

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH POLICY,
MANAGEMENT, AND EVALUATION
- NEWSBYTES -

January/February 2004

Office of the Chair

Release of 2003 Hospital Reports

On January 26, 2004, four Hospital Reports were released at a press conference held by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MoHLTC) and the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) at the Metropolitan Toronto Convention Centre. The news release is available at: www.health.gov.on.ca.

The reports were prepared by the [Hospital Report Research Collaborative](#), based out of HPME, and the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI). Brian Lemon, Chair of the Hospital Report Strategic Advisory Committee and CEO of Lakeridge Health, presented a summary of 'what's new' in the 2003 reports and [Dr. Adalsteinn Brown](#), Assistant Professor in HPME and Principal Investigator of the Hospital Report Research Collaborative, provided an overview of the results.

The 2003 series includes:

- The first hospital-specific reports for Emergency Departments and Complex Continuing Care
- The first report on Rehabilitation across the province
- The fifth report on individual Acute Care Hospitals
- More detailed hospital-specific results to inform quality improvement efforts
- New indicators and analyses, for example nursing productivity and nursing-related outcomes, in the Acute Care Report
- Changes over time in Emergency Departments and Acute Care Hospitals

Overall results show that patients are satisfied with the care they receive in hospitals. However, there are some key areas that need to be improved.

The complete reports can be viewed on the Hospital Report Research Collaborative website (www.hospitalreport.ca).

For more background to the Hospital Report Project, click [here](#).

HPME Research Day 2004

Please mark your calendars for HPME's Annual Research Day, taking place on Tuesday, May 4, 2004 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. in the Medical Sciences Building. A student poster session will be followed by a keynote address, awards ceremony, and catered reception. This year's keynote speaker, **Peter A. Ubel**, will speak on "**The Unbearable Rightness of Bedside Rationing**".

Students - start thinking about your poster presentations! Details on How to Submit a Poster Presentation Proposal and Poster Guidelines can be found on the HPME website:

www.utoronto.ca/hpme/researchday/research_day_2004.htm

Schedule

Poster sessions	2 to 4:00 p.m.	MSB Alumni Lounge
Keynote Speaker and Awards	4 to 5:30 p.m.	MSB Room 3154
Wine & Cheese Reception	5 to 7 p.m.	MSB Alumni Lounge

UK NHS Study Tour a Big Success

In early January 2004, HPME and The Manchester Centre for Healthcare Management, University of Manchester co-sponsored a four-day study tour in Toronto for 12 senior health executives from hospitals and acute care foundation trusts in the NHS. The current government in the UK is undertaking fundamental change in the British National Health Service in its governance and accountability to create a diverse and plural network of healthcare provider organisations which are more accountable to the local communities which they serve - these new organisations are called "foundation NHS trusts". The Study Tour to Toronto was designed to explore key issues in healthcare governance and management in Ontario, with a focus on local governance and accountability, linkages in the system and relationships with government.

Over the four days, the NHS group engaged in dialogue with over 35 health system leaders. The NHS team visited both University Health Network and Markham Stouffville Hospital and met with Board Chairs, Board representatives and senior hospital executives. The program concluded with a video conference with Steven Lewis and Denise Kouri from Saskatchewan, discussing experiences with regional models. We were thrilled with the participation and contribution by all of the participants, all very willing to share the strengths and challenges of local hospital governance and system management.

The Study Tour was highly praised by the attendees from the UK. Thanks to Ross Baker, HPME and Kieran Walshe, Manchester Centre for Healthcare Management for their skillful planning and coordination. A special thanks to the many participants who made the program an outstanding success.

