Jodeme Goldhar sees parallels between doing the job she loves and leading the alumni community she cherishes.

As Lead, Health System Integration for Complex Populations, Primary Care and Health Links, Toronto Central Community Care Access Centre, she breaks down barriers in the health system and improves communication among various providers. In her role as incoming President of the Society of Graduates, Jodeme is just as committed to enhancing communication and building stronger connections among students, faculty, alumni and friends of the Institute.

“My work with CCAC is all about engaging different players in the health system to have shared dialogues in order to work seamlessly to meet the needs of populations with complex needs. I believe there’s a real passion for the Institute and the work it does, and we need to make sure we channel that passion by ensuring we integrate the needs of the faculty, students and alumni and work together to advance our shared goals,” says Jodeme.

She also believes leveraging alumni passion for IHPME begins with celebrating the achievements of the community. “There’s been great work in this area, which needs to continue. We have probably the most engaged alumni group at the University of Toronto, and we should inspire each other by celebrating achievement,” says Jodeme.

Her third priority is to engage IHPME’s alumni network in building and sharing knowledge. These priorities are evident in the new Strategic Plan for SOGs that Jodeme helped steer. After starting on the Executive Committee in 2009, Jodeme took over as chair of the Education Day Planning Committee in 2011 and believes there’s a strong demand for IHPME’s expertise and clear benefits to building bridges. “The work we’re doing should be top-of-mind for policy makers, so they can be informed and influenced by and support our work.” She also cites the work of her two predecessors — Sue VanderBent and Anne Wojtak — and wants to build on their efforts, which included strengthening the executive committee and collaboration with the Institute.

Like all graduates, she’s very aware of the impact IHPME has on career advancement and she looks forward to giving back. In addition to her new role as President of SOGs, Jodeme is also adjunct faculty at the Institute, including tutoring in the Health Policy course, guest lecturing and mentoring students.

“Alumni recognize the intrinsic value of the Institute — to the health care system and in their own careers. It’s an accomplished group with international breadth. Whether it’s through social media or more traditional means, we’ll continue looking for ways to allow everyone to contribute.”

Senior doctoral student, Jenna Evans, was surprised and excited to win the Eugene Vayda Best PhD Poster Award at IHPME’s Annual Research Day last May. “It is encouraging to know that other see value and originality in my research, particularly since my work to date has been primarily theoretical,” says Jenna. “I decided to present my poster because I knew it would be my last Research Day and I wanted to share some of the work I had done that went beyond my dissertation.”

Along with other award-winning posters from Research Day, her poster, “Culture and Cognition in Health Systems Change”, was showcased at the Society of Graduates’ Annual Education Day, which takes place a week after Research Day. “I enjoyed discussing my ideas around large-scale change and integrated care with leaders and policymakers from a variety of organizations in Ontario” says Jenna. “But I could not have predicted that doing so would land me a job.”

After talking with Evans about her poster, Cancer Care Ontario CEO Michael Sherar put her in touch with the Director of Integrated Care, Marnie Mackinnon. One meeting later, Jenna joined the organization as a part-time researcher. “It has been an invaluable learning experience thus far and a privilege to be a part of a provincial agency known for delivering innovation and results,” says Jenna. “I’m working with the Integrated Care Team and Regional Systemic Treatment Program to build a best practices model for the delivery of high-quality and safe chemotherapy in patients’ homes.”

Jenna has encouraged other students to present their work at Research Day, pointing out the many benefits she experienced. “What I valued most was the safe and supportive environment, and the targeted feedback from faculty members and other attendees, which I used to improve my work and my skills.” Research Day 2014 will be held on May 7 and the abstract submission system will open in early spring. She advises students to start thinking about ideas they may want to present. “As I found, it’s an experience that can truly pay off.”
Dr. Andreas Laupacis receives inaugural CIHR award

IHPME’s Dr. Andreas Laupacis has been awarded the first-ever Canadian Institutes of Health Research Barer-Flood Prize in Health Services and Policy Research. The award recognizes the outstanding contribution of a Canadian health services and policy researcher whose career has advanced health care research, policy or care delivery in Canada. The award was presented by Federal Health Minister Rona Ambrose and Ontario Health Minister Deb Matthews at a national meeting of health ministers. More: http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/47480.html

New named fellows of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences

Several IHPME faculty were named new fellows of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences in September. One of the highest honours in the Canadian health sciences community, fellows are recognized for their leadership, creativity and commitment to advancing academic health science. IHPME’s newly elected fellows are Muhammad Mamdani, Avery Nathens, Paula Rochon, Sharon Straus and James Wright.

REMEMBERING
Diana Moeser (1944-2013)

Diana Moeser died peacefully on September 18, 2013, with the loving support of family and friends. Diana will be deeply missed but warmly remembered within the IHPME community. She was admired as a teacher, valued as a supportive friend and colleague and deeply respected for a career dedicated to improving the lives of others, both at home and abroad. Diana founded Toronto’s first women’s addiction treatment centre, served as Vice-President, Ambulatory Care and Urban Affairs of Wellesley Hospital, was Chair of the Canadian Society for International Health and served on a range of boards, including Oxfam Canada, the Regent Park Health Centre and Pathways to Education. She leaves an enduring legacy and IHPME is proud to have called her one of our own.

IHPME Connection: 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

Congratulations to PhDs graduating in November

- Anita Menon
  Benefits of an E-Learning Intervention for Implementing Stroke Rehabilitation Best Practices
- Melanie Kohn
  Evidence Based Strategic Decision Making in Ontario Public Hospitals
- Carolyn Alice Steele Gray
  Accountability in the Home and Community Care Sector in Ontario
- Olga Gajic-Veljanoski
  Quantifying Uncertainty in the Efficacy of Vitamin K on Fractures in Postmenopausal Women: Economic Evaluation, Evidence Synthesis and Bayesian Meta-Analysis
- Maja Stupar
  Psychometric Testing of the Whiplash Disability Questionnaire in Patients with Recent Whiplash-Associated Disorders
- Anusha Jegatheeswaran
  A Multi-Dimensional Outcomes Study In An Inception Cohort of Patients with Interrupted Aortic Arch
- Bheeshma Ravi
  Complications Following Total Joint Arthroplasty in Patients with Rheumatoid Arthritis
- Lakhbir Sandhu
  An Empirical Study of Bias in Randomized Controlled Trials and Non-Randomised Studies of Surgical Interventions

- 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

- Canadian Centre for Health Economics Launch
  November 28, 2013, 5:00 - 7:00 pm
  Featuring Tony Culyer, author of The Humble Economist, Hart House, Music Room

- IHPME Year End Celebration
  Details
  December 5, 2013
  Details to follow.

- Health Services Research Seminars 2013-14
  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.
  People with Industry: HTA in the Real World
  January 8, 2014
  Kim Furlong, Director of Federal Government Affairs at Amgen; Farah Jirraj; Health Technology Assessment Strategy at sanofi-aventis; Tony Kim, Senior Manager, Pricing and Reimbursement at Celgene; David Shum, Director, Reimbursement Strategy and Health Economics at Hoffmann-La Roche

CAPHTH + HTA: Past, Present, Future
  February 5, 2014
  Chander Sehgal is Director, Common Drug Review at the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH)
  All seminars run from 4:00 - 5:30 pm
  LOCATION: Health Sciences Building, Room 208, 155 College St.
  Free admission, no registration required

- Joint Canadian College of Health Leaders
  February 13, 2014