future research and policy,” says Shawna.

Shantel appreciates how Research Day is an opportunity to support fellow students. “When you see students around the Institute, a lot of the conversation is about working hard and managing time and other pressures – it’s exciting to hear classmates presenting the ideas that have them working so hard, and it is great for them to look out at the Research Day audience and see the faces of friends.”

AWARDS

Appointment of First Chair of OGAC

Congratulations to [Wendy Ungar](#), MSc, PhD, a Professor at IHPME and Senior Scientist in Child Health Evaluative Sciences at the Hospital for Sick Children Research Institute, on her recent appointment as the first Chair of the Ontario Genetic Testing Advisory Committee (OGAC). This newly created committee will advise the Ontario Health Technology Assessment Committee (OHTAC), on the clinical utility, validity, and value for money of new and existing genetic and genomic tests in Ontario, to support OHTAC’s role in making recommendations to Health Quality Ontario. OGAC will consider evidence that systematically appraises a genetic test in a scientifically sound and objective manner. Such evidence will include the therapeutic advantages and disadvantages of a genetic test, value for money, societal, ethical, and patient perspectives, and implications for health system resources.

As Director of [TASK \(Technology Assessment at Sick Kids\)](#), Ungar leads a program of research evaluating the cost-effectiveness and social, legal and ethical issues pertaining to new technologies in child health. In recent years TASK has maintained a focus on genomics, thanks in part due to the research interests of her IHPME graduate MSc and PhD students.

Read the
DLSPH Bulletin

IHPME STUDENT AWARDED IDRC DOCTORAL RESEARCH AWARD

Raman Sohal, a PhD student in the Collaborative Doctoral Program in Global Health, has been awarded the IDRC Doctoral Research Award for her work entitled “North Star Alliance: A Case Study on Scaling Up and Sustainability of Health Services Delivery in Africa.”

Established in 1970, [The International Development Research Centre \(IDRC\)](#) is dedicated to funding research that seeks to create lasting change and provides support for innovation in a variety of communities. This prestigious award, of up to \$20,000, is granted to just 20 recipients nationwide. Sohal’s research is focused on health service delivery models in low and middle income countries within the African continent, and she has selected [North Star Alliance](#) as her choice of case study in identifying models that are able to scale up their service within resource constrained environments.

Two major organizations, [United Nations World Food Programme \(UNWFP\)](#) and global logistics company [TNT](#) established North Star Alliance in 2006, in response to a growing crises in Sub-Saharan Africa, directly associated with the HIV/AIDs epidemic. Long haul truck drivers, responsible for delivering food aid to populations in areas of conflict due to war, famine and disease, were themselves being decimated by the HIV/AIDS virus. As a solution, North Star Alliance has been operating a network of mobile clinics out of converted shipping containers, utilizing their mobility to increase their reach to at risk populations within the region, such as truck drivers, and sex workers.

The continuity of North Star’s model, and their ability to expand their network to include larger populations beyond their initial target group, makes them, as Sohal indicates, “a revelatory case for understanding the phenomenon of scaling up global health delivery.” “As a non-profit organization using a subsidized business model,” Sohal says, “North Star has deployed innovative and inventive strategies to pursue its goals of scale, sustainability and health equity.”

Sohal, having completed the first phase of field visits in 2016 to Holland, Kenya, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe, is looking forward to using the IDRC Research Award to return to Africa to complete the second phase of field research and continue her case study research on scaling up global health delivery.

HEALTH SYSTEM IMPACT FELLOWSHIPS AWARD APPLICATIONS

A new funding opportunity for post-doctoral students has arrived in the form of the Health System Impact Fellowship sponsored by [CIHR](#) and led by Dr. Adalsteinn Brown and Dr. Stephen Bornstein. There are 37 fellowships available to individuals who have graduated from a doctoral program in

HSPR or another related program within the past five years. A major incentive for applicants is that this fellowship offers graduates the opportunity to work outside of academia and invites them to enhance their careers through experiential learning within a host organization. Applicants can choose to apply to a variety of health related for-profit and not for-profit organizations, including the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Health Canada, Cystic Fibrosis Canada, and Canadian Blood Services to name a few. Initial contact with a host organization must be made prior to submitting a final application to CIHR. The deadline for final applications is May 23, 2017. For a full list of host organizations and contact deadlines see: [More Information](#)

IHPME AWARD APPLICATIONS

The deadline for the following three IHPME awards is:

April 17, 2017

Eligibility and application details can be found [online](#).

