

## DEAN'S MESSAGE



Dean Dr. Howard Hu

In 1984, at a conference on the impacts of the urban environment on health, an initiative began that came to be known as the “Healthy Cities movement”. This led to WHO-sponsored conferences on Healthy Cities, the European Healthy Cities Project, now 25-years old, and similar projects around the world. Flash forward to today, 2013. An acceleration in urbanization over the last 30 years has led to over half of the world’s populations now living in cities. Researchers are questioning the potential impact of urban sprawl, dependence on cars, and lack of physical activity on the obesity epidemic that has relentlessly spread across the world. Mega-cities

(greater than 10 million people) have tripled, pushing the boundaries of sanitation and the sustainability of safe food and water supplies. The initial perception that there is an overall “urban advantage”, i.e., that urban populations are generally healthier than rural populations because of access to employment, health care, etc.—has been overshadowed by the recognition that urban growth has also created enormous health disparities within cities. New vulnerabilities have been identified—such as the urban “heat island” effect, which will accentuate the impact of the heat wave effects that are part of global warming. And in June of 2013, China announced that it will push ahead with a sweeping plan to move 250 million rural residents into newly constructed towns and cities over the next 12 years.

Who could have imagined, back in 1984, that urbanization would accelerate to this degree, and that the opportunity—indeed, the mandate—to do the research, plan ahead, and work across sectors, to optimize health would emerge as such a critical dimension to attaining a sustainable world? Few. But it is worth noting that the initial 1984 conference that led to the Healthy Cities movement was held in a sprawling, rapidly-growing city afflicted with many of the challenges to health that were discussed in the conference.

### That city was Toronto.

Next month, Toronto will again be the site of a new initiative that aims at promoting the scholarship that will take the Healthy Cities movement

## CONTENTS

DEAN'S MESSAGE	1.
DEAN HU... IN THE NEWS	2.
WHAT'S NEW & HAPPENINGS	2.
BOOK LAUNCH	3.
SAVE THE DATE	4.
CHANGE IN ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP	4.
YOU SHOULD KNOW...	6.
ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT	10.
KEEP AN EYE OUT	12.

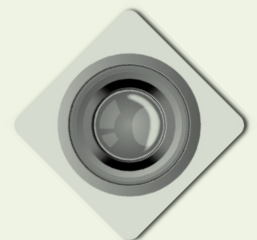
## Share Your Photos!

Snap it and send it in! Send pictures of the DLSPH in action.

The Dean's Office is looking for lab, event, classroom, and field site photographs from each Division to add to our website, Facebook, and e-communications.

Photo submissions will go into a DLSPH photo library. By submitting your photograph(s) you are authorizing DLSPH to use your photograph(s)!

Send Submissions to:  
[dean.dlsp@utoronto.ca](mailto:dean.dlsp@utoronto.ca)



This issue of the DLSPH e-Bulletin was made possible with the technical assistance of



## DEAN'S MESSAGE (CONT.)

to the next level. Trevor Hancock, a remarkable thinker whose ideas were central to the agenda discussed back in 1984, and who subsequently worked to test and implement those ideas in positions in government as well as academia, will return to Toronto to provide the kick-off lecture on the evening of October 23, and on October 24 the Dalla Lana School of Public Health will host an innovative symposium, open to our entire community, on “Healthier Cities & Communities” (<http://healthiercitysymposium2013.wordpress.com/>). Organized by DLSPH Professors Patricia O’Campo and Blake Poland using a “constellation” model of soliciting faculty involvement, the event will take place at the Li Ka Shing building of St. Michael’s Hospital, one of our main strategic partners and the site of the Centre for Research on Inner City Health.

This is no ordinary symposium. It has the aim of soliciting the most innovative ideas on how to create new areas of research and training that will allow policy makers, urban designers, communities and planners across all sectors to make decisions that are “health smart”—in part, by taking advantage of many of the unique attributes of Canada’s leading school of public health, situated in a world-class university in a rapidly-growing and evolving world-class city.

It will be followed on October 25 by the our student led conference, “Healthy Toronto: Our Health Lives Here.” The sixth annual conference organized by our remarkably energetic and creative students, this event will be “an opportunity for practitioners, academics, community members, and students to discover, celebrate, and learn from phenomenal local initiatives that continually restore the health of our city” (<http://healthytorontoconference.com/>).

