

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

September/October 2002

Office of the Chair

Geoff Anderson Named Liberty Health Chair

On July 1st, 2002, [Dr. Geoff Anderson](#) succeeded Dr. Peggy Leatt as Liberty Health Chair. The chair is located in both the faculties of medicine and law. The gift which was matched by the university, established Canada's first endowed chair in health management strategies. The goal of the Liberty Health Chair in Health Management Strategies is to study alternative approaches to managing Canada's health care system. Specifically it is to determine how to meet the ever-growing public demand for health care and health promotion services in a financially sustainable, clinically effective manner. It is hoped that this body of work will be used to help determine the future of health care policy in Canada.



Dr. Anderson is highly respected as a health services researcher both nationally and internationally. His present research focuses on the pharmacological management of chronic disease in older adults and the development of a framework for incorporating pharmacosurveillance in provincial formulary decision-making. This area of research has major implications for the management of health systems resources.

Liberty Health, one of Canada's largest and most experienced health benefit management companies, provides a range of health, dental, extended health, hospital, prescription drug, travel, critical illness, disability and life insurance to individuals and employees through group plans. Liberty Health is a member of the Liberty Canada group, and part of the worldwide Liberty Mutual Group of Companies. Liberty Mutual has been operating in Canada for more than 60 years, offering a wide range of products and services including home and automobile insurance.

Research

HPME Researchers Report to Romanow Commission

Several HPME researchers have contributed reports to the [Romanow Commission](#). Colleen Flood and Sujit Choudry, both cross-appointed to HPME and members of the Faculty of Law, co-authored a report for the Romanow Commission calling for several changes to the Canada Health Act and warning of "passive privatization". The Flood/Choudry report recommends that:

- the Act be expanded into diagnostic services
- separate legislation be introduced for universal coverage for prescription drugs and home care
- the federal government acknowledge the Act does not preclude for-profit firms from delivering services if they are 100% publicly funded
- the difference between the delivery of health care and the funding of health care be highlighted

- the definition of "reasonable access" in the Act be expanded to include the concept of timely access.

Raisa Deber, HPME Professor, prepared a report for the Romanow Commission to identify the appropriate role for private delivery within Canada's health care system. The report reveals that the majority of all health care delivered in Canada is already privatized. Dr. Deber was referring to the large number of physicians who are paid from the public sector but are, in fact, operating private companies. The report concludes that:

- Comparisons of public, not-for-profit and for-profit services are difficult, but not impossible
- Competition and cooperation must be balanced to ensure coordination across health care providers
- Measuring and monitoring of performance is essential, particularly in contracting arrangements
- Measuring and monitoring performance can be costly and difficult
- Changing delivery structures also changes power relationships and, hence, how resources are allocated
- Experiments should not be irreversible, particularly given international trade agreements
- Health human resources issues must be addressed
- For-profit delivery requires predictable revenue streams
- Barriers to meeting patient demands must be immediately addressed.

Both documents, with 38 other studies commissioned from Canadian researchers, will be incorporated into the Romanow report to be released in the Fall of 2002. All reports are available on the Romanow Commission [website](#).

Recommended Clinical Practice Guidelines

The Ontario Guidelines Advisory Committee (GAC) invites you to visit their newly updated website (www.gacguidelines.ca) to search for recommended guidelines on common medical conditions by keyword or guideline title. Formed in 1997 and chaired by [Dr. Dave Davis](#), HPME Professor and Associate Dean of Continuing Education at the University of Toronto, the Guideline Advisory Committee (GAC) is a joint body of the [Ontario Medical Association](#) and the [Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care](#) with additional ex-officio representation from the [Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences](#) in Ontario. The GAC assesses the clinical relevance of existing clinical practice guidelines and the rigour of the process used by guideline developers according to the [AGREE](#) instrument, then prepares summaries of the guideline recommendations which are available on the GAC website.

Guidelines are independently assessed a minimum of three times by trained teams of Family and Community Medicine residents at the University of Toronto and groups of community based physicians in active medical practice across the province. The Guideline Advisory Committee invites physicians to become guideline assessors in a number of clinical areas. Workshops on reviewing clinical practice guidelines will be held in Toronto, London and Sudbury throughout September and October. More details are available on the website.

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 research profiles for the joint recipients of the Eugenie Stuart Award for Best Instructor, decided on the basis of student evaluations and contribution to the Department's teaching programs, bestowed at the Annual Student Research Day on May 1, 2002.