Maureen Adamson	Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Bill Bailey	Director Capital Planning and Strategies Branch, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
David Brown	Vice Chair of the Board of Trustees, University Health Network
Tom Closson	CEO, University Health Network
Wilfred DeMajo	President, Medical Staff Association - Physicians
Rob Devitt	President and CEO, Toronto East General Hospital
Peter Finkle	Director Finance and Information Branch, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Robert Gall	Chief of Staff, Markham Stouffville Hospital
Kevin Glasgow	CEO, Cardiac Care Network
Denise Kouri	Executive Director of the Canadian Centre for the Analysis of Regionalization and Health, Saskatchewan
Mary Lewis	Senior Manager Heart and Stroke Foundation
Steven Lewis	Access Consulting Ltd, Saskatchewan

Jim MacLean	CEO, Markham Stouffville Hospital
Sue MacLean	Physician, Markham Stouffville Hospital
Hugh MacLeod	Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care
Shavak Madon	Chair of the Board, Halton Healthcare Services
Joe Mapa	CEO, Mt. Sinai Hospital
Frank Markel	Executive Director, Joint Policy and Planning Committee
Bella Martin	General Counsel, University Health Network
Alayne Metrick	President of St. Michael's Hospital Foundation
Barry Monaghan	CEO, West Park Hospital
William Newton	Chief Family Medicine, Markham Stouffville Hospital
John Oliver	President and CEO, Halton Healthcare Services
Maureen Quigley	Quigley and Associates
Janet Roberts	Vice President and Chief Nursing Officer, Markham Stouffville Hospital
Mark Rochon	CEO, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute
Ron Sapsford	Chief Operating Officer, Hamilton Health Sciences Centre
Graham Scott	Managing Partner, McMillan Binch
Hilary Short	President, Ontario Hospital Association
Neil Stuart	Board Director, Toronto East General Hospital
Terry Sullivan	Vice President, Cancer Care Ontario
Leslee Thompson	Vice President, Cancer Care Ontario
Michael Young	Executive Vice President, Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre
Lorne Zon	Vice President, Markham Stouffville Hospital

Research

Dr. Berta and Dr. Laporte Embark on new Study of Operational Efficiency in LTC

Co-PIs [Dr. Whitney Berta](#) and [Dr. Audrey Laporte](#), both Assistant Professor in HPME, and co-investigators [Dr. Geoff Anderson](#) and Dr. Vivian Valdmanis embark on a new study entitled "Operational Efficiencies of Long Term Care Facilities in Canada". This study investigates the relationships between inputs (and their costs) and operational efficiency, and what factors determine efficiency. As the proportion of the Canadian population which is elderly increases over the next few decades, the demand for institutional LTC is expected to increase beyond the system's current capacity. Unrealized service efficiencies may mitigate some of the effects of aging baby boomers on health expenditures. However, realizing these efficiencies is contingent upon identifying what the determinants of operational efficiency are, and how they are related to service quality.

The objectives of this study are to:

- Measure the operational efficiency of each LTC facility relative to the 'best performance' standard identified amongst facilities across Canada;
- Identify resident-, facility- and environment-level factors most closely associated with observed facility operational efficiency.

Results will provide decision-makers with information about which organizational structures and factors are most closely associated with greater efficiency. As such the findings can be used to inform improved decision-making and policy planning related to the provision of funds and allocation of resources to LTC facilities.

Recent Addition to Primary Care Performance Indicators Project Team

Dr. Pong of the Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research, Laurentian University has recently joined the Primary Care Performance Indicators Project (PCPIP). His research encompasses a number of related areas including studies on health status, health determinants, health human resources, and health services delivery (e.g. telehealth, outreach services) in rural/northern areas. He has conducted several major studies on the physician workforce including the 1997 and 2001 National Family Physician Surveys, the role of medical education in enhancing the rural medical workforce, and rural physician recruitment and retention. Dr. Pong has also conducted a multi-year tracking study of nurse practitioners in Ontario.

[Dr. Jan Barnsley](#), HPME Associate Professor, is leading the study on the assessment of performance in family practice. Current project activities include the revision of four data collection instruments based on analysis of data quality and feedback from a Field Test of Primary Care Performance Indicators conducted in 10 family practice sites across Ontario. Once the revisions are completed, the instruments will be converted into an electronic version. Dr. Malcolm Koo (Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences) is providing assistance with this part of the project. For more information about the PCPIP, please contact Project Coordinator Judith MacPhail ([email](#)).

Jan Barnsley: Why Don't Patients See Their Regular Physicians During Acute Illness?

