

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

May/June 2003

Office of the Chair

Research Day 2003

The annual Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation Research Day took place on Wednesday, May 7. We were very pleased that 40 posters were presented by students representing our various programs. Judges were challenged with the task of selecting award recipients from amongst so many deserving candidates.

Award Winners

Eugenie Stuart Award - excellence in teaching by an HPME faculty member: Adalsteinn Brown (decided on the basis of student evaluations and contribution to the Department's teaching programs, as assessed by the Department's Awards Committee)

Maureen Dixon Award (2): Jennifer Tranmer; Kelly O'Brien (student most likely to make an outstanding contribution to a community based agency or long term care)
- Jennifer Tranmer, R. Croxford, P.C. Coyte,
"Valuing patient and caregiver time: A comparison of methods"
- Kelly O'Brien, S. Nixon, R. Glazier, A. Tynan,
"HIV/AIDS and aerobic exercise: A Cochrane Collaboration systematic review"

Harold Livergant Award: Cory Ross,
Outstanding MHS Sc Year 1 Student in the Field of Complex Continuing Care

Ted Goldberg Award: Moriah Shamian (supervisor - Peggy Leatt)
Most Promising PhD Student

Claire Bombardier Award (2): Academic excellence and two-page essay (Clinical Epidemiology)
- Duminda Wijeysondera (MSc, supervisor - Andreas Laupacis)
"Practice patterns and effectiveness of preoperative internal medicine and consultation prior to noncardiac surgery in Ontario"
- Connie Marras (PhD, supervisor - Paula Rochon)
"Predictors of time to requiring drugtherapy, survival and health-related quality of life in Parkinson's disease"

Thomas & Edna Naylor Memorial Award: Best MSc/PhD Thesis in Health Services Research
Deborah Tregunno (PhD, supervisor - Ross Baker),
"Competing values of emergency department performance: Balancing multiple stakeholder perspectives"

MHS Sc Poster Awards

G.B. Rosenfeld Award - First Place: Shahzia Adatia, Mary Burnett, Anila Choundry, Michelle Hurtubise, Hope Rennie, Paula Robinson
"Are Ontario's cervical screening guidelines appropriate? A review of the cost effectiveness of various cervical cancer screening policies"

Second Place: Miin Alikhan, Adalsteinn Brown, Hamida Kassamali-Bhimani
"Rated hospital performance in Ontario: A consumer-based website"

MSc Poster Awards

GSU Award: - First Place: Sudeep Gill, Susan Bronskill, Muhammed Mamdani, Kenneth Shulman, Geoff Anderson, K. Sykora, P. Li, Paula Rochon

"Representation and eligibility of real-world subjects with dementia in clinical trials of donepezil"

Second Place: Meredith Lilly, Sanober S. Motiwala, Wendy J. Ungar, Shamali Wickremaarachi,
"Expanding treatment for Ontario's autistic children: A cost-effectiveness study"

PhD Poster Awards

Eugene Vayda Award - First Place: Ava John-Baptiste, Tim Cook, Sharon Straus, Gary Naglie, George Tomlinson, Murray Krahn

"Economic and health consequences of a hyperbraic oxygen chamber in the International Space Station"

GSU Award - Second Place: Doug Lee, Peter Austin, Lean J. Rouleau, Peter P. Liu, Jac V. Tu

"Validation of a mortality prediction model for hospitalized heart failure patients"

Research

Update on Primary Care Performance Assessment

The Primary Care Performance Assessment Project involves primary care physicians in the development of evidence-based practice assessment tools, including quality indicators for preventive care, screening and health promotion, management of acute and chronic conditions, and practice organization and management. During 2002 indicator data were abstracted from medical records at ten practice sites. Subsequent to each practice visit the investigators provided the family physicians and associated office staff with an interactive workshop to:

- Discuss data quality, performance measurement, and the usefulness and feasibility of the quality indicators.
- Provide feedback on the individual provider results/findings of the chart review, survey and direct observation at the practice, plus comparisons to the aggregate of practice sites.
- Suggest recommendations for data quality improvement.
- Exchange information on practice innovations and standardized forms.

