

DEAN'S MESSAGE



Dean Dr. Howard Hu

Dear Colleagues,

I truly hope you all had a wonderful break and restful holiday. School activities have resumed at full speed in 2014 and I'd like to highlight two in particular.

First, as articulated in the [Strategic Visioning Planning Document](#) that accompanied our proposal to become a Faculty last year, the integration of public health and primary care is a major strategic theme for our School. The systematic union of these disciplines will lead to better health outcomes; however, the scholarly basis for this integration is

not well developed.

I strongly encourage you to pick up the current issue of [HealthcarePapers](#) that delves into this very topic by asking the question, "Is public health is ready to participate in the transformation of the health care system?"

[Adalsteinn Brown](#), Head of the Division of Public Health Policy, Chair of Public Health Policy and Director of U of T's [Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation \(IHPME\)](#), [Ross Upshur](#), Head of our new Division of Clinical Public Health and Terrence Sullivan, Professor in DLSPH and IHPME, wrote a poignant introductory Commentary, [Public Health and Primary Care: Competition or Collaboration](#), that communicates this theme of the School's strategic vision while summarizing the associated challenges. Adalsteinn, Ross and Terry also served as editors for the issue.

An alliance between public health and primary care is critical to move Canada's health care system into the 21st century and this paper proposes two steps to make it happen. The first is to integrate public and population health perspectives into the educational curriculum of all health care professionals to connect disciplines from the beginning instead of reinforce professional silos. The second is to identify health measurements that reflect both clinical and public health inputs, for example tracking immunizations, particularly the primary vaccination series for children and cancer screening uptake and rates.

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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

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DEAN'S MESSAGE (CONT.)

The Dalla Lana School of Public Health is actively engaged in the scholarship that will bring clinical public health to the forefront and proactively seeking opportunities to build bridges between primary care and public health. The collaboration potential is outstanding and it will position the School as a global leader in education, research and service related to population health, disease prevention and health policy.

This Commentary and the papers that follow, including other contributions from Dalla Lana scholars [Vivek Goel](#), [Arlene King](#), David McKewon, and [Brent Moloughney](#), comprise an important step in the right direction. I encourage you to read them.

The second highlight pertains to the steady flow of “Invited Presentations by Faculty Candidates,” or “job talks.” We are well into the search process for as many as nine new tenure-track faculty members who will bring exciting new teaching and research initiatives in Biostatistics, Epidemiology, Social and Behavioural Health Sciences, Occupational and Environmental Health and Global Health to the School.

There has literally been an outpouring of applications and the emerging talent pool among the finalists is gratifyingly fantastic. Some of the finalists are local, some are from far-away places, but all are engaged in some of the most cutting-edge scholarship in the world.

Each candidate’s visit spans two days and includes grueling interviews, the candidate’s presentation and more interviews.

WHAT'S NEW

DLSPH joins Canadian Network of Schools and Programs of Public Health

The Dalla Lana School of Public Health is now a member of Canada’s Network of Schools and Programs of Public Health (NSPPH). NSPPH is the first Canadian network linking institutions that educate and train population and public health professionals in Canada and globally.

For more DLSPH News, visit the [website](#).

Decisions are not taken lightly. The typical career trajectory of new tenure-track faculty potentially represents a \$4 to 8-million investment over time; therefore it is critical that we get as much input as possible from our community on each scholar.

This is also a two-way-street, in that many of these scholars are considering offers from top institutions in the U.S., U.K., Australia, Europe and elsewhere, making it just as important that we demonstrate the passion, energy, and commitment we have to public health education and research as well as the sense of community and culture we have cultivated at the School.

Therefore, when you see the announcements of “Invited Presentations by Faculty Candidates” and the open meetings with candidates, please try to attend those that resonate with you. We will provide refreshments and post-event surveys to solicit your feedback on their scholarship, including impressions on how effective they would likely be in the classroom. Please provide your input!

I’d like to extend my appreciation to the many faculty and students of our very busy search committees (especially the faculty co-chairs, Professors Elizabeth Badley, Wendy Lou, Liviana Calzavara and James Scott) and our staff who administer them (especially our administrative lead, Melodie Buhagiar).

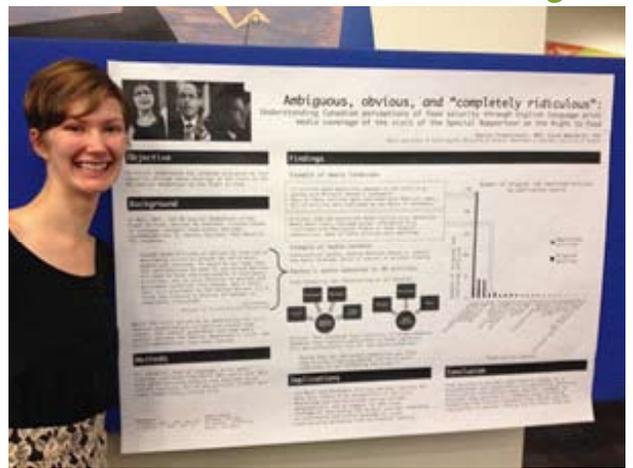
Howard Hu, M.D., M.P.H., Sc.D.
Dean



WHAT'S NEW (CONT.)