[The Kevin J. Leonard Award](#)

Presented to students who engage and empower patients through the use of technology to become partners in their own health care.

Award value: \$2000

[The Health Equity and Justice Award in Honour of Diana Moeser](#)

Presented to a student whose work is guided by health equity and social justice.

Award Value: \$1000

[The Esta Wall Award of Excellence in Gerontology](#)

Presented to a student who has provided outstanding leadership and made the most significant contributions in the fields of geriatrics, gerontology or long-term care.

Award Value: TBA

Save the Date IHPME Research Day

Wednesday, May 3 | 8:30 am - 7:00 pm

Location: Health Sciences Building, 6th & 7th Flr

[Call for Poster and Oral Presentations:](#)
[Deadline April 7](#)

HULT PRIZE COMPETITION

IHPME MSc STUDENT & TEAM MEDIAL COMPETES FOR PRESTIGIOUS PRIZE IN LONDON



Team Medial at the London, UK regional competition (March 4, 2017). From right to left: Rosemary Yachouh (MSc. Candidate Health Services Research), Zaid Atto (BAsc. Candidate Biomedical Engineering), Andrei Dranka (BAsc. Candidate Financial Engineering), and Deeptanshu Prasad (BAsc. Candidate Industrial Engineering).

IHPME student Rosemary Yachouh has already had a very successful year. She was recently awarded the Gordon Cressy Student Leadership award for her involvement with fundraising campaigns that benefit Syrian and Iraqi displaced peoples. On the heels of this success the MSc Health Services Research candidate is once again aiming her focus at bettering the lives of newcomers to Canada, by joining forces with a team of students from U of T's Engineering department. Their goal is to create a new web and mobile app that will allow agencies assisting refugees, to provide more stream lined care throughout the stages of their settlement. Yachouh points out that "while this initiative is not solely focused on health care, it does attempt to mitigate some social determinants of health as experienced by refugees and newcomers in their settlement to Canada."

Team Medial as they are known, came together in October having learned about the [2017 HULT Prize Competition](#) and its benefits to winners and finalists. The HULT Prize Foundation according to their mission statement, "is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to launching the world's next wave of social entrepreneurs."

Bringing together teams from around the world, this global competition has a prize valued at \$1 million U.S. dollars which is provided to the winner in the hopes that their concept will be made into a reality. With the 2017 theme focused on "Refugees - Reawakening Human Potential," Yachouh and Zaid Atto, a UofT Biomedical Engineering student and an Iraqi refugee who had lived in Syria for 4 years prior to coming to Canada in 2009, felt this was a perfect opportunity for them to address some of the

gaps they have witnessed during a refugee's settlement, particularly in Toronto. "There are thousands of volunteers, as well as grass roots organizations assisting settlement agencies," says Yachouh. "And while the extra help is wonderful, sometimes there is a disconnection between the informal and formal sources of support, and refugees fall through the gaps."

"We recognized that even though the Canadian settlement and integration systems are considered amongst the best in the world, they are not well designed nor well-equipped to handle massive amounts of refugees, and the even greater number of volunteers that want to help." says Atto. "We also recognized that many are trying to provide solutions to refugees directly, while the refugee care teams (settlement organizations and volunteers) still face numerous unmet needs." The idea for a web app that would alleviate some of these concerns is how Yachouh and the rest of the team wanted to respond to the HULT Prize's 2017 challenge. The app, known as Medial, would provide additional support to settlement workers by allowing them to streamline the care provided by a volunteer including having the volunteer participate in training modules that would better qualify them and match them with a newcomer in need by demographic or language.