Nine of the eleven scheduled workshops have been completed. Two workshops were temporarily postponed related to the SARS Alert.

The study has offered benefits to the participating family physicians, and to the investigative team. Each family physician study participant receives Continuing Medical Education credits (2.0 MAINPRO-MI credits) after attending the program. Several participants plan to pursue their own quality improvement efforts based on the findings of this study, and can then apply to the College of Family Physicians of Canada for additional credits.

The investigative team will analyze and disseminate forms designed by the participating family physicians for record keeping, and will use feedback from study participants on the usefulness of these specific indicators to their everyday practice, the facilitators and barriers to chart review, and suggestions about additional acute care management indicators (e.g. low back pain, urinary tract infections) for ongoing research initiatives.

The project team is involved in a number of collaborative activities related to primary care. For example, Whitney Berta is leading team efforts to develop an electronic version of the chart-based data collection instrument in conjunction with Bell University Health Communication Labs, Faculty of Medicine. Liisa Jaakkimainen is leading a team that will survey family physicians to assess the impact of the SARS Alert. Jan Barnsley and Susan Bondy (Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences, Public Health Sciences) are team members. This group is collaborating with researchers in Hong Kong who are conducting a similar survey in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Singapore.

Jan Barnsley to Present Paper at AHRQ Conference

[Dr. Jan Barnsley](#), has been invited to present a paper at the 5th International Conference on the Scientific Basis of Health Services: Global Evidence for Local Decisions, sponsored by the Agency for Healthcare Research on Quality (AHRQ). The conference takes place in Washington DC from September 20 to 23, 2003. See www.icsbhs.org for more information. The paper is entitled *Selecting Primary Care Performance Indicators: Data Quality and Performance Measurement..*

Ontario Walk-in Clinic Study

[Dr. Jan Barnsley](#), HPME Associate Professor, and Eugene Vayda, Emeritus Professor, were co-authors of a study examining differences in patient satisfaction and quality of care for common acute conditions at Ontario walk-in clinics, family practices and emergency departments.

The principal investigator of this study was Dr. Brian Hutchinson from McMaster University. It was published in the April 15, 2003 issue of the [Canadian Medical Association Journal](#).

A total of 12 walk-in clinics, 16 family practices and 13 emergency departments from 11 geographic regions in greater Toronto, Hamilton-Burlington and London were recruited. Abstractors reviewed 600 patients charts to assess whether quality-of-care criteria for eight common acute conditions had been met. A questionnaire was used to assess the satisfaction of 433 patients with communication, physician attitude and delay in the waiting room. Data were adjusted for patient characteristics.

Walk-in clinic patients were significantly more satisfied than emergency department patients on three satisfaction scales. Family practice patients were significantly more satisfied than walk-in clinic patients for satisfaction with waiting time. Adjusted mean quality scores for emergency departments, walk-in clinics and family practices were 73.1%, 69.9% and 64.1%, respectively. The scores for walk-in clinics and emergency departments were significantly higher than those of family practices.

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:

- [Steini Brown](#), an Assistant Professor in HPME. His research focuses on evaluating the quality of health care in a variety of settings using several methods. Most notably he is the Principal Investigator of the Hospital Report Project but also consults nationally and internationally to a broad range of private sector clients on strategy in health care, health care financing, and quality improvement topics..

+ + PROFILE OF THE MONTH + +

Adalsteinn Brown, PhD

Dr. Brown is an Assistant Professor in HPME specializing in the quality of health care. His research involves performance measurement, cost-effectiveness analysis, and small area variations analysis in hospital, emergency, chronic, rehabilitation, mental health, population health, women's health, and nursing care.

Education and Work Background

Dr. Brown completed an undergraduate degree in government studies at Harvard University and then a doctoral degree in the Department of Public Health and Primary Care at the University of Oxford. He was a Harvard National Scholar and a Rhodes Scholar.