- [Gillian Hawker](#) is an Associate Professor in HPME, Director of the Osteoporosis Research Program at the Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre, and holds several additional research appointments. Her research focuses on clinical and health services research in osteoporosis and osteoarthritis.
- [Mary Hannah](#) is a Professor in HPME and Director and Scientist at the University of Toronto's Maternal, Infant and Reproductive Health Research Unit (MIRU) at the Centre for Research in Women's Health. Her research involves the study of obstetrics, labour and delivery, and multicentre clinical trials to investigate the care of childbearing women and reproductive health.

+ + PROFILES OF THE MONTH + +

Gillian Hawker, MD, MSc

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 focus in arthritis is on reducing disparity in provision of health care to individuals with osteoarthritis living in the community. Her research focus in osteoporosis is on determinants of attainment and maintenance of peak bone mass in young women and health services research in osteoporosis.

Education and Work Background

Dr. Hawker acquired her M.D. from the University of Toronto in 1984. In 1995 she became a Medical Research Council of Canada Scholar. She was presented with the Young Investigator Award by the Canadian Rheumatology Association in 1998 and then became a Medical Research Council of Canada Scientist in 2000. Dr. Hawker is a Staff Rheumatologist at the Women's College Campus of Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre, where she is also Director of the Osteoporosis Research Program. In 2001 she was appointed the FM Hill Professor in Academic Women's Medicine.

Dr. Hawker conducts research with the Centre for Research in Women's Health, a joint initiative of Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre and the University of Toronto, as a Senior Investigator with the Arthritis Community Research and Evaluation Unit at The Toronto Hospital Research Institute and as a Senior Adjunct Scientist at the Institute for Clinical and Evaluative Sciences. She is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Arthritis Society of Canada and has served on many operating and salary grant review panels. This past year, she chaired the Health Research Training Grant Review Panel of the Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR) and of the Epidemiology and Healthcare Outcomes Review Panel for the Arthritis Society of Canada.

Research Activities

Dr. Hawker's current research in osteoporosis includes a study funded by CIHR to examine the unique contributions of body composition, diet and exercise profiles, and menstrual function to the attainment and maintenance of peak bone mass in a group of over 250 premenopausal women between the ages of 21 to 38 years of age. Her research in the area of arthritis includes a study also funded by CIHR to investigate the determinants of arthritis disability and time to total joint replacement in a population-based cohort of individuals with arthritis.

Teaching and Supervisory Responsibilities

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.

Future Research

Future research in arthritis will examine disparity in access to total joint arthroplasty of the hip and knee and determinants of arthritis disabilities among individuals with hip and knee osteoarthritis in a population-based cohort in the United States.

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Mary Hannah

Mary Hannah is Director and Scientist at the University of Toronto's Maternal, Infant and Reproductive Health Research Unit (MIRU) at the Centre for Research in Women's Health, located on the Women's College Campus of the Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre. Her combined expertise in obstetrics, labour and delivery, and multicentre clinical trials guides MIRU's involvement in international studies designed to answer important questions about the care of childbearing women and reproductive health care.

Education and Work Background

Mary Hannah obtained a BSc in chemistry and mathematics and an MDCM degree from McGill University in Montreal, with professional qualifications in obstetrics and gynaecology. She then completed an MSc in Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics from McMaster University in Hamilton. In addition to holding the position of Professor in HPME, she is a Professor in the Departments of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Paediatrics, and in Public Health Sciences. Dr. Hannah also maintains an active appointment in Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre.

Research Activities

Mary Hannah has published extensively and is a Senior Scientist with funding from the CIHR. Her current largest research project (with Hilary Whyte) is a multicentre international randomised controlled trial to determine the effect of cesarean section as a method of delivery for the fetus in breech presentation, which is now following mothers and babies for two years following delivery. Two of her graduate students are leading CIHR funded projects on the timing of external cephalic version for breech presentation pregnancies (Eileen Hutton), and on the effect of exercise and diet for women with polycystic ovary syndrome (Sheila Laredo). Through close collaboration with other young investigators, she contributes to several other large MIRU - coordinated multicentre studies: the comparison of multiple versus single courses of antenatal corticosteroids for preterm birth (Principal Investigator: Kellie Murphy); the assessment of a policy of cesarean section as a method of delivery for twins in which twin A is presenting head first (Principal Investigator: Jon Barrett); and the evaluation of different target levels of blood pressure for women with hypertension in pregnancy (Principal Investigator: Laura Magee).