While Yachouh and her team did not reach the finals of this year's competition in London, which took place March 3-4, 2017, she is hopeful they will be able to expand their app without the \$1 million prize. "[WelcomeHomeTO](#) amongst other organizations have offered their support, in assisting us with moving the app out of its conceptual stage," says Yachouh.

If they are successful, the goal is to have Medial become a live mobile and web app that in a year or so, could potentially provide more links to services for newcomers, such as finding housing, providing health care information, improving language skills and securing employment. All of which would be a welcome endeavour for Toronto, and Canada's efforts, in providing the best care for newcomers and refugees.

FACULTY APPOINTMENTS

Renewed Appointments

Sara Allin – Assistant Professor, Status
Sally Bean – Adjunct Lecturer
Sacha Bhatia - Assistant Professor, Status
Claire de Oliveira - Assistant Professor, Status
Robin Hayeems– Assistant Professor, Status
Alison Paprica – Assistant Professor, Status
Bruce Perkins – Associate Professor, Status

Jill Tinmouth – Assistant Professor, Status
Clarys Tirel – Adjunct Lecturer
Brian Wong – Associate Professor, Status

SUPPORT IHPME

The Institute of Health Policy, Management & Evaluation, as part of the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, is the first Canadian public health school to launch its own fundraising campaign. With the support of our generous donors, our Boundless Campaign will enable IHPME to continue shaping training and research in health systems, management and policy.

For more information on how you can get involved, give annually, create a named fund, or consider the School in your estate planning, please contact **Annette Paul, Director of Advancement** at annette.paul@utoronto.ca or visit [IHPME Donate](#) or [Support/Campaign](#). Thank you for your support!

IHPME IN THE NEWS

Dr. Nav Persaud: What Medicines Do We Really Need in Canada?

Full story: <http://theprovince.com/opinion/op-ed/dr-nav-persaud-what-medicines-do-we-really-need-in-canada>

Cystic Fibrosis Patients living 10 Years Longer in Canada than the U.S.

Prof. Anne Stephenson speaks to the reasons why in this new report.

Full Story: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/health/cystic-fibrosis-survival-rates-1.4022970>

Canada Should Stop Living in the Health Care Past

Prof. Raisa Deber and Prof. Greg Marchildon weigh in:

Full story: <http://www.therecord.com/opinion-story/7211299-canada-should-stop-living-in-health-care-past/>

PUBLICATION

[Deber R](#) and [Rackow V](#), [Understanding and Implementing Best Practices in Accountability](#) *Health Reform Observer*

[Morton-Chang F](#), [Williams A P](#) [Berta W](#), [Laporte A](#), [Towards a Community-Based Dementia Care Strategy: How Do We Get There From Here?](#) *Healthcare Papers*

Lane NE, [Wodchis WP](#), Boyd CM & [Stukel TA](#) (2017). [Disability in long-term care residents explained by prevalent geriatric syndromes, not long-term care home characteristics: a cross-sectional study.](#) *BMC Geriatrics* 17(1):49

Nelson ML, McKellar KA, Yi J, Kelloway L, Munce S, Cott C, Hall R, Fortin M, Teasell R, [Lyons R](#). [Stroke rehabilitation evidence and comorbidity: a systematic scoping review of randomized controlled trials.](#) *Topics in Stroke Rehabilitation.* 2017 Feb 20:1-7.

[Petrosyan Y](#), Bai YQ, Kone Pefoyo AJ, Gruneir A, Thavorn K, Maxwell CJ, et al. [The Relationship between Diabetes Care Quality and Diabetes-Related Hospitalizations and the Modifying Role of Comorbidity](#) *Can J Diabetes* 2017;41(1):17-25.

IHPME STORY CAMPAIGN

The Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation has been the leading management and evaluation program in health services and health care research for the past 70 years.

From its early inception as the Department of Health Administration in 1947 to its current role as a leading institute, IHPME has been making progressive changes in research and leadership for many years.

