

DLSPPH BULLETIN



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DEANS MESSAGE FOR 3RD E-BULLETIN



Dean Dr. Howard Hu

This past July 4, only three days after the [official date when our School became a Faculty of Public Health](#), I had the pleasure of meeting, in her office, Dr. Helen Ribeiro---the Dean of the School of Public Health at the Universidad de Sao Paulo, another Faculty of Public Health that had been started by the Rockefeller Foundation more than 80 years ago. This was part of a 4 day trip to Sao Paulo, Brazil, that also included visits to the Santa Marcelinas hospital---where DLSPPH faculty member Katherine Rouleau and colleagues in the UT Department of Family & Community Medicine have started to work with Sister Monique Bourget, M.D. and her team on the hospital's wonderfully innovative community-based initiative combining public health surveillance,

prevention, and primary care in the work of smart-phone toting community health workers in one of the poorest districts of Sao Paulo---and a 2-day workshop with DLSPPH faculty member Greg Evans, colleagues in the University of Toronto and Universidad de Sao Paulo Divisions of Cardiology, Departments of Cardiac Surgery, and other units to discuss potential research collaborations, including a major component on urban air pollution impacts on cardiovascular disease.

The discussions we had generated a bounty of ideas on how we can collaborate on research and training in a long list of areas. They also underscored the power of the Dalla Lana School's emerging vision of themes---Healthy Cities & Communities, Integration of Public Health and Primary Care, and Global Health---as an overarching framework for building collaborations and having impact. Given last year's decision by the University of Toronto and Universidad de Sao Paulo to invest in a major partnership together, I am enormously impressed by the opportunities posed in Brazil. But it is just the beginning of the fantastic journey on which we have embarked, whether in Ontario, Brazil, Shanghai, Addis Ababa, or elsewhere. Stay tuned for more details.

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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YOU SHOULD KNOW...

Public Health and Preventive Medicine Fellow Fiona Kouyoumdjian, who completed her PhD in Epidemiology in 2012 (with supervisor Liviana Calzavara), has been awarded a CIHR Fellowship to study prison health from 2013 to 2016. She will be based at the Centre for Research on Inner City Health at St. Michael's Hospital and will be supervised by Stephen Hwang.

Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish is Honoured with the "Top 25 Canadian Immigrant Award"



Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish lost his wife to cancer, and — just four months later in January 2009 — Israeli shells killed three of his daughters, Bessan, 21, Mayar, 15, and Aya, 13, and his niece, Noor, 17. Two more of his eight children were wounded by rocket fire. Despite these tragedies, Abuelaish continued his mission for peace within the region, calling for people to put down their weapons and begin a positive discussion toward peace. "My faith, profession as a medical doctor and my life experience have always motivated me. I am a person who does not believe in the impossible. Everything is possible in life but with determination and hard work," he says.

Abuelaish has been an important figure in Israeli-Palestinian relations for years, working in Israeli hospitals, treating Israeli and Palestinian patients, equally. But, after the tragedy that took his daughters, Abuelaish accepted a post as an associate professor at the University of Toronto's Dalla Lana School of Public Health, where he currently teaches courses and lectures on peace through conflict. He relocated his remaining five children to Toronto and settled them into school life here. "Life and social structure in Canada in general and Toronto in particular encourage diversity and inclusiveness and also to help you keep your culture alive. This is what makes this country unique and different from others," he says.

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HAPPENINGS

[Infant Mental Health Promotion \(IMHP\) would like to invite you and your students to participate in our inaugural annual workshop](#)

WHAT'S NEW?

[Heather Rilko](#), Graduate of the Dalla Lana Faculty of Public Health, published "Exploring Gender Dimensions of Treatment Programmes for Neglected Tropical Diseases in Uganda" which explores the role of gender in access to treatment in the Uganda National Neglected Tropical Disease Control Program.