And in the next 18 months, similar events will take place, addressing the integration of public health and primary care; and global health equity & innovation---central, transformative, overlapping, and integrative themes in our emerging strategic vision.

Please join us, participate and innovate.

Howard Hu, M.D., M.P.H., Sc.D.  
Dean


## DEAN HU...IN THE NEWS

[Syria Chemical Attacks](#),  
CTV

[How will UN experts in Syria Try to Prove a Chemical Attack](#),  
Toronto Star

[How the latest chemical weapons claim differs from others](#),  
CNN

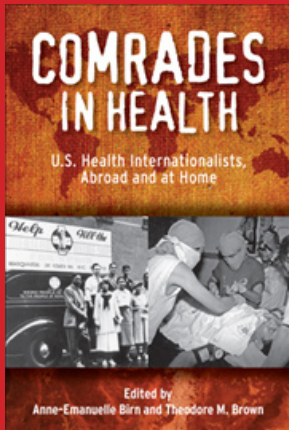
## What's New & Happenings



The screenshot shows the website for the Dalla Lana School of Public Health. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'About', 'New Initiatives', 'Divisions', 'Programs & Students', 'Research', 'Faculty', 'Events', and 'Alumni'. Below this is a large banner image with the text 'Epidemiology' and 'Dalla Lana School of Public Health'. The main content area is divided into three columns: 'WHAT'S NEW' (listing recent news items), 'PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS' (listing degree programs and application processes), and 'UPCOMING EVENTS' (listing global health metrics and other events).

To check out What's New go to:  
<http://dlsph.utoronto.ca/new>

# YOU ARE INVITED TO A BOOK LAUNCH!



**Comrades in Health:  
US Health Internationalists, Abroad and at Home**  
Edited by Anne-Emanuelle Birn and Theodore M. Brown

Friday October 4, 4-5:45pm  
Croft Chapter House, University College  
15 Kings College Circle, University of Toronto

[MAP](#)

RSVP by September 30 to: [marrisonstranks@gmail.com](mailto:marrisonstranks@gmail.com)

Co-sponsored by:

Comparative Program on Health and Society Latin American Studies Centre for the Study of the United States Development Seminar Global Health Division, Dalla Lana School of Public Health Centre for Critical Development Studies, UTSC

## Description

Since the early twentieth century, politically engaged and socially committed U.S. health professionals have worked in solidarity with progressive movements around the world. Often with roots in social medicine, political activism, and international socialism, these doctors, nurses, and other health workers became comrades who joined forces with people struggling for social justice, equity, and the right to health.

Anne-Emanuelle Birn and Theodore M. Brown bring together a group of professionals and activists whose lives have been dedicated to health internationalism. By presenting a combination of historical accounts and first-hand reflections, this collection of essays aims to draw attention to the longstanding international activities of the American health left and the lessons they brought home. The involvement of these progressive U.S. health professionals is presented against the background of foreign and domestic policy, social movements, and global politics.

Go here to purchase: <http://rutgerspress.rutgers.edu/product/Comrades-in-Health,4808.aspx>

## What people are saying...

“This wonderful book offers a deeply reflective look at the motivations, ideology, and outcomes of this critical work, telling the stories of true heroes and heroines of American medicine and public health. It is must reading for anyone contemplating international health activism today.”

- Dr. David Himmelstein and Dr. Steffie Woolhandler,  
Cofounders, Physicians for a National Health Program

“Everybody who cares about health and social justice, internationally and in the U.S., should read this book!”

- Amy Goodman,  
Host of Democracy Now! and 2008 winner Right Livelihood Award

“Comrades in Health is a pioneering effort, a major addition to the study of global public health, and a new perspective on U.S. domestic health policy.”

- Gerald M. Oppenheimer,  
Coauthor of Shattered Dreams? An Oral History of the South African AIDS Epidemic

SAVE THE DATE  
**MAY 2015**  
Hosted by Toronto and the DLSPH

## Canadian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CSEB) Biennial Conference

It was just announced at the recent CSEB meeting in St. John's Newfoundland that Toronto will be the host city for the 2015 Biennial Scientific Meeting and Student Meeting, both to take place in May 2015. The CSEB is the only national organization dedicated to fostering and promoting epidemiologic and biostatistical research in Canada – we are excited to be able to showcase our great city and school for such an important and relevant professional organization.