Additional professional activities include appointments to the editorial boards of the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Evidence Based Obstetrics and Gynecology, American Journal of Perinatology, Obstetrical and Gynecological Survey, and Journal of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada. Dr. Hannah serves on several committees at the Centre for Research in Women's Health and the University of Toronto, the Clinical Trials Committee at the CIHR, the Research Committee for the Association of Professors of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and the FIGO Expert Advisory Panel on Maternal and Perinatal Health and Obstetrics.

Teaching and Supervisory Responsibilities

Dr. Hannah is currently supervising two MSc and two PhD students. She has also served on several thesis committees and has supervised many medical residents on research rotation. She currently teaches two courses on clinical epidemiology and controlled clinical trials in the Department of Public Health Sciences.

Future Research

Future research will continue to focus on answering important clinical questions related to the reproductive health of women and their infants, using large, rigorously designed randomised controlled trials.

Education

MSc/PhD Seminar Series, Fall 2002

All faculty and students are welcome to attend this Fall's MSc/PhD Seminar Series. The seminar series is held Wednesday mornings from 9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. in Room 3283 of the Medical Sciences Building. This year's line-up includes a wide variety of influential speakers presenting on topical issues across the spectrum of health policy, management and evaluation. Please mark the following dates in your calendar. We look forward to seeing you there. The Seminar Series Schedule can also be viewed at the HPME Website at [Seminar Series Schedule](#)

When: Wednesday 9:00 -10:30 a.m.
Where: Room Room 104 McMurrich

Date	Presenter	Topic
Sept 18	Raisa Deber	Medical Savings Accounts ✖
Oct 2	Rhonda Cockerill/ Gillian Hawker	Student Funding Policy/How to apply successfully to CIHR
Oct 16	Aaron Pollett	Health Information Systems in Pathology
Oct 30	Andrea Fischer	Health Care Reform in Canada: A Look from European Perspective
Nov 13	Kevin Leonard/ Warren Winkelman	What are the outcomes from granting patients access to their health records
Nov 27	Whitney Berta/ Audrey Laporte	Operational Efficiency in Long Term Care Organizations in Ontario
Dec 11	Peter Coyte	Health Care, Technology and Place: A Transdisciplinary Research Training Program

✖ Location: Room 3283, MSB

Health Law and Policy seminar Series for 2002-2003

The Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation and the Faculty of Law's Health Law and Society Group jointly organize the Health Law and Policy Seminar Series. These stimulating sessions are presented by local, national and international experts. All sessions are held at 84 Queen's Park, Falconer Hall Solarium, and lunch is provided. The complete schedule is now available online, www.law.utoronto.ca/healthlaw/index.htm, or contact the event coordinator for more information (416-978-6767; n.gulezko@utoronto.ca).

Honours and Awards

Gillian Hawker Recipient of Premier's Research Excellence Award

[Dr. Gillian Hawker](#), HPME Associate Professor, is one of 34 Ontario researchers to earn a Premier's Research Excellence Award (PREA). Thirty of the awards went to University of Toronto faculty members. PREA recipients secure up to \$100,000 from the province and a grant of up to \$50,000 from their university.

Dr. Hawker's research interests include clinical epidemiology, health services research, and health promotion on osteoporosis, rheumatology, osteoarthritis, total joint replacement, disability and musculoskeletal disorders.

She recently published a clinical prediction rule to identify premenopausal women with low bone mass [Osteoporos Int. 2002; 13(5): 400-6.] and a qualitative study on elderly arthritis patients' unwillingness to consider total joint arthroplasty surgery [Med Decis Making 2002; 22(3): 272-8.].

In May 2002, Dr. Hawker was honoured with the Eugenie Stuart Award for Best Instructor (jointly, with Mary Hannah) based on student evaluations and contribution to the HPME teaching program as assessed by the Department's Curriculum Committee.