Past work experience includes a position as research assistant for the Provincial Sub-Committee on the Role, Future, and Financing of Academic Health Sciences Centres in Toronto; research associate at the Health Intelligence Unit, Faculty of Medicine, University of Western Ontario; and as senior consultant to SAI, a health care management consulting firm with offices in New York City and Menlo Park, California, of which Dr. Brown was a founding member. Following the sale of SAI to Perot Systems, he was a founding member of Metacine, Inc, a Philadelphia-based firm specializing in the development of clinical language systems to simplify managed care contracting. Metacine was sold to DeNovis, Inc. He has worked with a wide range of private sector clients in Canada, the U.S., Europe, and the Far East on strategy in health care, health care financing, and quality improvement topics. These clients include not-for-profit insurance companies, hospital networks, and investment banks.

In addition to his role with HPME, Dr. Brown currently holds the position of Associate with the Center for Health Policy and the Center for Primary Care and Outcomes Research, Stanford University School of Medicine; Lecturer in the Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto; Adjunct Scientist at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences; and Instructor in the Department of Family Medicine, University of Western Ontario. Other professional responsibilities include membership in the Ontario Guideline Collaborative, and the Society for Social Medicine; and as peer reviewer for the journals Medical Care, Journal of Medical Internet Research, and Social Science & Medicine.

Research Activities

Dr. Brown is Principal Investigator for the Hospital Report Project which involves more than 35 researchers at three universities and six institutes. This project has developed balanced scorecards for Ontario hospitals published between 1998 and 2002, involving inpatient hospital care, emergency department care, and chronic care. It also includes special reports describing methods for performance measurement in rehabilitation, mental health, population health, women's health, and nursing.

Research conducted in the area of technology assessment includes structured reviews and cost-effectiveness analyses of emerging diagnostic technologies, particularly in the area of cervical cancer screening and the prevention of coronary heart disease. He is the principal investigator for an evaluation of the accreditation framework used by the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation; and a co-investigator for a CIHR Training Program in Health Law and Policy, and on a CIHR-CIHI funded study led by Ross Baker, HPME Professor, examining adverse events in Canadian Hospitals.

Teaching and Supervisory Responsibilities

Dr. Brown has taught several courses for HPME including a component of the Comprehensive Examination Preparation Course for Graduate Students in Outcomes and Evaluation; Competition, Cooperation and Strategy in Health Care; and Cases and Methods in Health Policy. For the Faculty of Law he has taught Conflict of Interest in Medicine. Dr. Brown is currently supervising one MSc student; serving on the thesis committees of one MSc student and one PhD student. He is also practicum advisor for the HPME MHSc program; and practicum supervisor for one MHSc student.

Future Research

Research in development includes chart audit and matched clinical data that is routinely collected to examine the sensitivity, specificity and other measures of the effectiveness of the Office of Investigator General Audits applied to hospitals in the US to detect fraud and abuse; perceptions of fraud and abuse in the Canadian health care community; a web-based tool for quality improvement and accountability; development of a web-based platform that allows hospitals to view their own performance data, compare it against benchmark data, link to quality improvement tools, and participate in the validation of their routinely submitted data; cross-sectional study based on survey data and routinely collected hospital data of the relationship between adherence to clinical protocols for select patient groups and hospital outcomes such as complications in pneumonia patients; longitudinal study measuring changes in medical and law students' health protective behaviours, health beliefs, emotional status, and self-efficacy; and a comparison of hospital performance rankings across Ontario using commonly available performance measurement tools and commonly used clinical trial outcomes.

Education

New Course Receives SGS Approval

The following course has recently received approval by the School of Graduate Studies:

**HAD5727H - Knowledge Transfer and Exchange:
A New Approach to Academic and Applied Research
Instructor: P. Goering**

Managers, policy makers, and other decision makers in Canadian health care routinely identify and solve problems. Increasingly, there is pressure for them to apply the latest knowledge to these problems. Researchers, recognizing that their work is not easily accessible and that their findings are not informing practice and policy to the extent desirable, are exploring new ways to transfer and translate their work.