Given Toronto's central location, the fact that many CSEB members are based at Ontario institutions, and that Toronto itself is an exciting travel destination, we anticipate 300 attendees for the scientific and student meetings, alike. The meetings themselves will not only be an opportunity for epidemiologists, biostatisticians and trainees from academic and applied government and community public health settings to present and discuss their research, but also an opportunity for members of the DLSPH community to reconnect with each other. Because many members of the CSEB have connections to the DLSPH – as students, alumni, core faculty, affiliated faculty and collaborators – a special event for DLSPH alumni and friends is being planned. More information will follow.

## CHANGE IN ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP AT THE DLSPH

Dear DLSPH Faculty, Students, Staff, Alumni and other stakeholders,

I am extremely pleased to announce another key development in academic leadership within DLSPH. As of this month, Dr. Ross Upshur has become the Head of our Division of Clinical Public Health. This innovative new Division has the goal of being the world leader in developing, testing, evaluating and teaching approaches to integrating public health, preventive medicine and primary care as part of the sustainable health system of the future. It is the home of our training programs in Community Nutrition, Health Practitioner Teacher Education, Wound Prevention and Care, and Public Health for Family & Community Medicine and Addictions & Mental Health. It also is the new home of our Public Health & Preventive Medicine Residency, our planned MD-MPH program and many other initiatives.

Dr. Upshur is known to most of you as a long-time outstanding scholar in primary care, bioethics, global health, and many other domains that are critically important to our School's mission. In addition to leading our Division of Clinical Public Health, he will continue as the Canada Research Chair in Primary Care Research. Below is a brief biography of this remarkable leader. Please welcome him into his new role.

Howard Hu, Dean

► Ross Upshur

Ross Upshur received BA (Hons.) and MA degrees in philosophy before receiving his MD from McMaster University in 1986. After 7 years of rural primary care practice he returned to complete his MSc in epidemiology and fellowship training in Community Medicine and Public Health at the University of Toronto. He is currently the Medical Director, Clinical Research, Bridgepoint Health.

“...outstanding scholar in primary care, bioethics, global health and many other domains that are critically important to our School's mission.”

Dr. Upshur is the Canada Research Chair in Primary Care Research. At the University of Toronto he is a Professor at the Department of Family and Community Medicine and Dalla Lana School of Public Health, Adjunct Scientist at the Institute of Clinical Evaluative Sciences, an affiliate of the Institute of the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology and a member of the Centre for Environment. He is an Adjunct Associate Professor in the School of Geography and Earth Sciences and Associate Member of the Institute of Environment and Health at McMaster University. He is the former Director of the University of Toronto Joint Centre for Bioethics (2006-2011) and was a staff physician at the Department of Family and Community Medicine, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre from 1998-2013. He is a member of The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

His research focuses on the intersection of primary care and public health particularly with respect to the interrelationship between ethics and evidence. His current interests include managing complex chronic disease in aging adults, clinical measurement, the concept of evidence in health care, philosophy of medicine including medical epistemology and the integration of ethics and clinical reasoning, public health ethics, global health ethics, empirical approaches in bioethics, primary care research methods, time series applications in health services research, communicable disease and environmental epidemiology. He has held numerous grants from the CIHR. He has over 300 publications including more than 180 peer reviewed publications spanning these domains.

At the University of Toronto, he has designed and taught courses in the graduate, post graduate and undergraduate curriculum in ethics, epidemiology and the philosophy of medicine as well as supervising and co supervising over 75 graduate students and post graduate research students. He is a clinical supervisor in the post graduate Family Medicine Residency program, having been core supervisor for 15 postgraduate trainees in family medicine.

He has been active on Advisory Boards for the International Joint Commission, Doctors Without Borders, and Scidev.net, several medical journals and consulted with the World Health Organization and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Grand Challenges in Global Health. In 2008 he was named the Academic Family Physician of the Year and Researcher of the Year by the Department of Family and Community Medicine and received the John Hastings Award for Excellence in Service to the University and Community from the Department of Public Health Sciences.

