

## DEAN'S MESSAGE



Dean Dr. Howard Hu

The work of developing and pursuing initiatives for which an institution is uniquely positioned to address—the lovely position in which our new Faculty finds itself—is dependent on ideas, passion, and resources. No resource is more critical than our human resources—faculty, staff, student, partners, supporters. This fall, we are ramping up recently-established and initiating several new committees that are aimed at key innovations. All of them will be looking to recruit your involvement in ways that can be transformative for the DLSPH as well as, we hope, fun and exciting for you. Among them:

A **Continuing, Internet-based & Long Distance Education Committee**, co-Chaired by Professors Andrea Sass-Kortsak and James Scott, aims at developing programs that utilize innovations in technology, scheduling, partnerships, and programming to expand DLSPH educational offerings, both to new students and other learners as well as existing students. A wide range of options will be explored, such as converting some existing and new courses into internet-based modular formats that would allow students to cherry-pick new skills without worrying about scheduling; building off our first foray into Massive Open On-Line Courses (Professor Prabhat Jha's "Death 101", one of 4 U of T MOOCs being developed through the Harvard EdX initiative) to offer additional high-visibility courses; developing long-distance educational programs tailored to remote communities and learners associated with global partners.

An **Internationalization Committee**, co-Chaired by Professors Andrea Sass-Kortsak and Donald Cole, aims at building off of global partnerships and new scholarship programs to facilitate the recruitment of international students, fellows, and other learners, particularly from low and middle-income countries. Increasing our mix of international learners will enrich the educational environment of our Faculty while allowing us to increase our impact on training the leaders who will be our global health partners of tomorrow.

An **Outreach and Communications Committee**, to be chaired by a new Director of Communications (recruitment is underway), will lead the development and production of our Faculty's publications and strategic media outreach plans and enhance the Faculty's brand through other

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## DEAN'S MESSAGE (CONT.)

strategic communications and the Faculty's online presence. Examples of activities include implementing the Faculty's web and social media strategy; working with DLSPH admissions to optimize outreach to our potential market of students and other learners; creating and editing communications products; working with internal and external contacts to develop DLSPH resources, experts and stories for media; and monitoring and reporting on media coverage and continuously assessing the effectiveness of media outreach.

Our Research Advisory Committee, established earlier this year and Chaired by Professor Renee Lyons, will be working hard on strategically organizing and sharpening the entire DLSPH research effort. Among the activities it will promote will be networking (in particular, between disciplines), intelligence gathering and sharing, coordination, mentoring, and making recommendations to the Dean's Office and DLSPH research community on specific opportunities (RFAs, grants), targeted investments for pilot funding, new potential collaborators, and other research infrastructure needs.

A Big Data Committee, an off shoot of our Research Advisory Committee, is being formed by the Co-Chairs, Professors David Henry and Prabhat Jha, with the aim of making the University of Toronto a recognized world leader (actually, "the" world leader, given the resources we have) in all aspects of the use of large health data-sets. Among the goals of the Committee are to promote scholarship and a cadre of researchers with broad interests in the use of linked data in clinical and health sciences, population health, health policy development and evaluation and also in the social and economic sciences; to oversee the development of a pedagogical program in big data that will span DLSPH and the Institute for Health Policy Management and Evaluation and that will be of broader relevance within the University of Toronto; and to identify opportunities for big funding for research with big health data at the University of Toronto.

There will be even more. All will need your ideas and energy to be successful (and fun).

Please engage, drop in, innovate. Suggestions and feedback ALWAYS welcome (consider using our new anonymous e-suggestion box: <http://www.dlsph.utoronto.ca/content/anonymous-email-submission>).

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

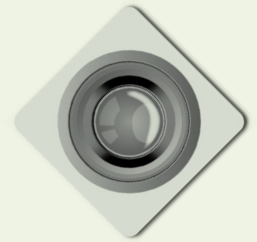
## Share Your Photos!

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.dlsph@utoronto.ca](mailto:dean.dlsph@utoronto.ca)



## What's New & Happenings



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

## 6<sup>TH</sup> Annual Student-Led Healthy Toronto Conference

The big day is right around the corner! The Dalla Lana student body has been gearing up to host the highly anticipated 6th Annual Student-Led Healthy Toronto Conference for months. We are all eagerly waiting to attend the fantastic keynote panel lined up for the afternoon, but the conference committee has planned a jammed-packed morning full of excellent guest speakers and exhibits.