Knowledge translation is "the exchange, synthesis and ethically-sound application of knowledge within a complex system of relationships among researchers and users." The burgeoning field of knowledge transfer research examines the contexts and conditions in which knowledge is effectively translated (that is, accessed, understood and utilized) and those in which transfer fails to occur. Knowledge transfer and exchange is a two-way pathway. For the process to be successful, knowledge must not only be translated and disseminated by the producer of the knowledge to the user, but it must be received, attended to, and implemented by the user.

The overarching aims of the course are to:

- Introduce students to knowledge transfer and exchange concepts, models and methods
- Understand the uses of knowledge transfer and exchange in research, policy making, management and consulting.
- Learn how to apply knowledge transfer theory and practice in research.
- Understand the measurement and evaluation of knowledge transfer.

Particular attention will be given to an exploration of the "interactive model of knowledge transfer and exchange, which emphasizes the reciprocal relationships between knowledge producers (researchers, consultants) and knowledge users (decision makers, practitioners).

Honours and Awards

Adalsteinn Brown: Canada's Top 40 Under 40

[Adalsteinn Brown](#), HPME Assistant Professor, has been named as one of Canada's Top 40 Under 40.

The finalists were selected by a panel of 29 business and community leaders assembled by The Caldwell Partners International, a Canadian executive search firm. Caldwell compiled a preliminary list of candidates from more than 1,400 nominations. The panel then rated the finalists on six criteria: vision and leadership, innovation and achievement, community involvement, impact and strategy for growth.

Dr. Brown is principal investigator of the [Hospital Report Project](#). He attended college at Harvard University and then attended Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar. His research interests include performance measurement, cost-effectiveness analysis, and quality of care.

Additional finalists are named in the [Globe and Mail](#).

Joseph Mapa Receives 2003 Chairman's Award for Distinguished Service

Joseph Mapa (Department of Health Policy, Management, and Evaluation and President and CEO, Mount Sinai Hospital) has been selected by the Canadian College of Health Service Executives to receive the 2003 Chairman's Award for Distinguished Service. The Canadian College of Health Service Executives is a professional association of over 2500 health care managers and executives across the country. Each year, this Award recognizes an individual acknowledged by peers and colleagues to exemplify a high level of consistent professionalism in health service administration. The Award will be conferred at the College's annual Healthcare Leadership Conference in early June in Edmonton.

CIHR Operating Grants

In the September 2002 CIH56R Operating Grants competition, the UofT (and Research Institutes) captured \$37.9M of grant funding. Of the 273 UofT grants submitted, 90 were funded – representing a 33 percent success rate. The national success rate was 24 percent. The following faculty received grants in the February announcement of the results of this competition:

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

Alibhai, Shabbir M. (PI), Fleshner NE, Holowaty EJ, **Krahn MD**, **Naglie G**, Tomlinson GA.
Age-stratified rates of 30 day morbidity and mortality after radical prostatectomy for localized prostate cancer.

Allen, Upton (co-PI), Grant DR (co-PI), Hebert D, Humar A, Ngan BY, Read SE, Stephens D, Tellier R, Weitzman SS.
Factors predictive of EBV lymphoproliferation following organ transplantation.

Berta WB (co-PI), **Teare GF (co-PI)**, **Davis DA**, Ginsburg LR, **Lemieux-Charles L**, Rappolt SG.
Learning capacity in Ontario's long-term care facilities: A study of factors that affect the adoption, transfer, adaptation, and retention of clinical practice guidelines.

Boon HS (co-PI), Verhoef MJ (co-PI), Findlay BL, Leis AM, Marles RJ, Mior SA, O'Hara DP, Welsh S.
Complementary and alternative health care (CAHC) research team.

Brundage MDK, **Bezjak A**, Degner LF, Feldman-Stewart DR, Leis AM, Pater JL, Ritvo PG, Tu D, Velji K.
The value of quality of life information to cancer patients.