5TH Annual Graduate Student Research and Practice Day

On November 22, 2013, Dalla Lana School of Public Health graduate students proudly showcased poster presentations of scholastic achievement at the Fifth Annual Research and Practice Day. Students, faculty, alumni and staff gathered on the seventh floor lounge to peruse 26 master's and 10 PhD students' public health research and projects.



Kaylen Fredrickson with her poster, “Ambiguous, obvious, and “completely ridiculous”: Understanding Canadian perceptions of food security through English language print media coverage of the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food.”

Faculty, alumni and students paired up in seven groups to critically judge the posters with audience input on the best poster of the day.

This year's winners are:

- Kaylen Fredrickson — Masters Research award
- Samantha Robinson — Masters Practice award
- Sarah Steele — PhD award
- Nadha Hassen — People's Choice award

“It was a great opportunity to condense my research project into a fluid, concise presentation. Preparing the poster helped me to think through the organization of my ideas for manuscript writing, and the questions that I received from the public and the judges helped me to think about my research in a new way. Thank you for the award! This opportunity kick started my motivation for publication,” said Fredrickson, reflecting on her experience at the event.



Renee Lyons, Chair of DLSPH's Research Committee, inaugurated the event. Cameron Norman, President of the Public Health Alumni Association, Andrea Sass-Kortsak, Associate Dean, Academic Affairs and Linda Chan, Public Health Student Association, presented the awards to the winners.

WHAT'S NEW (CONT.)

Bernard Choi Delivers AMNET Keynote Address

Bernard Choi welcomed Americas' Network for Chronic Disease Surveillance (AMNET) international conference attendees on November 20, 2013 in Ibarra, Ecuador. Choi is a Professor in the Division of Clinical Public Health and senior research scientist at the Public Health Agency of Canada and founding member of AMNET. The regional network of public health professionals aims to enhance public health surveillance capacity in North, Central, South Americas and the Caribbean and was established in 2003. The 2013 AMNET conference drew the largest crowd to date, including 200 participants from 18 countries with a strong Canadian presence, led by Choi.

Choi welcomed conference attendees at the Opening Ceremony and delivered two keynote speeches in the plenary sessions on days one and two. The first keynote summarized historical lessons in surveillance for the future, and the second described how to promote the use of surveillance information for public health policies and interventions.

The 2013 AMNET conference made important contributions to chronic disease and risk factor surveillance in the Americas by providing a platform for exchange of surveillance information among various countries and discussion to resolve issues. For example, with Canada's decline of land line telephone health surveys response rates, conference attendees discovered new cell phone survey techniques developed by some Latin American countries. Most Latin American countries skipped the land line telephone stage, entering directly into the cell phone era and have accumulated good experience.



Dr. Choi gives his welcome speech on behalf of Canada and first keynote speech at the Opening Ceremony, November 20, 2013, Ibarra, Ecuador

Choi will lead a Latin American writing team in developing a journal manuscript to summarize AMNET's lessons learned from the past 10 years and determine future directions on how to move ahead in chronic disease surveillance in the Region of Americas.

The 2014 AMNET conference will be held in Mexico.

DLSPH Grad Presents at Rainbow Health Ontario Conference

Lesley A. Tarasoff, SBHS PhD candidate, presented research findings from her study on LGBTQ peoples' experiences with assisted human reproduction services in Ontario at the [Rainbow Health Ontario](#) conference, February 4 to 7, 2014. Together with supervisors Lori E. Ross, PhD, from the Researching for LGBTQ health team at CAMH, and Rachel Epstein, MA, of the LGBTQ Parenting Network, the team will publish their first academic paper in the *Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology Canada* in February.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Implementing Work Disability Prevention Knowledge

The 2014 [Work Disability Prevention Knowledge Conference](#), from September 29 to October 1, 2014, is the third scientific conference for research and knowledge implementation on preventing work disability and promoting safe and sustained return to work across a range of conditions. Organized under the umbrella of the Work Disability Prevention and Integration Scientific Committee of the International Commission of Occupational Health, the conference provides a unique opportunity for interdisciplinary and international exchange of ideas on implementing knowledge on preventing work disability.

The conference will feature presentations from national and internationally recognized leaders in the field of work disability prevention (WDP). Scientists, researchers, and experts in the field of WDP will offer new insights and innovative approaches in WDP, along with keynote presentations, topical seminars, and oral and poster presentations.