Start your conference off with a note from Aziza Mahamoud who will introduce the Wellesley Institute's Social Determinants of Health Infographic exhibit showcased on the 7th floor lounge. And did you know that the event will be catered by a local social enterprise committed to the environment and youth education? If you are curious to see how it works, Field to Table Catering will be available to discuss their social enterprise model. But before you head off to your workshops, get your snaps on and enjoy an electrifying spoken word performance that will get you pumped about Healthy Toronto!

There's so much more to check out like the OCAD fine art exhibit on the social determinants, and the Healthy Toronto guerrilla marketing sticker campaign. Don't miss out – register today at [www.healthytorontoconference.com](http://www.healthytorontoconference.com)!

### This Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup>

THE 6TH ANNUAL  
DALLA LANA SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
HEALTHY TORONTO STUDENT-LED CONFERENCE

We don't all experience or access health in the same ways...  
Yet all of our experiences have one thing in common:  
they **reflect** the **community** and **environment** in which we **live!**  
So what does our health say about **Toronto?**

Keynote Panelists:

Jennifer Keesmat, Chief Planner, City of Toronto  
Marlon Merraro, Manager of Urban Issues, Toronto Public Health  
Susan Gapka, Community Organizer  
Camille Hutchinson, Youth Outreach Worker

and

Michael Shapcott, Director of Affordable Housing and  
Social Innovation Wellesley Institute (Moderator)

**Celebrate**, **explore**, and **build** a healthy Toronto by engaging in skill-based workshops preparing students and young professionals the tools to improve urban health!

Admission is free  
A scrumptious lunch will be provided

October 25th 8:30am - 4:00pm  
155 Health Sciences Building 7th floor

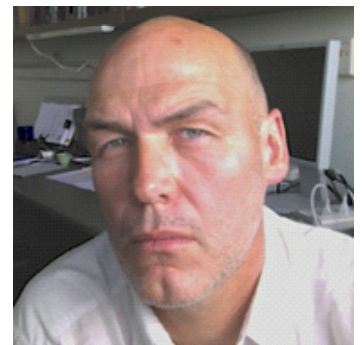


International Speaker Seminar Series welcomes Prof. Bruce Rannala of UC Davis, Mentor and Trainee successes, best wishes to outgoing Fellow and Annual Reunion.

## Prof. Bruce Rannala of UC Davis at the CIHR STAGE International Speaker Seminar Series in November

Prof. Bruce Rannala, Professor at the Genome Center and Department of Evolution and Ecology at the University of California Davis is scheduled to speak at the CIHR STAGE International Speaker Seminar Series at noon, on November 1, 2013, on "Statistical analysis of pooled samples for whole-genome case-control associations: A SNP GWAS of lung cancer susceptibility genes in the Northern Thai population". For more information, please visit the CIHR STAGE Website.

Prof. Rannala previously held faculty positions at SUNY Stony Brook and the University of Alberta and is currently a guest Professor at the Beijing Institute of Genomics, China. He was the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Peter Loughheed Scholar in 2001 and was appointed as a Miller Professor at UC Berkeley in 2009.



## CIHR STAGE Mentor Dr. Stephen Lye inducted as a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences



CIHR STAGE Mentor Dr. Stephen Lye, Associate Director of the Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute and Executive Director of the Fraser Mustard Institute for Human Development, was inducted as a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences at an Ottawa ceremony on September 19. The Academy recognizes Fellows for leadership, creativity and commitment to advancing academic health science, ranging from fundamental science to social science and population health. Fellowship in the Academy is one of the highest honours in the Canadian health sciences community, and carries a covenant to serve the Academy and the future well being of the health sciences.

## CIHR STAGE mentors Drs. France Gagnon, Michael Wilson, Howard Hu and collaborators receive CIHR Catalyst Grant for their interdisciplinary research project on Environments, Genes and Chronic Disease

Collective expertise of the team includes genetic and epigenetic epidemiology, environmental epidemiology, comparative and regulatory genomics, computational biology and bioinformatics, statistical genetics, environmental and chemical engineering, and clinical hematology. The goal of their multidisciplinary team project is to identify pollutant-sensitive DNA methylation marks associated with a global measure of thrombosis risk.