Carroll JC (co-PI), Allanson JE (co-PI), Blaine SM, **Davis DA**, Evans MF, Graham ID, Grimshaw J, Wilson BJ.

Evaluation of the impact of a multifaceted intervention to enhance the delivery of genetics services by family physicians.

Cohen, Marsha M (co-PI), Dumont J, Romans S.

Addressing the gaps: Increasing our understanding of abuse against women in Canada.

Coyte PC (co-PI), McKeever PD (co-PI), Adams A, Chambon A, Dunn JR, Eakin JM, Fernie GR, **Flood CM**, Gignac MA, Gray RE, Harvey ED, **Jadad AR**, **Laporte A**, **Laupacis A**, Lehoux P, Levinson W, MacKeigan LD.

Health care, technology and place: An interdisciplinary capacity enhancement team.

Eysenbach G (PI), Browman JP, **Jadad AR**, Kushniruk AW.

How should evidence be presented? Electronic guideline usability and information design evaluation study (eGUIDES).

Fortin, Paul (PI), Cooper GS, Greenwood CM, Hudson TJ, Wither JE.

Genetic and environmental factors in systemic lupus erythematosus.

Glazier, Richard (PI), Agha M, Badley EM, **Hwang SW**, Matheson FI, Moineddin R, Steele LS.

Health services utilization in a concentrated urban setting. A population based analysis of trends over time.

Hawker, Gillian (PI), **Beaton DE**, Cadarette SM, Gignac MA, **Jaglal SB**.

Community study of osteoporosis, fractures and treatment.

Hwang, Stephen (PI), Levinson W, **Redelmeier DA**, **Szalai JP**, **Tolomizcenko G**.

Health care utilization in homeless persons.

Jadad, Alex (PI), Laidlaw JC.

Levelling the playing field: Pilot testing the personal coach program.

Jaglal SB (PI), Cadarette SM, Carroll JC, Corey PN, **Davis DA**, **Hawker GA**, Jaakkimainen RL, McIsaac WJ.

An interdisciplinary model for improving management of osteoporosis and fracture in the community.

Levinson W (co-PI), Skinner HA (co-PI), **Laupacis A (co-PI)**, **Beaton DE**, Bervocitz K, Cass DE, **Coyte PC**, **Deber RB**, Dunn JM, Eakin JM, **Glazier RH**, **Goering PN**, **Hawker GA**, **Hwang SW**, **Jadad AR**, Jha PK, Khan K, Lavery JV, Links PS, McKeever PD, Orbinski JJ, Palepu A, Poland BD, **Redelmeier DA**, Rourke SB, Wasylenki DA, Young K.

Understanding and addressing the impacts of physical and social environments on the health of marginalized populations.

Martin DK (PI), Menon D, Singer PA.

Priority setting research team: Interdisciplinary capacity enhancement in priority setting and health policy.

Pomey, MPA, Angus DE, Champagne F, Contandriopoulos AP, **Lemieux-Charles L**.

Impact of the CCHSA standards on health care organizations in relation to dynamics of change and implementation of quality improvement and safety initiatives.

Strauss S (co-PI), **Baker R (co-PI)**, **Davis D**, **Sibbald W**, **Kushniruk A**, Doran DM, Zwarenstein MF, **Redelmeier D**, **Lingard LA**, **Bohnen JMA**, McCarthy CT, Matlow AG, **Ethells E**, Hebert PC, Chignell MH, Vicente KJ, Affonso DD
Innovations in Patient Safety and Knowledge Translation (Interdisciplinary Capacity Enhancement Teams Grant Program)

Appointments

Ross Baker Promoted to Full Professor

Ross Baker was promoted from Associate to Full Professor in the Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation.

Dr. Baker is currently supervising three students pursuing Masters and PhD degrees and is involved in teaching several graduate courses. His current research focuses on organizational factors influencing patient safety and clinical improvement, and strategies and tools for improving the use of performance information in healthcare.