[Dr. Jan Barnsley](#) and co-author Dr. Maria Mathews (Assistant Professor, Division of Community Medicine, Memorial University of Newfoundland) had their article "[Patients seeking care during acute illness. Why do they not see their regular physicians?](#)" published in the November 2003 issue of the Canadian Family Physician. Based on data from the Ontario Walk-In Clinic Study, the researchers found that belief in continuity of care and greater distance to the doctor's office increased the likelihood of seeing their regular physicians, while recent hospitalization and difficulty seeing physicians during and after office hours decreased this likelihood. Almost half of the patients who preferred seeing their regular physicians for acute illness did not actually see their regular physicians.

Raisa Deber: Why did the WHO Rate Canada's Health System as 30th?

[Dr. Raisa Deber's](#) analysis of Canada's ranking in the World Health Organization (WHO) 2000 Report was pre-released in the Longwoods Review (Vol. 2, No. 1, 2003), "[Why did the WHO rate Canada's health system as 30th? Some thoughts on League Tables](#)". Dr. Deber concludes that the health system performance rankings were not based on actual measures of the health system functioning and that Canada's relatively low standing rests on the relatively high educational level of its population rather than on any features of its health system. Therefore the WHO 2000 rankings are not particularly helpful guides to measuring the performance of health systems.

Research and Teaching Profiles

Faculty associated with the Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation (HPME) are involved in a broad range of research activities with a variety of organizations. Success of the HPME Knowledge Transfer initiative is dependent on presenting our stakeholders with a unified, clear image of the depth and breadth of Departmental expertise. To promote greater internal awareness of the knowledge developed through HPME, faculty research profiles will be included as a regular feature of this newsletter.

This issue of the HPME newsletter features a research profile for [Professor Peter C. Coyte](#).

+ + PROFILE OF THE MONTH + +

Peter C. Coyte, PhD

Peter Coyte is a Professor of Health Economics in the Department of HPME and Professor (status only) in the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Toronto. Dr. Coyte has published widely in the areas of health economics, health policy and health services research. His studies have included the measurement of regional variations in health service utilization, evaluations of the cost effective provision of health care services, and assessments of health service finance, delivery and organization.



Education and Work Background

Dr. Coyte completed his MA and PhD in Economics at the University of Western Ontario, where he received the T. Merritt Brown Prize from the Economics Department for the best PhD thesis of 1982. Prior to joining the University of Toronto in 1987, Dr. Coyte was an Associate Professor in the Economics Department at the University of Alberta and, before that, an Assistant Professor at Simon Fraser University, BC. Over the course of his research career, he has been engaged in collaborative research and knowledge translation activities with participants from industry, government and academia. In addition, Dr. Coyte has been retained as a consultant to various international, national and local organizations and has been an active participant in health policy debates.

In 2002, Dr. Coyte was elected President of the Canadian Health Economic Research Association (CHERA/ACRES) and he has been instrumental in championing the evolution of that organization to form the new Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research (CAHSPR/ACRSPS). This name change reflects the expansion of the organization's mandate from an exclusive focus on health economics to one that includes health services finance, organization, delivery, regulation and evaluation, as well as health policy

analysis; and the expansion of the organization's membership base to include researchers, research-users, and policy makers with interests in the fields of: health economics, health services and outcomes research, epidemiology, behavioural science, biostatistics, the social sciences and humanities, political science, health care professional research, policy analysis, health law, health care ethics, research dissemination, health care management, and other related fields. This new multi-disciplinary membership-based association is dedicated to improving the quality, relevance and application of health services and policy research in Canada.

See Other Notables for details about the 1st CAHSPRA/ACRSPS conference in May 2004.

Research Activities

Dr. Coyte has an international reputation as a senior health researcher who has published on a variety of topics, including health economics, health services research, evaluative sciences and health policy. He has been recognized for his scholarly contributions through receipt of a CHSRF/CIHR Health Services Chair (2000-present), a CIHR Senior Investigator Award (2000), a Kappa Delta Award from the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (2002), and a Young Investigator Award from the Association of University Programs in Health Administration (1995).

Since 1997, Dr. Coyte has been engaged in a collaborative undertaking between Nursing and Medicine to form the Home and Community Care Evaluation and Research Centre (HCERC). HCERC's mission is to champion evaluation and policy development, foster a collaborative research network and to disseminate findings broadly. Activities have been undertaken to ensure success in fund-raising, increase awareness of home and community care research for decision-making, and to promote knowledge exchange between the research and decision-making communities.