HPME Researcher Funding Announced in 2001-2002

(* denotes HPME faculty including core faculty, and cross-appointed and status-only members)

Canadian Health Services Research Foundation

- Malcolm Anderson, Karen Parent*. The Team Approach to Hospice/Palliative Care: Integration of Formal and Informal Care at End-of-Life.
- Georgina Feldberg, Peter C. Coyte*. Cross sectoral accountability for chronic patients.
- Denise Guerriere*, Peter C. Coyte*. Determinants and outcomes of privately and publicly financed home-based nursing.
- Thomas Rathwell, Raisa Deber*. Building a public dialogue framework for defining the Medicare basket.
- Linda O'Brien-Pallas*, Gail Tomblin Murphy. Health human resource modeling: challenging the past, creating the future.
- Colleen Flood*, Carolyn Tuohy. Defining the Medicare basket.

Canadian Institutes of Health Research

- Ungar W.* Pharmaceutical cost-sharing and health outcomes in children with asthma (career award).
- Brien J, Bocking A, Koren G, Matthews S, Reynolds J, Rovet J, Ungar W*. Fetal alcohol syndrome: Oxidative stress and innovative therapies (new emerging team award).
- Leslie L. Roos, Raisa Deber*. Exploring alternative funding models for Canadian health care.
- Geoffrey M. Anderson*, Susan E. Bronskill*. A methodological framework for improving the measurement of hospital outcomes.
- Susan J. Bondy, Veronique Benk*, Lawrence Paszat*, Rebecca Wong et al. A prospective study of intervals and delays in the diagnosis of cancer.
- Ian G. Naglie*, Murray D. Krahn* et al. Canadian Alzheimer's Disease quality of life study.
- Ann Elizabeth Tourangeau, Linda O'Brien Pallas*, Jack Tu* et al. Nursing and other determinants of hospital level outcome such as 30-day mortality and readmission rates.
- Lorelei A. Lingard, G. Ross Baker*, John M. Bohnen* et al. Team talk: An intervention to structure information sharing and promote patient safety in the operating room.
- G. Ross Baker*, Peter Norton. Adverse events in Canadian hospitals. [CIHI/CIHR]

- The Government of Canada established the Canada Research Chairs (CRC) Program in 2000 - providing it with \$900 million to support the establishment of 2,000 Canada Research Chair positions at universities across the country by 2005. The following Graduate Department of HPME faculty received Canada Research Chairs in the November 29, 2001 announcement.

Tier 1 Canada Research Chairs:

Claire Bombardier* - Health Services Research

Alex Jadad* - eHealth Innovation

Tier 2 Canada Research Chairs:

Brian Feldman* - Childhood Arthritis

- Peter C. Coyte* (Department of HPME) and Patricia McKeever (Faculty of Nursing) were awarded a Strategic Research Training Grant by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. The Health Care, Technology, and Place Program will offer talented doctoral and post-doctoral trainees from HPME and other departments the opportunity to develop transdisciplinary research skills and knowledge.
- Sharon Straus (PI), Dave Davis*, Michael Evans, Vivek Goel*, Andreas Laupacis*, Jack Tu*. Randomized trial of an internet-based evidence-based medicine continuing education intervention.
- Ian Tannock. Strategies to improve the effects of chemotherapy for solid tumours.
- Veronique Benk*, Lawrence Paszat*, Rebecca Wong* et al. Delays in radiation therapy for cancer: A prospective study.
- Murray Krahn* (PI), Shabbir Alibhai, Eric Holowaty, Marilyn Irvine, Neil Klar, Audrey Laporte*, Muhammad Mamdani, Gary Naglie*, Paul Ritvo, John Trachtenberg. Population-based estimates of cost and quality of life in prostate cancer.
- Paula Rochon*. Pharmacological Management of Chronic Diseases in Older Adults.
- Paula Rochon* (PI), Geoff Anderson*, Peter Austin, Susan Bronskill*, Jerry Gurwitz, Barbara Liu, Muhammad Mamdani. A comparison of adverse drug events associated with atypical and typical neuroleptic therapy in long-term care.
- Carolyn Dewa* (PI), Paula Goering*, Jeffrey Hoch. The impacts of drug benefit copayment on the guideline recommended use of antidepressants.
- Raisa Deber* (PI), Owen Adams, Glenn Brimacombe, Molly Verrier. Public and private in financing and delivery: Trends in private delivery of health care services in key sectors, and its relationship to that sector's market structures and financing.
- Mary Hannah*. The early external cephalic version trial.

Students

Students off to a Great Start

First year students in the Graduate Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation enjoyed a very successful fall orientation program. The program which included an overview of the policies and procedures governing graduate students at the University of Toronto, a welcome lunch for faculty and students, and a series of practical how-to workshops was well attended and enjoyed by all.