Together with Peter Norton at the University of Calgary he conducted a survey of current patient safety activities in Canada. With funding from the Canadian Institute for Health Information and the Canadian Institute for Health Research, Dr. Baker will be leading an investigation of Adverse Events in Canadian Hospitals, along with co-investigator Peter Norton. Through systematic review of hospital charts, the study will examine the extent of adverse events in Canadian acute care hospitals and the availability of data that could be used to support continuous monitoring and reduce these events. This is the first study of its kind in Canada and results of the study are expected to be released to the public in 2004.

Ross Baker assumes the Chair of the Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA) in July 2002. He also serves as a member of the National Steering Committee on Patient Safety chaired by Dr. John Wade.

Recent School of Graduate Studies Appointments

- Patricia Baranek, Associate Member
- Pascale Lehoux, Associate Member
- Dianne MacFarlane, Associate Member
- Muhammad Mamdani, Associate Member

Students

The Department of HPME proudly presents the Class of 2003 - June Convocation

PhD

Mark Dobrow
Doris Howell

Sophie Jamal
David Juurlink

MSc Health Administration

Michael Gardam
Mariatou Jallow
Shannon Madden

MSc Clinical Epidemiology and Health Care Research

Sandra Arnold
S. Ari Bitnun
Mahyar Etminan
Ted Marras

Henry Roukema
Alan Tinmouth
Mark Walker

Diploma in Clinical Epidemiology

Rosa Marticorena

MHSc Health Administration

Deborah Adams
Shahzia Adatia
Lyn-Miin Alikhan
Jatinder Bains
Andrew Baker
Mary Burnett
Anila Choudhry
Jennifer Dockery
Murray Doggett
Michele Eftoda
Pansy Honeyghan

Beth Horodyski
Tina Hua
Michelle Hurtubise
Hamida Kassamali
Heather Kavsak
Ralph Kern
Henry Koo
Elinor Larney
Lauren Lindsay
Alexandra Magistretti
Judith Maheu

Emily Musing
Christina Porcellato
Fraser Ratchford
Hope Rennie
Paula Robinson
Shelley Rusnell
Debbie Taylor
Peter Varga
Shazeen Virani
Jacqueline Whittingham

Maureen McLelland Receives Foster G. McGaw Scholarship Award

Congratulations to Maureen McLelland on being named the 2002-2003 Foster G. McGaw Scholarship winner for the MHSc Health Administration Program at the University of Toronto. This award is made available to the University of Toronto through the Association of University Programs in Health Administration (AUPHA), and goes to a first year MHSc student on the basis of superior academic performance over their first two semesters of study.

Alumni

HPME Alumni Awarded Queen's Medal

Sue VanderBent (Class of 1977) and Shirlee Sharkey (Class of 1992) were awarded the Commemorative Medal for the golden Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The medal was awarded to Canadians who have made a significant contribution to their fellow citizens, their community or to Canada.

Education Day Event - September 19, 2003 (rescheduled)

Education Day has been a very successful event in recent years, and this one promises to be another interesting and informative session. The theme is once again a very topical issue: **Decoding Accountability: What It Is, What It Is Not & What It Could Be** In today's health care world accountability is a statement that is beginning to mean all things to all people. Accountability has taken on more complex and complicated definitions that have been applied to all aspects of a health care. Accountability has become integral to discussions of healthy public policy, the relationship between government and the general public, the administration of health care organizations, and the measurement of health care service outcomes. Is accountability becoming a distraction that threatens to dominate the health care sector and take us on a journey to nowhere?

Now is the time to consider what 'accountability' really means.

Join us to hear the perspective of renowned speakers from healthcare, government and private industry on the meaning of accountability and how to apply it or contain it within your organization.

The cost for this year's Education Day remains unchanged at \$149 for non-member and \$109 for members, \$99 for students.

