1. **Title, Director/PI**
   
   A Strategic Training Program in Public Health Policy: Determinants, Analysis, and Impacts
   
   *Nominated PI* – Dr. Robert Schwartz
   
   *Co PI* – Dr. Joanna Cohen

2. **Other faculty involved**
   
   *Co-Investigators*: Dr. Roberta Ferrence, Dr. Vivek Goel, Dr. Michael Goodstadt, Dr. Bartholomew Harvey, Dr. Suzanne Jackson, Dr. Prahbat Jha, Dr. Ian Johnson, Dr. Pamela Kaufman, Dr. Jennifer Keelan, Dr. David Korn, Dr. David McKeown, Dr. John McLaughlin, Dr. Cameron Mustard, Dr. Ted Myers, Dr. Blake Poland, Dr. Jurgen Rehm, Dr. Fran Scott, Dr. Terrance Sullivan, Dr. Ross Upshur

   *Mentors*: Dr. Adalsteinn Brown, Dr. Ray Copes, Dr. Heather Manson

3. **Source(s) of funding (specify grant name, funding agency, period of funding, total dollars)**
   
   Strategic Training Initiative in Health Research, Canadian Institute of Health Research
   
   April 2009 – March 2015, $1,790,000 ($325,000 annually)

4. **Specific aims (and any changes from previous reports, as appropriate)**
   
   The primary objectives of this training grant are four-fold:  
   (1) To build capacity in public health policy research and practice, using best practices in training and mentoring;  
   (2) To provide trainees and mentors with an environment and resources that support learning across disciplines (e.g., epidemiology, health policy, economics, community medicine, public policy and administration, political science, nutrition, sociology, evaluation and monitoring, knowledge exchange, ethics and law) and substantive areas (e.g., structural and socio-behavioural risk factor interventions, environmental health, healthy growth and development), with value placed on ethics (with a focus on public health ethics, including research ethics for public health studies), knowledge translation and exchange, and professional development that will cultivate the skills necessary for trainees to be effective and productive in their careers;  
   (3) To foster collaborative research across mentors and with trainees; and  
   (4) To contribute to more effective public health policy through collaborations with government and voluntary-sector public health policy leaders and agents of change.

5. **Progress (e.g., Studies & Results; Students recruited and who completed training)**
   
   To date we have recruited 71 students to the Fellowship program (40 Masters students, 22 PhDs, and 9 post docs) which represent 15 University of Toronto departments and affiliated hospitals and government agencies.

   In academic year 2012-13, we launched our inaugural year of the Collaborative Program in Public Health Policy with 22 students fulfilling the program requirements in this first year.

   We hosted 6 Public Health Policy Rounds, 8 Lunch and Learns, and 3 Public Health Policy Institutes.

   Six public health policy research projects were undertaken in the area of: Criminalization of HIV Non-Disclosure: Imagining a Public Health Response; Breaking Down Silos: Exploring Partnerships in Food Policy; Towards a Comprehensive Alcohol Policy Strategy in Ontario; Mandatory Influenza Vaccination of Health Care Workers in Ontario: Policy Options; What’s the
Problem Represented to Be?": Our Experience Using WPR to Analyze Social Assistance for People with Disabilities in Ontario; and Cycling Policy in Ontario

6. **Significance and Impact**
   
   Our Program is unique in establishing a community of public health policy researchers, students, policymakers and practitioners. We have succeeded in bringing together people and organizations to improve understanding of how, when and why public health policies are made and changed and to establish a cadre of trainees who are taking this knowledge to the field and who have sought further academic training. The Research and Training Pods take a particularly innovative approach. Fellows apply theoretical approaches and tools learned in core courses to real-world situations together with partners in public health organizations. The Pod experience has the added benefit of exposing representatives of public health organizations to theoretical and practical approaches. Our Public Health Policy Associates component is a second innovation that brings practice-based knowledge into the classroom and into Pod and Institute experiences and also serves to provide Associates with new theoretical knowledge.

7. **Plans for the next year**
   
   The next year of the Program will continue to incorporate learning from previous years to continuously improve the training experience. We have multiple processes in place for continuous feedback resulting in improvements in many areas of our program including; the current Pod structure, format of the Lunch and Learn program component, and timing and frequency of the training Institutes.
   
   Over the next year, we will enrich the experiences which our trainees bring to the policy and research work worlds and we will further expand the reach of our public health policy learning beyond University of Toronto based Fellows.
   
   We will further develop the work of the pods and offer incentives to pod groups to collaborate with mentors in carrying on with their work to publish manuscripts and to develop collaborative research grant proposals. This will serve to both provide hands-on training in manuscript and proposal preparation, and to contribute to knowledge about public health policy. In this way, we will create longer-term relationships among Fellows and mentors.
   
   We will be designing an evaluation of the education components of our program in order to continue to be innovative in public health policy education and to ensure that we are contributing to research about public health policy education for possible application in other parts of Canada.
   
   We will engage in several projects to broaden the circle of beneficiaries of our Program: We will further develop the Associates program. Working closely with public health partner organizations we will develop general and tailored ways for them to involve representatives in various parts of our training program. This will bring our training directly to public health organizations and further enrich the training experience of Fellows providing them with opportunities to work alongside people with a great deal of practice-based knowledge.
   
   We will be reaching out to researchers across Canada to partner with us in holding a major public health policy event at the 2013 CASPHR conference. This will serve for two-way knowledge exchange about what we have implemented, accomplished and learned and what we can learn from others who are engaged in public health policy research and training.
   
   In accordance with our original timeline, we will be conducting our first Public Forum this year in the area of food policy.
Over the year, we anticipate that we will train an additional 20 graduate students. We will host 8 Public Health Policy Rounds, open to the greater public health community in Toronto, and podcast to interested researchers and practitioners throughout Canada and beyond. An additional 6 public health policy research projects will be undertaken through the work of the Pods, which will have the potential to inform current real-life policy issues. We will continue to expose fellows to the work of current policy makers through the guest speaker series of 8 proposed Lunch and Learn meetings. We will hold 3 intensive Institute training days for fellows, mentors and numerous community partners. We will continue to enhance the knowledge exchange components of our program through the Public Health Policy Associates program.

8. Publications


Tsybina, I. Kingsnorth, S., Maxwell, J, Bayley, M. Lindsay, S. McKeever, P. Colantonio, A.


Gibson, BE, Mistry, B, Smith, B, Yoshida, KK, Abbott, D, Lindsay, S & **Hamdani, Y.** (accepted). The Integrated Use of Audio Diaries, Photography and Interviews in Research with Disabled Young Men. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods.*

Gibson, BE, Mistry, B, Smith, B, Yoshida, KK, Abbott, D, Lindsay, S & **Hamdani, Y.** (accepted). Becoming Men: Gender, Disability, and Transitioning to Adulthood. *Health.*


**Malas, M.,** O’Connor, S., Di Sante, E., & Schwartz, R. *Packaging cigars: Surveillance of current trends (a Chatter Box project).* Toronto, ON: Ontario Tobacco Research Unit.


lifestyle, and other functions (a Chatter Box project). Toronto, ON: Ontario Tobacco Research Unit.


Singhal S, Quiñonez C, The impact of dental treatment on employment outcomes: a systematic review. *International Dental Journal* 2012;Vol62 issue 1, P055


Randhawa S, Kakuda Y, Wong CL and Yeung DL. Microbial Safety, Nutritive Value and Residual Pesticide Levels are Comparable among Commercial, Laboratory and Homemade Baby Food Samples – A Pilot Study. Open Nutrition Journal, 2012, 6, 89-96