The Hosting and Sponsoring Institutions and Representatives:



Patrick Loisel
Professor, Director of WDP
CIHR Strategic Training



Sheilah Hogg-Johnson
Interim Scientific Director
& Senior Scientist



Pierre Côté
Professor, Faculty of Health
Sciences



John Triano,
Dean, Graduate Education
& Research Programs,
Professor

This conference is mandated and supported by the Work Disability Prevention and Integration Scientific Committee of the International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH): Glenn Pransky (President), Han Anema (Secretary), and Patrick Loisel (Past President).



UPCOMING EVENTS (CONT.)

Critical Qualitative Research in a Global Era



CQ is pleased to announce a special panel presentation by Drs. Ping-Chun Hsiung and Margaret Kovach entitled, "Doing Critical Qualitative Research in a Global Era: A Conversation between a Chinese and an Indigenous Researcher."

Date and time: Thursday March 20, 2014 from 2-4pm with a reception to follow

Location: University of Toronto, Health Sciences Building, 155 College Street, Room HS208

Please [click here](#) for details including information about the speakers and a description of the presentation.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Paula Goering Award Now Accepting Applications

The **Paula Goering** Collaborative Research and Knowledge Translation Award recognizes innovative collaborations among researchers and decision makers in mental health and addictions research. The \$2,000 award is named in recognition of Paula Goering, a Professor in the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, who made significant, wide-ranging contributions to mental health services research in Canada and internationally, including advancements in knowledge translation.

For more information about the criteria and application process, please click [here](#).

The deadline for applications is **March 4, 2014**. The award recipient will be notified by April 11, 2014.



CALL FOR NOMINATIONS (CONT.)

Dalla Lana School of Public Health Associate Dean – Research

Applications are invited for the position of Associate Dean, Research, Dalla Lana School of Public Health (DLSPH), University of Toronto, for a five-year term beginning July 1, 2014. This is a new role within the DLSPH that is envisioned to be a 50% FTE position. It is expected that that position will be filled by a University of Toronto core faculty member, senior scientist seconded from a partnering institution, or other scholar who is familiar with the University of Toronto research environment.

The DLSPH, which was established in 2008, became a stand-alone Faculty in 2013, and is already the largest and most productive School of Public Health in Canada, is pursuing an ambitious plan of expansion and innovation in line with its vision of securing its position as a global leader. The Associate Dean for Research must have the vision and ability to lead a newly-established Office of Research and School-wide Research Committee to increase our School's level of achievement, entrepreneurship and international recognition with regard to research, particularly in concert with the strategic goals of the DLSPH.

The highest priority responsibilities will be: to support and optimize the ability of DLSPH faculty members to submit successful competitive grants, including large, multi-disciplinary Center-type grants; to develop and use networks to research, gather and share intelligence on upcoming grant opportunities in thematic areas that align with the DLSPH Mission and Goals (see the [DLSPH 2012-2015 Strategic Plan and Major Initiatives](#)); to assist DLSPH faculty members in planning the design and execution of research, particularly when novel resources are needed; to oversee the development of Research Symposia that enhance trans-disciplinary research at the DLSPH; to foster the optimal use of data and laboratory resources; to oversee the design and implementation of cost-recovery mechanisms from grants and other sources to develop a sustainable model for the Office of Research Services; to plan and oversee the administration of new and existing research facilities for qualitative and quantitative research, including wet and dry laboratory facilities as required; to facilitate and mentor successful faculty and student applications for Career Awards, Research Chairs, training grants, fellowships, etc.; to

support the design, development and review of benchmarks for research scholarship and academic performance; and to facilitate the development of a strategic research plan for the Faculty.

Attributes:

The successful candidate will be a recognized scholar and senior faculty member (at the Associate or Full Professor level) with extensive experience working in academic and research settings to catalyze research and innovation in areas of public health. S/he will be a seasoned researcher with considerable experience in obtaining research funds, directing research programs and/or research units, and working within multi-disciplinary research teams. S/he will understand research methods related to quantitative and qualitative methods, data linkage and utilization of large data bases, and will have a successful track record of mentoring individuals from a variety of research disciplines. S/he will have experience serving on Canadian Research Review panels, and serving as an advisor / consultant to Research Policy Committees of funding bodies. S/he will possess outstanding academic, administrative management, and interpersonal skills and the ability to build collaborative relationships. S/he will have a track record of successful and innovative leadership in promoting excellence in research.

Applications consisting of a letter of interest and CV may be submitted by sending to:

Prof. Howard Hu, Dean
c/o Melodie Buhagiar
Executive Assistant, Office of the Dean
Dalla Lana School of Public Health
University of Toronto
Room 638, Health Sciences Building
155 College Street
Toronto, Ontario M5T 3M7
CANADA
melodie.buhagiar@utoronto.ca

The closing date for this position is March 14th, 2014 or until filled.