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

The screenshot shows the website for the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. The header includes navigation links: U of T Home, Portal, ROSI, Contacts, Maps, HOME. Below the header is a search bar and a main navigation menu with links for About, New Initiatives, Divisions, Programs & Students, Research, Faculty, Events, and Alumni. The main content area features a large banner image of a crowd with the word "Epidemiology" overlaid. Below the banner are three columns of featured content: "WHAT'S NEW" with links to research day, awards, and a journal article; "PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS" with information on degree programs and awards; and "UPCOMING EVENTS" with dates for Global Health Metrics & E., From Waste to Wealth and Heal., and Communicating on Non-Communicable Diseases.

YOU SHOULD KNOW...

(cont...) Since immigrating to Canada, Abuelaish has written a book entitled, *I Shall Not Hate: A Gaza Doctor's Journey on the Road to Peace and Human Dignity*, which has been translated in 16 languages. He has also established the Daughters for Life Foundation (daughtersforlife.com), in memory of his daughters, with a mission that strives to "empower women and girls of the Middle East through health and education."

The inspiring doctor is a nominee for the 2013 Nobel Peace Prize for the third time, and has received many accolades all over the world for his continued work for peace. He was awarded the Order of Ontario, the Mahatma Gandhi Peace Award of Canada and the Uncommon Courage Award from the Center for Ethnic Racial and Religious Understanding in New York.

"I know that what I have lost. What was taken from me will never come back. But as a physician and a Muslim of deep faith, I need to move forward to the light, motivated by the spirits of those I lost."

Dr. Kue Young to assume position of the Dean of the School of Public Health at the University of Alberta

Dr. Kue Young will be leaving the Dalla Lana School of Public Health to assume the position of Dean of the School of Public Health at the University of Alberta, effective August 1, 2013.



You can read the full announcement by the University of Alberta on this appointment, including a précis of his great career, by clicking [HERE](#).

Dr. Janice DuMont was awarded the 2013 Vision Award from the International Association of Forensic Nurses. The presentation will take place at the International Association of Forensic Nurses, International Conference on Forensic Nursing Science and Practice, on October 22 in California.



In February and March, 2013, **Max Smith** (Ph.D. Candidate, SBHS) and **Diego Silva** (former SBHS Ph.D. Student) were fortunate to undertake a residency as Visiting Researchers in Geneva, Switzerland, at the Brocher Foundation, a non-profit foundation that hosts scientists and experts conducting research on the ethical implications of medicine and health. During their stay Max and Diego held a symposium titled "Public Health Ethics Workshop: Should Systems Thinking and Public Health Ethics Be Mutually Influential?" This workshop, which was supported by the Dalla Lana School of Public Health and Joint Centre for Bioethics (JCB), hosted scholars and practitioners from 12 countries and 19 institutions, including Médecins Sans Frontières and the World Health Organization, and included presentations by **Drs. Angus Dawson, Jerome Singh, and Adrian Viens**. Max and Diego consider the workshop a great success; it led to further research in the area of systems thinking and modeling in public health ethics, which culminated in a paper drafted on the subject that will soon be submitted for peer-review publication. Maxwell J. Smith & Diego S. Silva.

Mr. Henok Amare, a DLSPH MPH Practicum Student placed in Health Promotion Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention through the Summer 2012, received the 2013 Population and Public Health Student Award from the Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA) based on his work at Public Health Ontario. Under the supervision of Dr. Ingrid Tyler, Henok identified facilitators and barriers to the application of health equity focused planning and assessment tools (such as health equity impact assessment, health equity audits, equity focussed impact assessment and others) through thematic analysis of the published and grey literature, publically available case studies and key informant interviews. This work was presented as an oral

YOU SHOULD KNOW...

(cont...) abstract at the recent CPHA Conference held in Ottawa.

Sponsored by CIHR-Institute of Population and Public Health, Canadian Public Health Association, Canadian Institute for Health Information-Canadian Population Health Initiative and the Public Health Agency of Canada, the purpose of this award program is to recognize excellence in the next generation of population and public health researchers, policy-makers and practitioners and entails travel and full registration to the CPHA conference for the presentation of the paper. See <http://www.cpha.ca/en/conferences/conf2013/awards.aspx> for further details and recognition of Henok, who has now recently graduated from Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto with a Master of Public Health.

Through an additional competition to which Public Health Student Award winners were entered, the paper is also accepted for oral presentation at the 6th European Public Health Conference that will be held in Brussels in November 2013. Congratulations to Henok and Ingrid for this well-deserved honour!