## ► David Henry



Dr. David Henry appointed as professor and senior advisor to the Dean

We are pleased to announce that Dr. David Henry has been appointed as professor and senior advisor to the Dean, Dalla Lana School of Public Health and Director, Institute of Health Policy, Management, and Evaluation. Dr Henry will develop a strategy for using 'big data' in the fields of population health and health policy evaluation. Dr. Henry's deep experience in working with large data sets and translating insights gained from these data to clinical practice and health policy make him remarkably well suited for this role. He is the former CEO of the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES), where he was responsible for the expansion of ICES both in terms of data holdings and geographic reach, with establishment of new partnering sites at the University of Toronto, Queens University, University of

Ottawa and Western University. Dr Henry is a physician and epidemiologist with a long record of research in pharmaco-epidemiology. He is executive co-lead of the Canadian Network for Observational Drug Effect Studies (CNODES), a distributed network of provincial data centres and investigators who perform large population-based drug safety analyses.

In this new role Dr. Henry will help shape research priorities at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health and the Institute of Health Policy, Management, and Evaluation and lead a pedagogical program in big data that will span both organizations. He will help shape a big data strategy for both organizations that focuses on the use of Ontario's extensive data holdings to improve health and healthcare outcomes, health system sustainability, and our knowledge of the determinants of health. By connecting with other sources of data, these initiatives will look to create broader and deeper data sets in Ontario that are relevant to senior decision-makers, clinicians, and scholars.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Henry to the Dalla Lana School of Public Health and the Institute of Health Policy, Management, and Evaluation.

## YOU SHOULD KNOW...

### ► Dr. Prabhat Jha and Dr. Usha Ram

Research led by Professor Prabhat Jha and Dr. Usha Ram shows that a third of districts in India will not achieve international targets for reducing child deaths.

“Neonatal, 1–59 month, and under-5 mortality in 597 Indian districts, 2001 to 2012: estimates from national demographic and mortality surveys”

India has the largest number of deaths in children under five years of any country in the world, and as the deadline for the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) approaches in 2015, achievement of global targets for reducing the mortality rate in children under five worldwide will depend in large part on progress in reducing deaths in children in the sub-regions of India. This study estimates death (mortality) rates among children under five years old for 597 Indian districts, from 2001 – 2012. Overall, under-five mortality rates are falling in India (at an average rate of 3.7% per year between 2001 and 2012), and just over a third (222) of distri-

cts are on track to achieve MDG target 4 (to reduce deaths in under-fives to 38 or fewer deaths per 1000 births).

However, the results show that an equal number (222, or 37%) of districts will achieve this target only after 2020. The results highlight startling inequalities between richer and poorer states in India – just 81 (14%) of districts account for over a third (37%) of deaths in children under five nationally, and nine poorer states (Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh,

Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh) have around half of all people and births in India, but nearly three quarters (71%) of all deaths in children under five. The results also show that deaths in children aged 1 – 59 months (ie, those who survive the first month of life, but die before the age of five), deaths among girls exceeded those among boys by 25% in 303 states across India. Click here for [The Lancet Global Health Article](#).

### ► CSA GROUP ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF NEW CHAIR, VICE CHAIR AND FOUR NEW MEMBERS TO ITS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TORONTO, June 26, 2013 – CSA Group, a leading standards development and global testing and certification service provider, announces the appointment of Dr. H. Roland Hosein as the organization’s new Chair of the Board of Directors and Dr. David Fung as the new Vice-Chair of the Board. Both Dr. Hosein and Dr. Fung were recipients of the 2012 Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, recognizing their extraordinary leadership, voluntarism, and outstanding contributions to Canada. CSA Group today also announces the appointment of four new Board members.

“I am delighted with all of these new appointments to our Board of Directors,” said Ash Sahi, President and CEO, CSA Group. “They are visionaries, successful global leaders and intellectuals who will provide outstanding guidance and support to CSA Group as we embark on our new five-year business plan. CSA Group’s Board of Directors now includes four 2012 Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal holders and four members holding doctorate degrees.”

CSA Group also wishes to pay tribute to Mr. Bob Cook, outgoing Chair of the Board. “We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to Bob Cook, who brought with him a wealth of knowledge and expertise,” added Mr. Sahi. “CSA Group values Mr. Cook’s service to the organization and we are sincerely grateful for his leadership, guidance and counsel.”