In 2000, Peter Coyte was awarded a Chair in Health Services Research, entitled Health Care Settings and Canadians: A Program of Research, Education and Linkage. As a result, HCERC has been restructured to focus on the new technologically mediated and geographically dispersed health care order, and to form the hub for a new Strategic Research and Training Program in Health Care, Technology and Place (HCTP). This Program has attracted significant multi-year financial commitments from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. It encompasses all four graduate divisions at the University of Toronto, with a vision to generate a cadre of humanistically informed scientists and scientifically informed humanists.

Teaching and Supervisory Responsibilities

Dr. Coyte has an excellent reputation as an educator. He plays a major role in research supervision to a large cadre of scholars. Many have their primary affiliations outside HPME, thereby demonstrating his experience as a transdisciplinary mentor and a proponent of translational research. Dr. Coyte is the Co-Director of the Health Care, Technology and Place Collaborative Doctoral Program, which provides mentorship in transdisciplinary research and bridges the knowledge gaps among doctoral students from participating departments who are concerned with the interconnectedness of bodies, technologies, places, and work in contemporary health care.

Four notable education and mentoring achievements include, Drs. Ungar (PhD), Hawker (MSc), Flood (SJD) & Laporte (Post-Doctoral Fellow):

- Dr. Wendy Ungar, Scientist, Hospital for Sick Children Research Institute and Assistant Professor, Department of HPME, University of Toronto.
- Dr. Gillian Hawker, Director, Clinical Epidemiology, Associate Professor & MRC Scientist, Departments of HPME & Medicine, University of Toronto.
- Dr. Colleen Flood, Associate Professor, Faculty of Law, University of Toronto.
- Dr. Audrey Laporte, Assistant Professor, Department of HPME, University of Toronto.

Future Research

More information on Dr. Coyte's future research and training programs can be found on these websites:

- Health Care Settings and Canadians: www.hcerc.utoronto.ca
- Health Care, Technology and Place: www.hctp.utoronto.ca

Education

Physician Leadership Program - A Great Success!

The Department of HPME has just completed a successful Fall 2003 Physician Leadership Program. The Program focuses in developing the knowledge and skills required for physician leadership in today's rapidly changing health system.

A total of 39 participants from Hamilton, London, Kingston and Toronto attended the program in two 3-day modules, one in October and one in November. Twenty faculty were involved in delivering the curriculum. The program also included dinners with distinguished speakers, including Dr. David Naylor, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, Mr. Fred Tomczyk, Vice Chair of TD Bank Financial Group, and Dr. John Evans, Chairman Torstar Corporation. Each provided a thoughtful perspective on the successes and challenges of leadership.

A new feature of this Physician Leadership Program is the addition of a post-program mentoring component. Interested participants were matched with seasoned health care leaders, who have volunteered to work with these individuals over the next 9 to 12 months. An evaluation of the mentoring program will be undertaken to assess its value in strengthening leadership development.

The Fall 2003 program was supported in part by a learning grant from Ortho Biotech. HPME gratefully acknowledges the contribution of Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre and the Toronto Academic Health Sciences Council in the development of the program.

The program will be offered again in Spring 2004 - 6 days over two modules (April 29 - May 1 and June 3 - 5). See the Continuing Education section of the HPME website (www.utoronto.ca/hpme/cont_ed.htm) for program details. Registration deadline is March 15, 2004.

March Deadline to Apply to HCTP Collaborative Doctoral Program

The Health Care, Technology, and Place (HCTP) Collaborative Doctoral Program application deadline is March 31, 2004. For more information about this program and to apply, see the HCTP website: www.hctp.utoronto.ca/Collaborative.asp.

Honours and Awards

Dr. Whitney Berta Wins 2003 CIHR Poster Presentation Prize

Co-PIs [Dr. Whitney Berta](#), HPME Assistant Professor and [Dr. Gary Teare](#), HPME Assistant Professor, and team tied for third prize in the second round of poster presentations at the Canadian Institute of Health Research's (CIHR) Institute of Health Services and Policy Research National Symposium held in Montreal Quebec on November 22 to 24th 2003. Their presentation was entitled "Factors that Impact the Transfer of Clinical Practice Guidelines in Long-Term Care Facilities in Ontario" and is funded by CIHR's Knowledge Translation Strategy initiative.

