

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

January/February 2003

Office of the Chair

## Gillian Hawker Re-Appointed as Clin Epi Director

We are delighted to report that [Gillian Hawker](#) was re-appointed as Director of the Clinical Epidemiology and Health Care Research Program for another three-year term.

Dr. Hawker is an Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine, University of Toronto and the Director of the Clinical Epidemiology and Health Care Research Program, Department of Health Policy Management and Evaluation, University of Toronto. Her research focuses on reducing disparity in provision of health care to individuals with osteoarthritis living in the community; the determinants of attainment and maintenance of peak bone mass in young women; and health services research in osteoporosis. Dr. Hawker currently supervises three Masters and three Ph.D. students. Her teaching activities include undergraduate and postgraduate medical education as well as graduate teaching in clinical epidemiology in the Department of HPME.

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## Visiting Professor Robert Rich to speak on Critical Issues in Knowledge Utilization and Health Policy Making

The Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, and the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health invite you to attend a presentation by [Dr. Robert Rich](#), Professor of Law at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Rich will speak on Tuesday, February 18 at the Koffler Institute of Pharmacy Management, 569 Spadina Avenue, from 4 pm to 5 pm, with a reception to follow.

Robert Rich has a joint-appointment with the Institute of Government and Public Affairs (IGPA), where he was Director from 1986-1997. He is also appointed in the College of Medicine and the Political Science Department. Currently Director of the Office of Public Management of IGPA, his research focuses on health law and policy, federalism and the role of the states, environmental policy, and science policy.

This event will be followed by a reception. Both are free, but please R.S.V.P. by February 7, 2003 to [anna.gagliardi@utoronto.ca](mailto:anna.gagliardi@utoronto.ca)

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## Year End Departmental Celebration - A Look Back

The Department celebrated the end of the 2002 Fall term with a gathering at the Faculty Club on the evening of December 5, 2002. The event was a chance to relax with colleagues and students, and raise a glass of cheer to the close of the year.

[Click here to view photos](#)

## Research

### RCT Results Garner NEJM Editorial

Local members of the International Natalizumab Multiple Sclerosis Trial Group, led by [Paul O'Connor](#), HPME Associate Professor, recently published the results of a randomized controlled trial in the New England Journal of Medicine (2003; 348: 15-23). Dr. O'Connor is also Co-ordinator of the University of Toronto MS Program and Chief of the Division of Neurology at St. Michael's Hospital. His research focuses on clinical trials involving multiple sclerosis.

Patients in the group treated with natalizumab had significantly fewer inflammatory brain lesions (mean 9.6 lesions per patient in the placebo group versus 0.7 lesions per patient in the treatment group,  $p < 0.001$ ) and fewer relapses (27 patients relapsed in the placebo group versus 13 in the treatment group,  $p = 0.02$ ) over a six-month period compared with patients in the placebo group.

The results were highlighted in an editorial within the same issue of the journal examining the use of this drug as a potential new treatment for autoimmune diseases including MS and Crohn's disease.

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### 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:

- [Paul Williams](#), an Associate Professor in HPME, Adjunct Research Scientist at the Hospital for Sick Children Research Institute, and consultant for the Canadian International Scientific Exchange Program. His research focuses on the public-private mix in the funding and delivery of home care, long-term care and community-based services.

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#### + + PROFILE OF THE MONTH + +

### A. Paul Williams, PhD

Paul Williams is an Associate Professor in HPME. His teaching and research focus on Canadian health policy and health care systems, with particular emphasis on the public-private mix in the funding and delivery of home care, long-term care and community-based services.

## **Education and Work Background**

Dr. Williams obtained a PhD in political science from York University in Toronto with the benefit of doctoral fellowships from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC). Following a stint as Research Fellow at York University's Institute for Social Research, he completed an SSHRC Post-Doctoral Fellowship with HPME (then Health Administration). Before joining HPME in 1993, he was founding Director of the undergraduate degree program in Health Services Management at Ryerson University.

In addition to his HPME faculty position, Dr. Williams is an Adjunct Research Scientist at the Hospital for Sick Children Research Institute and consultant for the Canadian International Scientific Exchange Program (CISEPO) based at the University of Toronto and Mount Sinai Hospital. He maintains cross-appointments with the University of Toronto Collaborative Program in Aging and the Life Course, and the Institute of Medical Science.

Internationally, Dr. Williams has been a visiting professor at De Montfort University (United Kingdom), Al Quds University (Palestinian Authority), and the Academy of Public Administration (Office of the President of Ukraine). Closer to home, he is actively involved with local planning bodies and community service agencies.

## **Research Activities**

Dr. Williams currently leads a number of multi-year, multi-disciplinary research projects examining the implications for consumers, providers and governments of ongoing health system restructuring initiatives which shift care from hospitals to home and community.