The new Chair, Dr. H. Roland Hosein, was elected to the CSA Group Board of Directors in June 2007. Most recently, he held the position of Vice Chair of the Board of Directors, and Chair of the Standards Policy Board. In 2005 Dr. Hosein was recognized with the John Jenkins Award, CSA Group’s highest honour; and received the Diaspora Award from the Trinidad and Tobago government for service to Canada. Dr. Hosein is Vice-President, Environment, Health and Safety at General Electric Canada. Dr. Hosein headed the Canada. Dr. Hosein headed the Canadian delegation on ISO TC 207 on EMS and ISO TC 299 on Nanotechnology. He is Co-Chair of the Members of the Canadian Foundation for Innovation and recent Chair of the Board of the Institute of Work and Health.

## You SHOULD KNOW... (CONT.)

The new Vice-Chair, Dr. David T. Fung, joined the CSA Group Board of Directors in June 2009, serving on the Human Resources and Compensation Committee. He was also appointed Chair of the Standards Policy Board. Outside of his responsibilities with CSA Group, Dr. Fung is a notable executive member of other organizations including being Chairman and CEO of the ACDEG Group of companies, Co-Chair of the Members of the Canada Foundation for Innovation, Chair of the Chemical Institute of Canada, and Vice Chair of the Canada China Business Council.

Other new appointments to CSA Group's Board of Directors today include Mr. Jimmy LaValley, a Senior Partner at Brimstone Consulting Group, Ms. Norma McCormick, founder and principal of Corporate Health Works Inc., Dr. Robert Page (a 2012 Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal recipient), Director, Enbridge Centre for Corporate Sustainability, Haskayne School of Business, University of Calgary, and Mr. Jeremy Rakusin, Vice-President, Strategy & Corporate Development at FirstService Corporation.

### About CSA Group

CSA Group is an independent, not-for-profit membership association dedicated to safety, social good and sustainability. Its knowledge and expertise encompass standards development; training and advisory solutions; global testing and certification services across key business areas including hazardous locations and industrial, plumbing and construction, medical, safety and technology, appliances and gas, alternative energy, lighting and sustainability; as well as consumer product evaluation services. The CSA certification mark appears on billions of products worldwide. For more information about CSA Group visit [www.csagroup.org](http://www.csagroup.org)

### ► CIHR STAGE

CIHR STAGE (Strategic Training for Advanced Genetic Epidemiology) welcomes new researchers, bids farewell to outgoing Fellows

CIHR STAGE extends a warm welcome to its sixth cohort of trainees, a diverse group of exceptional post- and pre-doctoral scientists who will team with CIHR STAGE faculty and continuing trainees to address prevention and management of common diseases through genetic epidemiology and statistical genetics research.

### ► Dr. Lizhen Xu

Dr. Lizhen Xu, who is based at the DLSPH, will be mentored by DLSPH Professors Drs. Wei Xu and Andrew Paterson on her research entitled "Latent variable modeling of longitudinal family microbiome data."



### ► Dr. Hance Clarke

Dr. Hance Clarke, Assistant Professor in the Department of Anesthesia at the University of Toronto and Staff Anesthesiologist at Toronto General Hospital, will be mentored by Drs. Jo Knight (Centre for Addiction and Mental Health [CAMH]), Andrew Paterson (DLSPH) and Michael Wilson (The Hospital for Sick Children [SickKids]) on his research project "Chronic post surgical pain - A pilot genome-wide association study."



### ► Nora Zwingerman



Nora Zwingerman, a second year PhD student in the Division of Epidemiology at the DLSPH will be mentored by Drs. France Gagnon (DLSPH), Zdenka Pausova (SickKids) and Mathieu Lemire (Ontario Institute for Cancer Research), in her work "The association of DNA variants and DNA methylation levels

with fibrinolytic protein levels."

CIHR STAGE also bids a fond farewell to its three excellent departing Trainees.

► Yildiz Yilmaz



Yildiz Yilmaz, has taken a faculty position in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at Memorial University.

► Vanessa Oliveira



Vanessa Oliveira obtained a fellowship to continue her research at CAMH in a project entitled “Analysis of Energy Regulation Genes in Severe Weight Gain Induced During Treatment With Anti-Psychotic Medication.”

► Zhijian (Charlie) Chen

Zhijian (Charlie) Chen has taken a position at Scotiabank.