Co-investigators included Erin Gilbert (HPME PhD candidate), Liane Soberman-Ginsburg (Assistant Professor with York University's School of Health Policy and Management), Louise Lemieux-Charles PhD (Associate Professor and Chair, HPME), Dave Davis MD (Professor with HPME and the Department of Family and Community Medicine, and Associate Dean of Continuing Education, Medicine), and Susan Rappolt (Associate Professor, Department of Occupational Therapy).

The symposium brought together leading Canadian researchers, young investigators, health care system policy-makers and managers, and interested members of the public to discuss the important roles of health services and policy research in finding solutions to Canada's most pressing health care system and service delivery issues.

Dr. Jan Barnsley Receives Primary Health Care Transition Fund Award

[Jan Barnsley](#) (PI), [Whitney Berta](#), Jeff Bloom, [Rhonda Cockerill](#), Liisa Jaakkimainen, Raymond Pong, Yves Talbot and Eugene Vayda, members of the Primary Care Performance Indicator Project (PCPIP), were awarded \$866,600 over three years from the [Ontario Primary Health Care Transition Fund](#) for their study "Using Performance Indicators and Benchmarks in Primary Health Care".

Building on their previous work, this study includes measurement and improvement of clinical care and practice management in family practices. It consists of three components:

- First, data collection techniques and instruments developed in their previous work will be used to assess performance in a random sample of 48 practices in Ontario. Data will be collected from chart review, key interviews and direct observation. Study participants will include nurse practitioners and family physicians in solo and group practice, in selected regions in Ontario.
- Second, the results based on the primary data will be compared to data contained in the Ontario Health Insurance Plan and Ontario Drug Benefit databases.
- Finally, information on practice management and organization will be compared to practice profiles developed from Ontario data in the National Family Physician Survey. Participating practices will receive feedback on their practice results and be invited to take part in a regional workshop to discuss study results, the specific indicators, and the use of the indicators as performance benchmarks.

Dr. Andreas Laupacis elected Chairman

[Dr. Laupacis](#), HPME Professor, was elected chairman of the [Advisory Board of the Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre](#) at the 2003 annual meeting in November. Since September 2000, he has been president and CEO of the [Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences](#).



Dr. Angela Cheung Receives PSI Foundation Grant for SARS Research

Drs. Stephen Hwang and Chaim Bell, (Co-PIs), and co-investigators Drs. Angela Cheung and Rahim Moineddin have been awarded a grant of \$38,000 from the [Physicians' Services Incorporated \(PSI\) Foundation](#) for their project entitled "The Effect of the Ontario Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) Outbreak on Population Mortality".

Dr. Maria Bacchus Appointed Program Medical Director at UHN

[Dr. Maria Bacchus](#), Associate Professor in HPME and the Department of Medicine, was appointed as Program Medical Director for the Community and Population Health Program of the University Health Network, effective August 1, 2003. Dr. Bacchus has remained as Head of the Division of General Internal Medicine for the UHN/MSH Department of Medicine.

Joseph Mapa the New Ontario Regent for ACHE



Joseph Mapa, Adjunct Faculty in HPME and President and CEO of Mount Sinai Hospital, was elected to the Council of Regents of the [American College of Healthcare Executives](#) (ACHE) as Regent for the Province of Ontario. ACHE is the premier professional society for healthcare executives with over 30,000 members around the world including 150 members in Ontario. As well, Mr. Mapa has been nominated as the Vice-Chair Elect of the [Canadian College of Health Service Executives](#) (CCHSE). CCHSE is the Canadian professional association for healthcare executives with 3,000 members nation-wide. Joseph will serve a two-year term as Vice-Chair and then a two-year term as Chair.