Connaught Scholarship

Dr. Murali Krishnan, MBBS, MD, DM, a new MSc Student (Clin Epi) has been awarded the Connaught Scholarship (\$15K plus academic and incidental fees) for 2002-03.

Alumni

Annual General Meeting and Dinner

The Alumni Society is very pleased to announce that Phillip Hassen, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health and Long Term Care will be the guest speaker at this year's Annual General Meeting and dinner, which will be held on Tuesday, October 29, 2002 at the Holiday Inn, 370 King Street West, Toronto, starting at 5:30 pm. Registration for the evening, including dinner, remains at the low cost of \$50 per person. You can now pay by either cheque or credit card. Mastercard and VISA are both accepted.

This promises to be a fabulous evening and an opportunity to connect with colleagues and classmates from the Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation. We will honour the Silver Anniversary Class of 1977 and will recognize the contributions of our colleagues through the presentation of the Graduate Literary Award and Leadership Award. The slate of the Executive Committee will be announced. If you are interested in joining the Executive please, contact Nasir Noormohamed at nasir@drugintelligence.com.

Honourees of this year's 25th year Silver Anniversary Class:

Class of 1977		
Mark C. Barabas	Bruce W. Cliff	Mary S. MacDonald
A. Kent Bassett-Spiers	Mark D. Hurst	Joseph Mapa
Robert W. Blum	Evelyn A. Kent	Michael S. Park
Michael P. Boucher	Foster D. Loucks	Ronald E.F. Saddington
Warren Chant	Frank J.E. Lussing	Bruce H. Swan

Awards - Call for Nominations!

At the annual dinner each year we recognize the contribution of our colleagues through the presentation of the Leadership Award and Graduate Literary Award. These awards recognize outstanding contributions to the field by alumni. We are pleased to announce that beginning this year the Graduate Literary Award consists of a cheque for \$1,000. plus certificate. The criteria and nomination forms for both these awards have been included with this newsletter. The deadline for application is Friday October 11, 2002.

Other Notables

Ross Baker voted one of the "100 most powerful people in [U.S.] healthcare"

[Ross Baker](#), HPME Associate Professor, and Chair of the North American Association of University Programs in Health Administration, has been listed number 33 amongst 100 of the most powerful people in [U.S.] healthcare according to a poll conducted by [Modern Healthcare](#) magazine.

To come up with its ranking, Modern Healthcare polled its readership during a 17-day period in July. The magazine's editorial staff compiled a list of 160 candidates for this distinction and posted it on the magazine's Web site on July 15. Visitors to the site had to vote for ten candidates, with an opportunity to include up to five write-in candidates. The voting deadline was July 31. Voters also were encouraged to submit comments on their choices. Visitors to the site cast a total of 2,174 ballots. Because of the high number of write-ins, more than 1,000 individuals received votes, with the final ranking based on the number of votes received.

Modern Healthcare is a business newsweekly serving healthcare management. Circulation is primarily controlled, and concentrated on executives with financial and purchasing responsibilities in hospitals, integrated delivery systems, managed care organization, medical group clinics, multi-hospital systems and group purchasing organization, as well as architects and consultants to the field. Primary titles reached in hospitals are CEO's, presidents, administrators, CIO's, vice presidents, chief purchasing and financial officers and officers of the Board.

Dr. Baker's 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 recently finished a survey and interview research on current patient safety activities in Canada. He also serves as a member of the National Steering Committee on Patient Safety chaired by Dr. John Wade.

HPME researchers release report on diabetes

[Jan Hux](#), Assistant Professor, and [Andreas Laupacis](#), Professor, also researchers at the [Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences](#), released a "practice atlas" describing diabetes care in Ontario between 1995 and 1999, along with colleague Gillian Booth.

The report describes the incidence and prevalence of diabetes in Ontario, acute complications, drug use, health outcomes and risk factors. It appears that the number of Canadians living with diabetes has increased, largely because treatments have improved, allowing people to live longer and better than in the past.

The full report is available at www.ices.on.ca.

Updated Web Interface

Be sure to visit the modified HPME web site that now includes a New and Notable column updated regularly with notifications of publications, awards, and research activities. Please keep us informed of your successes so that we can share the information with your colleagues. Note too that [faculty](#) profiles were recently updated with most recent publications, and you can always return to the main page by clicking on the HPME logo at the top of the page or the bottom left-hand corner.