## Public Health and Preventive Medicine Graduate Named Medical Officer of Health for Northern Nova Scotia

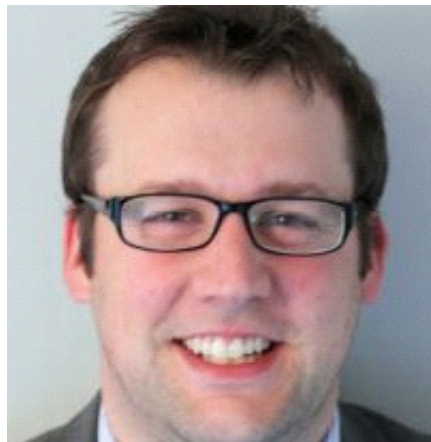
From the Truro Daily News: published on September 9th, 2013

Truro area physician Dr. Ryan Sommers has been appointed the regional Medical Officer of Health. Sommers will represent Colchester, Cumberland and Pictou counties, as well as the Municipality of East Hants.

“As our medical officer of health, Dr. Sommers is providing leadership and expertise related to communicable diseases, health policy, chronic disease and preventive medicine,” said Mark Scott, director of Public Health Services for the region, in a press release. “We are pleased to have welcomed him to our team and look forward to working with him to advance our efforts to improve the health of our communities.”

Nova Scotia’s medical officers of health focus on the health of populations, leading and helping support collaborative efforts to both maintain and improve the health and well-being of our communities. They work with those in health care, other government departments and community groups to address major issues impacting health.

Dr. Sommers has been a valued member of the Colchester East Hants Health Authority’s medical community since 2008 as a family physician.



Shortly after he began practicing in the area, Dr. Sommers helped fulfill a vital role in the health authority’s response to the H1N1 flu pandemic.

The outbreak was controlled through a co-ordinated response by public health professionals and primary care physicians that included mass vaccination clinics, flu assessment clinics and community and hospital-based treatment of H1N1 patients.

Dr. Sommers was involved in front line care but was also the voice of the health authority’s H1N1 education campaign aimed at raising awareness of the pandemic and the steps individuals could take to protect themselves and their loved ones.

In addition to his family practice and hospital duties, he supported planning for the new Colchester East Hants Health Centre and has been an active member of numerous committees and groups working to enhance appropriate use of antibiotic prescriptions and improve the quality of health care services.

Dr. Sommers pursued his passion for health promotion and population health by completing Public Health and Preventive Medicine specialty training through the University of



Toronto. This included a residency placement with Public Health Services in Northern Nova Scotia last fall.

“Our region is faced with a number of complex health issues,” said Dr. Sommers. “As medical officer of health, my role is to work with Public Health Services to understand the health our communities and to act together to create conditions that will improve our communities’ health.”

Dr. Sommers replaces Dr. Robin Taylor who provided leadership in the region since 2011. Dr. Taylor is continuing on as one of Nova Scotia’s medical officers of health.

Dr. Sommers and his wife, Dr. Jan Sommers, live in the Truro Area and are proud parents of two young boys.

## Healthy Toronto: Our Health Lives Here, the 6th Annual Student-Led Conference

Be sure to attend Healthy Toronto: Our Health Lives Here, the 6th Annual Student-Led Conference on Friday October 25th, 2013. This full day event will showcase local initiatives that enhance the health of those who contribute to the city’s hustle and bustle. Engage in skill-building workshops hosted by budding health system innovators like Shivani Goyal and Theresa Lee who will guide you through the hoops and hurdles involved in developing a successful health app, and the Workers’ Action Centre who can give you the inside scoop on health advocacy strategies. Then participate in a conversation with a diverse keynote panel who will outline key strategies for building a healthy city. Discuss real-time urban health issues with influential players like Marlon Merraro- Healthy Communities Directorate for Toronto Public Health, Susan Gapka- Veteran Social Justice Advocate, and Jennifer Keesmat- Chief Planner for the City of Toronto.



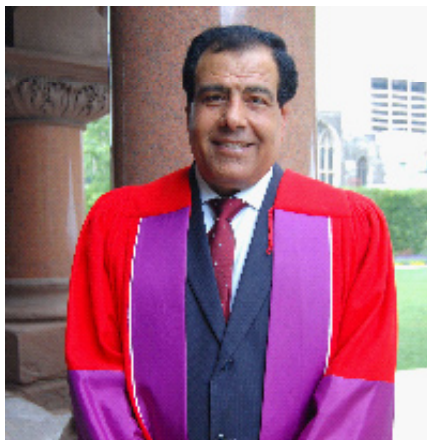
Join us on Twitter (@HealthyTO2013) and Instagram (HealthyTO) and visit our website for information on registration and more details ([healthytorontoconference.com](http://healthytorontoconference.com)).

### ► Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish

Congratulations to Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish who received the honorary degree, [Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa](#), from Victoria University .

Dr. Abuelaish was also [ranked number 59 among the top 500 powerful Arabs in the world](#) and received

& 2013 World Citizenship in Action Award from the organization World Citizens in Canada.



### ► Dr. Liviana Calzavara and Dr. Ted Myters

Congratulations to Dr. Liviana Calzavara and Dr. Ted Myters who have been elected to the Academy of the Association for Social Sciences and Humanities in HIV (ASSHH) in Recognition of Scholarly Excellence and Impact

ASSHH is an international organization that promotes and supports critically informed and theoretically engaged social science and humanities research on HIV/AIDS. The ASSHH Academy comprises individuals elected by their peers in recognition of the excellence and impact of their scholarship in the social sciences and humanities in HIV.

### ► Dr. Lawrence Loh



Congratulations to Dr. Lawrence Loh, Adjunct Lecturer at the DLSPH, who has been awarded the Jay S. Drotman Memorial Award by APHA 2013 Award Winner

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

**Sharon-Lise Normand**, PhD 1990

Professor, Harvard Medical School

Professor, Harvard School of Public Health

Affiliate, Centre for Basic Research in the Social Sciences, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University

**How did you become interested in your field of public health? What led you to DLSPH?**

I was always interested in mathematics and enjoyed applications so Statistics/Biostatistics is a natural choice. At Western, I was part of the first undergraduate class in Statistics. The Biostatistics program at University of Toronto was new and one of the few that existed in 1985 so I wasted no time in applying. I graduated in 1990 when there was no DLSPH!

**What do you enjoy most about your current career position?**

Having a real impact on health policy – I have been very lucky to be involved in projects at both the national and state level. For example, I lead a Medical Device Epidemiology Network Methodology Center to develop statistical methodology for post-market surveillance strategies of medical devices for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration; in Massachusetts, I direct the data coordinating center that monitors the quality and safety of all cardiac surgery and percutaneous interventions performed in all non-federal hospitals in the state.

**In what ways has your DLSPH experience had an impact on your career?**

In addition to providing a solid academic background and set of experiences, I can say (with very high probability), I would not be at Harvard Medical School. When I graduated, I was encouraged by a faculty member at U of T to reject some of the job offers I had as “something” better would arrive – I was nervous to reject the job offers without a back-up plan but I did. Sure enough, I was offered a post-doctoral fellowship at Harvard Medical School, and have been here since!

**Describe any significant relationships with fellow students or faculty. How did these relationships help you?**

While completing my PhD, the Biostatistics program was small in terms of number of graduate student but the group was powerful! We called ourselves the “BUGS” [Biostatistics Union of Graduate Students] and socialized often -- we attended professional meetings together [Statistical Society of Canada; and the Joint Statistical Meetings] as well as other events. The support of my fellow students helped me complete my PhD and to enjoy virtually every minute of it.

“good science proceeds slowly” so I would advise students to push ahead with an idea because it is almost surely important”

What advice would you give to younger alumni or current students who aspire to follow a similar career path?

I was told that “good science proceeds slowly” so I would advise students to push ahead with an idea because it is almost surely important. I would also urge students to make the most use of their fellow graduate students.

What would you say to a prospective student who is considering DLSPH?

While I cannot speak directly to the DLSPH given it did not exist while I was at University of Toronto, I cannot emphasize enough the advantages and opportunities that exist at U of T given its strategic location in the city, its stellar faculty, and its partnerships with hospitals and other research organizations – hence, I would say “Select DLSPH”!

“I cannot emphasize enough the advantages and opportunities that exist at U of T given its strategic location in the city, its stellar faculty, and its partnerships with hospitals and other research organizations – hence, I would say “Select DLSPH”!

What was your favorite course at DLSPH?

The most interesting and impactful course was participation in the “Clinical Research Support Unit” which was a statistical consulting center led by Prof. David Andrews (who was Chair of Statistics and Biostatistics at the time) and other Biostatistics faculty. The graduate students were responsible for providing analyses (not just consulting) for university and other researchers with leadership from the faculty. This provided hands-on experience in the real world where data are never as nice as in courses.