CIHR Funding Decisions October 2003

[Analysis of 2002 Canadian Community Health Survey on Mental Health and Well Being Operating Grants Competition Results:](#)

***names in bold type are associated with HPME as core faculty, and cross-appointed and status-only members*

Dewa C (PI), Gnam W, Goldner E, Koehoorn M, **Lin E**. Psychiatric disorders, chronic physical conditions, workplace stress and disability in the Canadian working population. \$38,389 over 1 year (operating)

CIHR Funding Decisions November 2003

[CIHR Institute of Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis \(IMHA\) Request for Applications Results:](#)

***names in bold type are associated with HPME as core faculty, and cross-appointed and status-only members*

Cheung A (PI), Grynepas M, Waldman S. The Clinical Utility of the Mechanical Response Tissue Analyzer Device for Determining Bone Fragility. \$261,138 over 3 years (operating)

Bombardier C (PI), **Eysenback G**, **Jadad A**, Milgram P. A demonstration project of electronic patient generated data for point of care reporting in the management of rheumatoid arthritis. \$92,125.00 over 2 years (operating)

CIHR Funding Decisions January 2004

In the January 2004 results of the [CIHR September 2003 Open Competition](#), the University of Toronto and affiliated research institutes captured \$48.8M of grant funding. Of the 278 grants submitted, 109 were approved - representing a 39% success rate. This is 9% higher than the University of Toronto success rate for the June 2003 competition and 16% above the national success rate of 23%. The following faculty received grants in this competition:

***names in bold type are associated with HPME as core faculty, and cross-appointed and status-only members*

Alter DA (PI), Austin PC (PI), Irvine MJ, Morgan CD, Mustard CA, **Naylor CD**, **Tu JV**, Wheaton B. Socioeconomic status and outcomes after acute myocardial infarction. \$70,552 over 3 years (operating)

Hawker GA (PI), Badley EM, **Davis AM**, Gignac MA, Gordon AS, Lou WW, **Naglie G**, Romans SE. Determinants and consequences of pain and fatigue in osteoarthritis (OA) using a biopsychosocial approach. \$102,356 over 5 years (operating) \$800 (equipment)

Morrison LJ (PI), Kiss AJ, Long J, Sherbino JD, **Szalai JP**, Verbeek PR, **Vermeulen MJ**. Termination of resuscitation in the prehospital environment with defibrillator only paramedics -prospective validation of a clinical decision rule. \$67,570 over 2 years (operating)

Stukel T (PI), Aschull MJ (PI), Alter DA, Guttman A, Jackson PM, **Laupacis A**, Manuel DG, Schwartz B, **Zwarenstein MF**. Determining the population health impact of the healthcare system response to the SARS Outbreak. \$81,870 over 2 years (operating)

Tannock IF (PI), Vardy JL (PI). Cognitive function and fatigue in cancer patients after chemotherapy: A longitudinal controlled study in colorectal cancer patients. \$73,039 over 1 year (operating)

Bell CM (PI), Bajcar J, Bierman AS, **Mamdani MM**, **Urbach DR**. Discontinuity of chronic medications in hospitalized elders. \$21,679 over 2 years

Laporte A (PI), **Berta WB** (PI), **Anderson M**, Valdmanis VG. Operational efficiencies of long-term care facilities in Canada. \$83,331 over 3 years (operating)

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In the January 2004 results of the [CIHR Institute Strategic Initiatives and Priority Competitions - Operating Grants](#), HPME faculty received grants in two categories:

1. Advancing Theories, Frameworks, Methods and Measurement in Health Services & Policy, Population and Public Health Research and Knowledge Translation:

Bell CM (PI), Bajcar J, Bierman AS, **Mamdani MM**, **Urbach DR**. Discontinuity of chronic medications in hospitalized elders. \$21,679 over 2 years (operating)

Cote P (PI), **Beaton DE**, **Bombardier C**, Carroll LJ, Cassidy JD, **Hogg-Johnson S**. The relationship between impairment, activity limitations, participation restriction and markers of recovery in individuals with musculoskeletal disorders: A validation study of two conceptual frameworks. \$36,237 over 2 years (operating) \$2,106 (equipment)

2. Institute of Aging

Ungar W (PI), **Feldman BM**, Marshall DA, Willan AR, **Wright JG**. A conceptual framework for outcome measurement in children: Consequences for health economic evaluation and decision making. \$74,909 over 3 years (operating)

Students

Warren J. Winkelman Wins Award in 2003 UHN Poster Competition

Warren Winkelman, PhD student in the eHealth and Health Information Management Program of HPME, won second prize in the Health Informatics Stream of the 2nd Annual [UHN Research Day](#) Poster Competition. In addition, he and Chun Wei Choo recently published an article, "Provider-sponsored virtual communities for chronic patients: improving health outcomes through organizational patient-centred knowledge management", in the December issue of [Health Expectations](#). Dr. Winkelman is affiliated with the [Centre for Global e-Health Innovation](#).