We invite you to share your memories, stories, and snapshots of your time at IHPME, as we compile a collage of stories to showcase our growth and dynamic engagement with our community.

To share your story, image or text, please email: ihpme.events@utoronto.ca

Note: Materials will be shared via IHPME social media and will be presented for display at the Moonshot celebration on October 24, 2017.

EVENTS

POHR Seminar

April 5 | Noon - 1:30 pm | HS412 | Free

Dr. Nav Persaud - How community members are sculpting a trial of free access to essential medicines

CCHE Seminar Series

Fridays | 10:00 am - Noon | HS100 | Free

Please note the upcoming seminars:

- [Beate Sander April 7](#)
- [Nick Bansback, April 21](#)
- [David Rudoler & Claire de Oliveira, April 28](#)

Navigating Careers in Global Health

April 25 | 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm | Victoria College Chapel VC213 | Free

The office of Global Health introduces a new series of seminars aimed at exploring different career paths in global health. The kick-off session will feature Sarah Lawley, Director General, Office of International Affairs (Health Canada and Public Health Agency of Canada) and Discussant Raman Sohal, PhD candidate at the Institute for Health Policy, Management and Evaluation (IHPME) and the Collaborative Doctoral Program in Global Health.

RSVP to: ghoffice.dlsph@utoronto.ca by April 20.

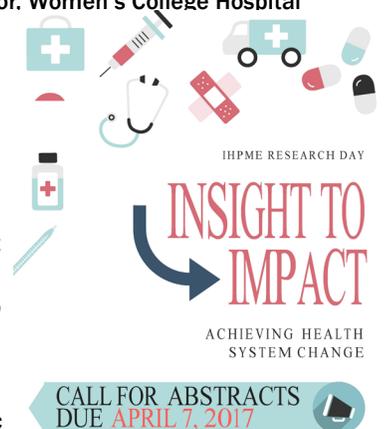
Research Day

Insight to Impact: Achieving Health System Change

May 3 | 8:30am - 7:00pm | HS 6th and 7th Floor | Free

Our annual Research Day will feature [Dr. Werner Brouwer](#) as the keynote speaker alongside panelists:

- [Melanie Barwick](#), Head, Child and Youth Mental Health Research Unit, Senior Scientist CHES Research Institute
- [Sacha Bhatia](#), Director, Women's College Hospital Institute for Health System Solutions and Virtual Care
- [Karim Keshavjee](#), Adjunct Professor, Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, University of Toronto
- [Karen Michell](#), Executive Director, Council of Academic Hospitals of Ontario (CAHO)



Refer to the website for more details:
IHPME.UTORONTO.CA/RESEARCH/RESEARCH-DAY-2017/

 Institute of Health Policy, Management & Evaluation
 IHPME  Graduate Students' Union

- [Karen Tu](#), Senior Core Scientist, ICES Central Primary Care & Population Health Research Program

For a full schedule of the day's events, visit: <http://ihpme.utoronto.ca/research/research-day-2017/>

World Health Summit of the M8 Alliance

May 8 - 9 | Palais des congrès de Montréal | \$

The Université de Montréal and the Institut de recherches cliniques de Montréal (IRCM) / Montreal Clinical Research Institute are proud to announce that they will be hosting the 1st World Health Summit (WHS) of the M8 Alliance to be held in North America. The world leaders in global health will be attending this prestigious event, including over 800 researchers, doctors, industry leaders, decision-makers, government members and civil society actors from around the world.

Based on the theme of Health and Healthcare Delivery in Pluralistic Societies, this interdisciplinary event will focus on the question of human diversity in the practice, education, research and public policy pertaining to health.

[Register Online](#)

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Instagram: [@ihpmeuoft](#) Follow us and view IHPME's weekly activities, from event photos, to event listings, plus alumni, student and faculty profiles.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

2017-2018 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.

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

Website: www.publichealthpolicy.utoronto.ca

Application Deadline: May 5, 2017 - 5:00 pm.

WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

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 rebecca.biason@utoronto.ca