Do you have a favorite or funny story about your time at DLSPH?

The BUGS had plenty of fun times – one that I share relates to the office of one of the professors. Laszlo Endrenyi (one of our favourite professors) had a rather cluttered and disorganized office. We would be amazed when he would reach behind his numerous huge piles of papers to retrieve exactly the one he wished to discuss. The heights of those piles of papers was always in question and so, we actually had a contest opened to all graduate students and faculty to guess the actual height of the largest pile. A picture was taken of his office, displayed in a central location, and people placed their guesses. We measured several times, a good statistical practice to reduce measurement error. I cannot recall who won but I know we did not permit Prof. Endrenyi to participate in the voting.

With more than 50 funded research projects, over 250 publications, and well over 100 academic presentations to her name, Dr. Normand is unquestionably a distinguished leader in her field. In addition to her professorial roles at Harvard, Dr. Normand is currently a Member of the Committee on Applied and Theoretical Statistics, National Academy of Sciences; a Scientific Advisory Board Member, Institute of Clinical Evaluative Science; a Board Member of the Frontier Science and Technology Research Foundation, Inc.; and a newly appointed Member, Executive Board, of the International Biometrics Society. Her long list of awards and honours, most recently, include: the Distinguished Scientist Award, American Heart Association (2012); the Distinguished Service Award, International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (2012); and the Long Term Excellence Award, American Statistical Association, Health Policy Statistics Section.

CISEPO

<http://www.dlsph.utoronto.ca/sites/default/files/media/docs/News/Newsworthy/IPEME.pdf>



## KEEP AN EYE OUT

► Lesley A. Tarasoff

Lesley A. Tarasoff, MA, SBHS PhD Candidate, is interested in improving the perinatal care experiences of marginalized women, namely sexual minority women and women with physical disabilities. Lesley has had a busy summer and invites you to keep an eye out for some of her recent publications (3 of which are co-authored with DLSPH Associate Professor and CAMH Scientist Lori E. Ross, PhD):

“Experiences of women with physical disabilities during the perinatal period: A review of the literature and recommendations to improve care” in *Health Care for Women International*:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/SgxPrRayrzG59J2QfDHa/full> (free preview)

“Attitudes and knowledge among obstetrician-gynecologists regarding lesbian patients and their health” in the *Journal of Women’s Health*:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23305220> (abstract)

“Relation between place of residence and postpartum depression” in the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*:

<http://www.cmaj.ca/content/early/2013/08/06/cmaj.122028> (full article).

This article received a fair bit of media coverage in early August (e.g., <http://www.cbc.ca/news/health/story/2013/08/06/postpartum-depression-urban.html> (CBC); <http://www.ctvnews.ca/health/moms-living-in-large-cities-most-at-risk-for-post-partum-depression-study-1.1399865#ixzz2c3gpPzGI> (CTV); [http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2013/08/06/new-moms-living-in-large- n\\_3714132.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2013/08/06/new-moms-living-in-large- n_3714132.html) (Huffington Post)). On November 13, with the support of EENet, the Evidence Exchange Network for Mental Health and Addictions ([www.eenet.ca](http://www.eenet.ca)), Lesley and her co-authors will be hosting a webinar to discuss this study.

“Sexual and gender minority peoples’ recommendations for assisted human reproduction services” in the *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Canada* (in press).

For more information or a copy of any of these articles, contact [lesley.tarasoff@utoronto.ca](mailto:lesley.tarasoff@utoronto.ca).

---

# Hear from the World's Best Minds in Medical Science

---

## 2013 Gairdner Symposia

---

### October 23-25, 2013

---

**Oct. 23**  
9am-4pm

**HIV/STIs:  
Are we moving forward?**

MaRS Auditorium  
101 College Street

---

**Oct. 24**  
9am-3pm

**Minds That Matter: 2013  
Canada Gairdner Award  
Recipients' Lectures**

MacLeod Auditorium  
University of Toronto

---

**Oct. 25**  
8am-3pm

**Hepatitis C Virus:  
From Discover to Cure**

Li Ka Shing Auditorium  
St. Michael's Hospital

---

**Oct. 25**  
9am-4pm

**Protein Structure & Function  
in Health & Disease**

MacLeod Auditorium  
University of Toronto

---

More info:

**[www.gairdner.org](http://www.gairdner.org)**