Further program details and registration information is available at the [HPME website](http://www.utoronto.ca/hpme/alumni/alumni_4.htm) (www.utoronto.ca/hpme/alumni/alumni_4.htm), or call Rose Jones at 416-586-5082 or email (rjones@mtsinai.on.ca).

As always, Education Day concludes with a networking lunch. See you there!

Sponsors:

- Gold: Borden, Ladner, Gervais
- Silver: Baxter & Agnew Peckham
- Bronze: J&J, CHM, Ray & Berndtson Lovis Stanley
- Conference Supporters: Hay Group, American College Healthcare Executives, Clinsaver

Other Notables

Raisa Deber CBC Radio Interview on SARS

[Raisa Deber](#), HPME Professor, was interviewed by CBC Radio on April 8, 2003 with respect to how the health system is managing Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome.

The discussion focused on cancelled patient procedures. In response Dr. Deber noted that "the system is attempting to maintain a balance. Authorities are trying to contain SARS without preventing patients from getting the care they need."

She added that "One of the lessons we learned from the Krever water inquiry is that the public doesn't particularly want us to make the errors of under-reacting."

Raisa Deber is Director of the [Medicare to Home and Community Research Unit](#). Her current research centres around Canadian health policy. Projects include definitions of medical necessity, examination of specialized services under population-based models, public and private roles in the financing and delivery of health services (with a focus on long term care), and the study of medical decision making and issues surrounding patient empowerment.

Invitational Workshop on a Health Council

Along with the [Faculty of Law](#) at the University of Toronto, and with support from the [Atkinson Charitable Foundation](#), the Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation (HPME) recently hosted an **Invitational Workshop on a Health Council**.

The event was chaired by [Terry Sullivan](#), HPME Associate Professor.

In November 2002, the Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada released its final report, *Building on Values: The Future of Health Care in Canada* (the Romanow report). At a subsequent meeting of Canada's health ministers, most of the recommendations in the report were adopted, including the creation of a Health Council "to monitor and make annual public reports on the implementation of the Accord, particularly its accountability and transparency provisions."

The purpose of the Invitational Workshop was to review and analyze various health council models recommended by a number of diverse groups, distill the common features of health councils, and highlight the elements deemed necessary for a future Health Council that would oversee the implementation of the recommendations in the Romanow report. The event was attended by academics, practice leaders, key opinion leaders and officials from the federal and provincial governments.

Both Adalsteinn Brown, HPME Assistant Professor, and Raisa Deber, HPME Professor, participated in the Workshop. Professor Colleen Flood from the Faculty of Law and cross-appointed to HPME, delivered one of the day's presentations.

A full report is available on the Atkinson Foundation [website](#).

HPME Researchers Involved in OHA Data Quality Conference

The OHA recently presented a conference on Data Quality: Understanding its Impact on the Health Care System at the Toronto Board of Trade. It was attended by 160 health records and data management personnel, system analysts and hospital CEOs.

The one-day symposium was chaired by [Adalsteinn Brown](#), HPME Assistant Professor and Principal Investigator of the [Hospital Report Project](#).

Other HPME participants included:

- Nizar Ladak, an SGS faculty member of HPME and Director of Health Services Information at the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) who described variations in coding practices at CIHI.
- Paula Blackstien-Hirsch, Project Director of the Hospital Report Project, and Therese Stukel, HPME Professor, who both participated in a panel discussing the impact of data quality on research and the reporting of provider performance.
- Sujit Choudhry, cross-appointed to HPME and an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto, who discussed the legal impact of data quality.

Mapa and Leatt, Co-Editors

Joseph Mapa, HPME adjunct faculty member, and President & CEO, Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, has co-edited a new book with Peggy Leatt, Professor & Chair, Department of Health Policy and Administration, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and former Chair, Department of HPME, Toronto entitled "Government Relations in the Health Care Industry". Published by Greenwood Publishing Group, the co-editors and their panel of scholars, practitioners, and policymakers provide compelling reasons why the development and maintenance of effective government relations in the health industry must be a top priority for health industry management.