One current project (funded by the Hospital for Sick Children Research Institute) assesses home care services for children with long-term care needs; another (funded by SSHRC) investigates the role played by voluntary, community-based service agencies in meeting health and social needs "downloaded" from other parts of the health care system; a third project (also funded by SSHRC) looks at rehabilitation services and the rehabilitation professions as more care shifts out of hospitals and out of public coverage. Other ongoing projects examine home care resources allocation in the Maritime provinces and hospital involvement in community action. Dr. Williams is Co-Director of the M-THAC (From Medicare to Home and Community) Research Unit, a research infrastructure initiative based in HPME.

## **Teaching and Supervisory Responsibilities**

Dr. Williams currently supervises seven MSc/PhD students. He teaches graduate courses (HAD 5010/5011 and HAD 5020) which develop a policy analysis "toolkit" to critically analyze key issues and trends in Canada's health care system including changes in the public-private mix, the roles of doctors and hospitals, and the shift toward home and community care.

## **Future Research**

Key research directions include: elaboration of a model of community capacity which estimates the variable impact on different needs groups (e.g. children and ethno-racial minorities) of policy changes affecting the funding and delivery of health and social services; and continuing exploration of the politics of the health care professions and their responses to health system restructuring initiatives.

## Education

### HPME Graduate Programs Rated Highly by Students

In the spring of 2002, the School of Graduate Studies conducted the University of Toronto Graduate Student In-Program Survey among its graduate students. This Survey was sponsored by the Higher Education Data Sharing (HEDS) Consortium, a not-for-profit organization based in Pennsylvania. The mission of HEDS is to assist institutions of higher learning in planning, management and institutional research. The HEDS Survey was designed to solicit graduate students' opinions on their universities, the programs in which they are enrolled, their research and educational experiences, university resources, funding, quality of student life, and various other topics.

The survey involved a sample of students randomly selected from all graduate programs at U of T. In all, 2,843 individuals were selected from the total 2001-2002 graduate student body (N=10,202; approximately 28%). Of those surveyed, 1,883 returned valid forms - a 66 percent response rate. A total of 30 students from HPME participated - 9 from the PhD program, 14 from a Masters program and 7 from the MHSc program. The following chart summarizes the ratings of HPME respondents to the academic quality of their programs:

Question	Positive Responses (%)		
	HPME	Division IV *	U of T
Academic standards in my program	96.7	95.7	95.4
Integration of current developments in my field	93.4	88.8	86.4
Program space and facilities	63.3	73.0	73.7
Overall program quality	100.0	92.2	91.8
The intellectual quality of the faculty	100.0	97.0	96.5
The intellectual quality of fellow graduate students	96.7	95.8	93.8
The relationship between faculty and graduate students	83.3	79.8	78.6

\* Life Sciences

## Honours and Awards

### Murray Krahn Elected to Board of Trustees of the Society for Medical Decision Making

At the October meeting of the Society for [Medical Decision Making](#), Dr. Murray Krahn was elected to the Board of Trustees. [Murray Krahn](#) is an HPME Associate Professor and clinician researcher with the Division of Clinical Decision Making, Toronto General Research Institute, University Health Network. His research interests include prostate cancer, viral hepatitis, clinical decision analysis, economic evaluation and utility measurement.

His responsibilities in this new role include developing collaborations with sister organizations such as the International Society for Technology Assessment in Health Care. The Society for Medical Decision Making's mission is to improve health outcomes through the advancement of proactive systematic approaches to clinical

decision making and policy-formation in health care by providing a scholarly forum that connects and educates researchers, providers, policy-makers, and the public. The Society's diverse membership includes trainees to senior researchers as well as educators, clinicians, managers, and policy makers.

The organization publishes the journal *Medical Decision Making* and a semi-annual newsletter, maintains a listserv, hosts an annual meeting, offers awards that recognize investigators and students, and operates several interest groups including shared decision making, medical informatics, medical education, modeling disease progression and others.

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## **Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd. supports fellowship in Health Outcomes Research at Division of Clinical Decision Making, Toronto General Research Institute, University Health Network**

Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd. (Roche Canada) is pleased to support for 2003 a \$50,000 fellowship in health outcomes to be administered by Drs. [Murray Krahn](#), [Gary Naglie](#) and [Andreas Maetzel](#) at the Division of Clinical Decision Making and Health Care Research, Toronto General Research Institute (University Health Network).

The fellowship recognizes the growing importance of health outcomes research in health care. "Roche Canada welcomes the opportunity to collaborate with the University of Toronto and UHN's opinion leaders and academics who are recognized and respected worldwide as leaders within their respective fields of expertise," said Catherine Steele, Vice President, Public Affairs and Corporate Communications, Roche Canada.

The Division of Clinical Decision Making and Health Care Research conducts research in decision, policy, and economic models and well as outcomes assessment in a wide variety of content areas including viral hepatitis, arthritis, cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer disease -- even non-medical applications for NASA and the Canadian Space Agency. While all associated faculty work with graduate students this is the first position to be supported by the unit. The fellowship will be awarded by competition and involve modeling based on the interests of one or several faculty.

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## **Nizar Mahomed Awarded Orthopaedic Fellowship**

[Nizar Mahomed](#), HPME Assistant Professor, has been awarded the ABC (American British Canadian) Travelling Fellowship in Orthopaedic Surgery for 2003. With this support he will be visiting England, Australia, and New Zealand for five weeks in April/May 2003.