## CIHR STAGE Trainee and DLSPH PhD Epidemiology student, Jessica Dennis, wins international award for research in genetic epidemiology and statistical genetics

Jessica Dennis, a CIHR STAGE Trainee and PhD Epidemiology student at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, was awarded the Roger Williams Memorial Award for best platform presentation by a graduate student at the 22nd Annual Conference of the International Genetic Epidemiology Society (IGES), September 15-17, 2013, in Chicago. Jessica, working under the supervision of thesis supervisor and STAGE mentor Dr. France Gagnon, was one of three international candidates invited to compete for this highly prized student award for her work "Investigating genetic and epigenetic variation in the chromosome 2q region linked to tissue factor pathway inhibitor plasma levels." Congratulations, Jessica!



From left: Andreas Ziegler, president of IGES; Jessica Dennis, awardee; France Gagnon, CIHR STAGE mentor and thesis supervisor



## CIHR STAGE bids farewell to outgoing Trainee Laura Faye and wishes her success for the future

CIHR STAGE bids a fond farewell to outgoing Trainee Laura Faye who, shortly after successfully defending her PhD thesis in Biostatistics under the supervision of mentors Drs. Shelley Bull and Lei Sun, accepted a position at the Canadian Institute for Health Information. Congratulations Laura for your achievements. We wish you the very best on this new endeavor!

## CIHR STAGE Annual Reunion

This September, over 30 CIHR STAGE community members celebrated the Program's third year in operation and enjoyed each other's company and great pub food at a local College Street venue. Thank you so much to faculty, trainees, alumni, and community members for a fun event and for joining CIHR STAGE Co-directors Drs. France Gagnon and Shelley B. Bull and Program Coordinator Esther Berzunza in launching the 2013-2014 academic year at CIHR STAGE.



## CIHR STAGE is thrilled to welcome the University at Buffalo to its International Speaker Seminars Series

Thanks to the joint and enthusiastic efforts of biostatistics Prof. Wendy Lou (DLSPH) and Prof. David Tritchler (University at Buffalo), the University at Buffalo joins the 16 institutions that meet by videoconference in the Toronto-based series.

The CIHR STAGE International Speaker Seminar Series (ISSS) features eight annual lectures by leading scientists in various areas relevant to genetic epidemiologic research from institutions around the world. ISSS events provide networking opportunities across institutions and opportunities for trainees and principal investigators alike to further interdisciplinary research, innovation, discovery, and learning.

Thanks to a CIHR Institute of Genetics grant and generous support from our sponsors, the seminar is available by videoconference, free of charge, to research centres outside the GTA. For more details visit [www.stage.utoronto.ca/home/iss](http://www.stage.utoronto.ca/home/iss).



## Congratulations to Dr. Paul Demers who has been appointed to chair of an expert panel for the Royal Society of Canada

Paul Demers is the Director of the Occupational Cancer Research Centre, based within Cancer Care Ontario and is also the Scientific Director of CAREX Canada, a workplace and environmental carcinogen surveillance program, based at the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver. He is a Professor with the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto and a Clinical Professor with the University of British Columbia. Paul is an epidemiologist whose research has focused primarily on the impact of pesticides, asbestos, wood dust, and other occupational and environmental exposures on cancer, lung disease, and heart disease. In addition, he has an interest in both occupational carcinogen and cancer surveillance. He has been a member of many national and international expert panels dealing with occupational and environmental cancer for organizations such as the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the U.S. National Toxicology Program, the U.S. Institute of Medicine, the Canadian Cancer Society, and the Council of Canadian Academies.

## Articles on Dr. Gillian Einstein

DLSPH Associate Professor, Dr. Gillian Einstein's, is studying cognition in women who carry gene mutations BRCA 1 and 2 and have had their ovaries removed. To learn more see:

[Understanding Estrogen and its Effect on Cognition](#) by Erin Howe

[How Fundraisers Like 'Run For The Cure' Support Research](#) by Lanna Crucefix



Dr. Prabhat Jha



Dr. Patricia O'Campo

## MEET DALLA LANA'S TWO NEW FELLOWS OF THE CANADIAN ACADEMY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Adopted from an article written by Liam Mitchell, a writer with the Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto.