HPME Graduate Student Union Re-launches Website February 16, 2004

The HPME Graduate Students' Union (HPME GSU) is pleased to announce the re-launch of its website at hpme.sa.utoronto.ca on 16 February 2004, and the introduction of its new executive: Heidi Amernic (President), Heather Logan (MHSc Year 2 President), Brenda Glenns (MHSc Year 1 President), Meredith Lilly (Curriculum Committee Representative), and Catherine Mah (MSc-PhD Advisory Committee Representative and Webmaster).

The HPME GSU represents all students in the graduate department of HPME, in both the research and professional streams. In addition to its advocacy role for students, the HPME GSU considers networking and innovation, the provision of educational resources, and career development support to be important elements of its mandate.

Please take the time to visit our website and avail yourself of the information and resources provided. If you have comments, questions, or suggestions, please don't hesitate to contact us at gsu.hpme@utoronto.ca.

The HPME GSU is a proud contributor to academic and professional life at HPME, home to the current and future leaders of health care in Ontario, Canada, and worldwide.

Alumni

Sophie A. Jamal Receives Young Investigator Award

Sophie A. Jamal, alumnus of the HPME PhD Clinical Epidemiology program (Class of 2003), received the 2003 [Young Investigator Award](#) from the [American Society for Bone and Mineral Research](#) (ASBMR). Dr. Jamal is Assistant Professor / Clinical Research Fellow in the Department of Medicine, Staff Endocrinologist at the St. Michael's Hospital and a consultant with the [Osteoporosis Society of Canada](#) Scientific Advisory Council.

Other Notables

Ross Baker Featured in Major Media

Dr. Ross Baker, HPME Professor, was interviewed by CBC TV, Global TV and the Toronto Star in November and December, 2003 for his response to the breach of infection control procedures announced by Sunnybrooke & Women's College Health Sciences Centre on November 17, 2003 (see SWCHSC news release). Failure to follow the proper sterilization procedures for the prostate biopsy ultrasound wand was discovered in an internal audit in August 2003 and 861 men were sent letters from SWCHSC requesting that they undertake blood tests for Hepatitis B, C and HIV. Dr. Baker told media interviewers that the hospital had responded appropriately by fully disclosing the error and recommended that the hospital undertake a comprehensive investigation of the conditions which enabled the error to occur.

Dr. Baker is leading the first study of the frequency and nature of adverse events in Canadian acute care hospitals along with Dr. Peter Norton (Co-PI) of the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Calgary. Dr. Baker has co-authored a number of reports and articles on patient safety and adverse events, including:

- [Making Patients Safer! Reducing Error in Canadian Healthcare \(2001\)](#)
 - [Governments and Patient Safety in Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States: A Review of Policies, Institutional and Funding Frameworks, and Current Initiatives \(2002\)](#)
 - [Patient Safety and Healthcare Error in the Canadian Healthcare System: A Systematic Review and Analysis of Leading Practices in Canada with Reference to Key Initiatives Elsewhere \(2002\)](#) (Acrobat PDF)
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First Conference of the Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research

The Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research (CAHSPRA/ACRSPS) (formerly the Canadian Health Economics Research Association CHERA/ACRES) invites you to attend its first conference, highlighting the themes of learning from international comparisons and knowledge exchange between researchers and decision-makers. The conference is co-sponsored by l'Université de Montréal & McGill University. It will be held at the Hyatt Regency (formerly Wyndham Hotel) in Montréal, Québec from May 25-28, 2004.

Registration for the conference is now open. Space is limited, so register early to ensure you have a spot. Until March 1st, members pay an Early Bird Rate of \$395; non-members pay \$495, so you may want to ensure you've paid for your 2004 CAHSPR membership.

For more information about CAHSPRA/ACRSPS or the conference, see the website: <http://cahspr.ca/>.