The ABC Travelling Fellowship is an educational exchange shared by a group of young orthopaedic surgeons selected by the American, British, Canadian, New Zealand, Australian and South African orthopaedic associations. The Fellowship was conceived by Dr. R.I. Harris of Toronto, Ontario during his presidency of the American Orthopaedic Association (AOA) in 1948. During the even-numbered years overseas Fellows visit North America, while Fellows from the United States and Canada tour abroad during the odd-numbered years. Two (2) Canadian candidates are selected by the COA's Exchange Fellowships Committee for the tour.

Dr. Mahomed is a clinician researcher and Director of the Musculoskeletal Health and Arthritis Program at the Toronto Western Hospital. His research focuses on health policy and health services research for orthopaedics, osteoarthritis, and total joint replacement.

## Appointments

### Recent School of Graduate Studies Appointment

- Dr. Shabbir M.H. Alibhai  
University Health Network

## Students

### Cheryl Chapman Wins 2002 Alan Hay Award

Each year, the R. Alan Hay Memorial Trust Fund of the Ontario Hospital Association awards the R. Alan Hay Memorial Prize to outstanding health administration students in Master's degree programs of designated universities. The award is given in commemoration of Alan Hay's lifelong contribution to the improvement of healthcare services, and is based primarily on performance and promise demonstrated by a student in their administrative residencies. This year the University of Toronto award went to Cheryl Chapman, Class of 2002.

Cheryl completed her residency at Health Canada under the preceptorship of Ms. Leslie Gaudette. During her placement, Cheryl's activities focused on the improvement of health care services for palliative care, a major policy issue in Canada. "Her professionalism, her productivity, her problem-solving skills and her excellent interpersonal skills as exemplified during this practicum demonstrate the considerable potential Cheryl possesses to develop as a visionary, yet well-organized leader in a management position in any health services area and particularly in End-of-Life care" said Ms. Gaudette.

Congratulations Cheryl.

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### Department Research Day: Call for Posters

The Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation's annual Research Day will be held on Wednesday, May 7, 2003 this year. As in previous years, a central component of Research Day will be an opportunity for students to present their work in the form of posters. Posters can relate to course work, practicum placements and/or current employment.

The posters will be grouped by degree (MHSc, MSc, PhD) and two prizes for each category will be awarded. In addition, the Maureen Dixon award (\$1,000) will be decided on the basis of the posters. The Maureen Dixon award recognizes a student who is most likely to make an outstanding contribution to a community based agency.

Please start to think about possible posters - information about constructing a poster is available on the Department's [website](#). All poster submissions should be directed to Rhonda Cockerill ([rhonda.cockerill@utoronto.ca](mailto:rhonda.cockerill@utoronto.ca)) with primary author clearly identified.

## Other Notables

### Hospital Report 2002: Acute Care

On January 9, 2003, the Ernie Eves government and the Ontario Hospital Association released **Hospital Report 2002: Acute Care** -- a report that was independently gathered and analyzed by the Canadian Institute for Health Information with assistance from the Hospital Report Research Collaborative which is based in the Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation at the University of Toronto.

The Principal Investigator of the Hospital Report Research Collaborative is [Adalsteinn Brown](#), HPME Assistant Professor, with research interests in performance measurement, cost-effectiveness analysis, small area variations, and quality of care. The original methods for this report were developed by researchers at the Department under the leadership of [Ross Baker](#), HPME Associate Professor.

**Hospital Report 2002** details the performance of acute care hospitals from across Ontario. Ninety-two hospitals from a total of 123 in Ontario (representing 173 hospital sites) participated in Hospital Report 2002: Acute Care. Measures of patient satisfaction, patient care, hospital finances, and keeping up with change are described in the report.

At the press release Dr. Brown noted that, "against the backdrop of calls for greater accountability in the Romanow and Kirby reports, this report card provides the most comprehensive set of data on hospital performance routinely available anywhere in North America". He highlighted encouraging aspects of the report, including increased patient satisfaction and improved clinical outcomes.

Summary, technical and managerial reports are available are either of the websites listed below:

- [Hospital Report Research Collaborative](#)
- [Ministry of Health and Long Term Care](#)

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### Raisa Deber Quoted in Economist

A recent issue of the Economist (British edition, December 7, 2002) summarized the outcome of the Romanow Commission and mentioned that the Prime Minister will be meeting with the provincial premiers in January to address the recommendations in the report.

Consensus amongst the premiers will be difficult to achieve but, as Raisa Deber notes within the article, "the strongest selling-point of Mr. Romanow's report is not his largely sensible proposals, but the fact that he spent 18 months listening to the views of ordinary Canadians. Politicians may not like what he has to say, but public pressure will ensure they listen closely."

[Dr. Deber](#) is a Professor in HPME and Director of the [Medicare to Home and Community](#) (M-THAC) research unit. Her research focuses on health policy, policy analysis, health economics, medical decision making, and the public-private mix.