For detailed information on the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, visit its website at <http://www.dlsp.utoronto.ca>



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Monica Nunes, MPH (2010)

Research Analyst, Health Promotion and Prevention Team,
Provincial Support Program, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

How did you become interested in your field?

In 2007, when looking for graduate degree opportunities that would align with my previous work and interest in the areas of social justice, income security and food security, I had never come across the words “health promotion” in combination with one another let alone thought of health promotion as a potential field! In the past I had considered a Masters of Social Work program, but did not pursue the degree as the strong component of direct service work that was part of an MSW did not feel right for me.

I can’t really recall how I discovered the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the time, but its Health Promotion program spoke of a focus on the social determinants of health — another expression I had never heard of — stood out to me. I was immediately drawn to the Health Promotion program’s focus on addressing social inequities as way to impact positive health outcomes. This approach to addressing health and well-being in communities by focusing on systemic barriers and structural inequities made a lot of sense to me.

What do you enjoy most about your current career position?

I work as a Research Analyst in the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health’s Health Promotion Resource Centre. The Centre offers capacity building activities and content expertise to public health, health promotion and prevention professionals in the areas of mental health promotion, substance use and tobacco to support evidence-based practice. I conduct research projects, literature reviews, environmental scans and other research processes as needed by the Health Promotion Resource Centre.

What I like most about my work is how the Health Promotion Resource Centre is active in supporting the public health sector in Ontario to better articulate its role in addressing mental health. Historically, the role of public health in mental health in Ontario has not been well described. Consequently, I am very proud of our recent provincial scan, documented in the report, [Connecting the Dots](#), which surveyed public health units in Ontario to determine how they are addressing child and youth mental health. These “big picture” findings will help public health and other system stakeholders in promoting mental health at a provincial level.

In what ways has your DLSPH experience had an impact on your career and who you are today?

My experience at DLSPH truly enhanced my ability to critically think about issues from multiple vantage points. For instance, as a Health Promotion student, our training involved conceptualizing health problems in a holistic manner and thinking about responding to health issues not only at the individual level, but to also consider the social determinants of health. I believe our health system is increasingly employing these upstream approaches and it’s very rewarding to support this kind of thinking and direction.

“I was immediately drawn to the Health Promotion program’s focus on addressing social inequities as way to impact positive health outcomes.”



How did your experiences at DLSPH help you to overcome obstacles you've faced as a public health professional?

As a young public health professional one of the major obstacles I face is finding meaningful employment in the field. My experiences at DLSPH were essential in overcoming this obstacle, as the training I hold from DLSPH is well recognized and valued by potential employers in the field.

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

Working with Dr. Cameron Norman and the Youth Voices Research Group (YVRG) during my last year of the Health Promotion program was truly a formative time for me in my emerging career in Health Promotion. YVRG focused on engaging young people through technology, social innovation and arts-informed community-based research to promote health.

Not only was Dr. Norman a caring and inspiring mentor, but I was also able to apply the theories I learned in the classroom to a real world context through YVRG projects. I am truly grateful for that opportunity and I attribute several of my current strengths as a public health professional to the experiences I had at that time.

What was your favorite course at DLSPH?

I enjoyed Dr. Blake Poland's Qualitative Research Methods course. Our lives are storied and I believe our personal narratives tell us so much about our realities and the socio-political context of these lived experiences. The course was an opportunity to explore this approach in a practical way.

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

Many of the health issues we face today require innovation and new approaches to resolve. Believe in your ideas even though they may seem different from what others have done in the past. Also, I would say continue to explore the public health trends that are occurring outside of your particular subject area of interest. There may be creative solutions in one area that are transferable to the issue you are most passionate about.

“Many of the health issues we face today require innovation and new approaches to resolve. Believe in your ideas even though they may seem different from what others have done in the past.”

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

Your peers are an incredible resource for social support, exchanging information about the field and career networking. Take time to you share your interests with your peers and learn about theirs. Several of my peers from the Health Promotion program have become peer mentors as I build my career. Others have become close friends. I am grateful to have met them at DLSPH!

Prior to joining the Health Promotion and Prevention Team at CAMH, Ms. Nunes held Coordinator roles with Mobilizing Minds: Pathways to Young Adult Mental Health Project at York University, Youth Voices Research Group at DLSPH, and the Daily Bread Food Bank.

A dedicated volunteer, she currently sits as a Member of the Board of Directors for Community Resource Connections Toronto (CRCT), and is actively involved with the Public Health Alumni Association, frequently representing PHAA at DLSPH events, as well as serving as a committed and enthusiastic mentor in the School's Mentorship Program.