Two members of the DLSPH's community, Dr. Patricia O'Campo and Dr. Prabhat Jha have been named fellows of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences, one of Canada's most esteemed academic academies.

The fellows are recognized for their leadership, creativity and commitment to advancing academic health science and are drawn from a wide range of health professions — recognizing work from basic science to population health.

“The recognition by the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences of Professors O'Campo and Jha with this honour is inspiring and a testament to their accomplishments and dedication,” said Professor Hu, dean of the School of Public Health. “It also underscores their leadership in the Healthier Cities & Communities and Global Health agendas, respectively, two of the broad strategic directions in which our School will clearly continue to excel.”

Election to fellowship in the Academy is considered one of the highest honours in the Canadian health sciences community.

“I join my colleagues in celebrating the accomplishments of our newly elected fellows and congratulate them on their achievements,” said Howard Hu.

The newly elected fellows are:

Philip Berger	Department of Family and Community Medicine
Dina Brooks	Department of Physical Therapy
Paul Dorian	Department of Medicine
Herbert Gaisano	Department of Medicine
Prabhat Jha	Dalla Lana Faculty of Public Health
Rita Kandel	Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology
Stephen Lye	Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and Fraser Mustard Institute for Human Development
Muhammad Mamdani	Department of Health Policy, Management, and Evaluation & Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy
Phillip Marsden	Department of Medicine
John Marshall	Department of Surgery
Avery Nathens	Department of Surgery
Patricia O'Campo	Dalla Lana Faculty of Public Health



## Meet Dalla Lana's Two New Fellows of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CONT.)

The newly elected fellows are:

Thomas Parker	Department of Medicine
Paula Rochon	Department of Medicine
Sean Rourke	Department of Psychiatry
J. Paul Santerre	Faculty of Dentistry & Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering
Sharon Straus	Department of Medicine
James Wright	Department of Surgery

The new fellows were inducted at a ceremony hosted by the Academy September 19.

## Congratulations to Dr. Abdallah Daar who is a member of the [UN Secretary-General's Scientific Advisory Board](#)



**Abdallah S. Daar**, Canada, Oman  
 Professor of Public Health Sciences, University of Toronto  
 Member, Board of Directors, Grand Challenges Canada

Abdallah Daar FRS (C), D.Phil (Oxon), FRCP (Lon), FRCS, FRCSC, is Professor of Public Health Sciences at the Dalla Lana Faculty of Public Health, University of Toronto, with a cross-appointment in the department of Surgery. He is Senior Scientist at University Health/Toronto General Research Institute, and is Director of Ethics and Commercialization at the Sandra Rotman Centre, University Health Network and University of Toronto. At Grand Challenges Canada, in addition to being a member of the Board of Directors, he is the Chief Science and Ethics Officer and Chair of the Scientific Advisory Board. He was the founding Chair of the Board of the Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases (2009-2011) and is Chair of the Advisory Board of the United Nations University International Institute of Global Health. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of Genome Canada. His academic career has spanned biomedical sciences, organ transplantation, surgery, global health, and bioethics. He works in various advisory or consulting capacities with the UN, the World Health Organization and UNESCO, was a member of the African Union High-Level Panel on Modern Biotechnology, and chaired the 4th External Review of the WHO/World Bank/UNDP/UNICEF Special Program on Tropical Diseases Research and Training. He is a Fellow of several Academies of Sciences and a member of UNESCO's International Bioethics Committee and was for many years a member of the Ethics Committee of the Human Genome Organization. His major research focus is on the use of life sciences to ameliorate global health inequities, with a particular focus on building scientific capacity and increasing innovation in developing countries, in addition to studying how life sciences technologies can be rapidly taken from "lab to village".



## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

**Lisa Lefebvre**, MD, CM, MPH (2011), CCFP, Dip. ABAM  
Assistant Professor, Departments of Family and Community Medicine and Psychiatry  
Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto  
Coordinator, Continuing Mental Health & Addictions Education (CAMH)  
Medical Head, Addiction Medicine Service (CAMH)

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

My clinical experience as an Addiction Medicine physician has highlighted for me the many challenges faced by my patients such as poverty, poor housing, poor nutrition, and adverse childhood experiences, to name but a few. Sometimes I feel powerless to solve my patients' problems as an individual practitioner when intervention is needed at a systemic or societal level. Thus, I began to think more of the "big picture" and what upstream changes might be needed to improve my patients' health. I began to realize the complexity of intervening at these levels given the multiple stakeholders involved and wanted to learn more about how to effect this type of change. Before DLSPH was created, I investigated several MPH programs elsewhere in Canada and the U.S. When DLSPH was created, I was so excited to be able to complete this training in Toronto and graduated in the first year the MPH - Family and Community Medicine program was offered.

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

My experience at DLSPH has broadened my horizons. I have learned to look at health and healthcare in a different way. I have learned to challenge the status quo and how to discover the underlying motivations of various stakeholders in order to understand where change can happen. I have met so many brilliant faculty and fellow students. I have had the opportunity to interact with students from other healthcare disciplines at all career levels as well as those whose primary training is outside healthcare.



### Was there a specific faculty member or course that was particularly influential?

Mariana Catz was an amazing tutor and resource to me in HAD5010 - Canada's Health System and Health Policy. Without her, I would have been overwhelmed by this course, not having much of a business or policy background, and would not have gotten as much out of it. She pushed me to challenge my limitations in a safe and supportive environment.

“My experience at DLSPH has broadened my horizons. I have learned to look at health and healthcare in a different way.”



## What have you been doing since leaving DLSPH?

What have I not been doing? I have been trying to maintain a mindset of “appreciative inquiry” and strive to learn from everyone I encounter daily: patients, clinical and academic colleagues, administrators, fellow students in CE programs, family and friends. I have mentored junior faculty into some of my previous leadership roles (Fellowship Program Director and President of the Medical Staff Association) and taken on 2 new roles, one in Clinical Leadership and one in Education. I am now the Medical Head of Addiction Medicine at CAMH, which comprises the Addiction Medicine Clinic, Nicotine Dependence Clinic, Drug Treatment Court and the Problem Gambling Service. I have also had the privilege of joining the rapidly-growing CAMH Education team as Coordinator of Continuing Education. I continue my involvement in the Addictions community and recently joined the Canadian Society of Addiction Medicine Education Committee. I am also continuing my involvement in the Ontario Medical Association, where I am a member of OMA Council and am also working to build a collaborative relationship between CAMH and their Physician Health Program.

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

Always keep an open mind. Try to judge less and listen more. Opportunities may come up in the most unlikely of places. If you are able to, take every opportunity to try something new or to work with someone different even if it doesn't quite fit with your “plan”. Take time to self-reflect and figure out what you really enjoy in life and what you are passionate about. Seek out people with similar passions. Seek out several mentors to gain different perspectives. If a piece of advice doesn't sit right with you, file it away for future reading. Always keep the biases of the person giving you advice in mind. I was told many times earlier in my career that I should FOCUS on a particular clinical area. I couldn't bring myself to do it and this has actually served me well as I can now effect change at more levels with my skills as an Addictions generalist. It is also what allowed me to “think big” and lead to my interest in Public Health.

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

We are so lucky to have so many amazing Faculty right here in our city. Being a student at DLSPH allowed me to further build my network of likeminded colleagues, which I am able to draw from for future collaborations. As a student, I felt DLSPH succeeded very well in bringing together students from varying backgrounds in a safe, egalitarian environment where sharing of ideas and learning together occurred so effortlessly. It has been very exciting to be part of a new and innovative school!

“Always keep an open mind. Try to judge less and listen more. Opportunities may come up in the most unlikely of places.”

Dr. Lisa Lefebvre is a DLSPH graduate of the MPH in Family and Community Medicine program. In addition to her professorial and medical roles, Dr. Lefebvre is the Immediate Past-President and current Vice-President of the CAMH Medical Staff Association, and Secretary, Central Toronto Clinical Society Executive Committee of the Ontario Medical Association. She is the 2007 and 2008 recipient of the DFCM Professional Development Fund Award; the AMERSA Conference Travel Award (2007); and the College of Family Physicians of Canada Janus CPD Scholarship (2008). She is a published researcher with a growing list of publications and presentations to her name.