Sparkling Life Physical Activity Intervention: Evaluation Team Development

Dr. Ken Allison, Senior Scientist at Public Health Ontario and Associate Professor at Dalla Lana School of Public Health, hosted (along with his group) a CIHR-funded Planning Meeting on June 18th, to develop an evaluation team for further research on the efficacy of a school-based physical activity intervention designed to improve health and academic outcomes among secondary school students. An earlier pilot intervention provided promising preliminary results in terms of positive changes in aerobic fitness and academic achievement among 50 academically at-risk students in two high schools in Niagara, Ontario. The pilot intervention was developed by Niagara Region Public Health in partnership with Public Health Ontario, the District School Board of Niagara, Niagara Catholic District School Board, and the Niagara Sport Commission. In the recent Planning Meeting a number of researchers, decision-makers, and knowledge users met to provide input to development of a collaborative research agenda to

subsequently evaluate implementation and short- and long-term outcomes of the Sparking Life physical activity intervention.

OTRU Celebrates 20 Years of Work in Tobacco Control



July 2013 marks the 20th anniversary of the Ontario Tobacco Research Unit, a Canadian leader in tobacco control monitoring and evaluation, research, teaching and training

and a respected source of science-based information on tobacco control.

Established in 1993 as the research and evaluation component of the Ontario Tobacco Strategy with initial funding from the Ontario Ministry of Health and in-kind contributions from the academic community, our early mission was to foster and conduct research, monitoring and evaluation contributing to programs and policies to control tobacco and eventually eliminate tobacco-related health problems. In the last 20 years, as the mission and mandate of OTRU has evolved and matured, we have adjusted the scope of our work, our responsibilities, and our staffing, to meet the needs of the tobacco control community and our provincial funder, the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. OTRU continues to be a key player not only in the provincial tobacco strategy, but also in the larger tobacco control research and evaluation community in Canada and internationally.

OTRU has enjoyed a long and fruitful relationship with the University of Toronto, our principal sponsor. Many of our current Principal Investigators and staff are affiliated with the Dalla Lana Faculty of Public Health including: Dr. Robert Schwartz, OTRU's Executive Director, Dr. Roberta Ferrence and Dr. Joanna Cohen, Principal Investigators, and Dr. Pamela Kaufman and Dr. Michael Chaiton, senior staff.

YOU SHOULD KNOW...

(cont...)

When asked his thoughts about OTRU in this anniversary year, Executive Director, Robert Schwartz said, “Over the last twenty years, OTRU has provided the evidence base that is integral to comprehensive tobacco control. Our independent university-base together with rich and fulfilling relationships with policymakers, advocates, and public health practitioners serves as a model for creating, translating and exchanging scientifically valid, useful knowledge for the development, implementation and evaluation of public health policies and programs. We look forward to continued opportunities in the years ahead. I am grateful to our Principal Investigator team, our sponsors and our staff for their dedicated work on behalf of OTRU.”

Rebecca Hasdell received a CIHR Doctoral Research Award, priority call in Knowledge Translation. Rebecca is going into her third year in Social and Behavioral Health Sciences

John Frank’s May 27th seminar is now available at <http://www.dlsp.utoronto.ca/page/public-health-policy-series>

Dr. Paula Braitstein, DLSPH Professor, study, “The epidemiology of substance use amongst street children in resource-constrained settings: A systematic review and meta-analysis.” generated a [Toronto Star](#) and [Voice of America Report](#) article. The study reports drug use as being common among street children, posing serious threats to both their health and their chances for reintegration into society.

[Paper on Encephalitis](#) by England’s Health Protection Agency with Chief Canadian Investigator Natasha Crowcroft is the top 10 Cited Paper in the Lancet.

A comprehensive study of the causes and outcomes of encephalitis in England has become one of the top 10 most cited papers in the Lancet Infectious Diseases. The study was conducted by England’s Health Protection Agency, but the Chief Investigator, Natasha Crowcroft, led the study

the most part from Canada in her role as Chief of Infectious Diseases at Public Health Ontario and Associate Professor at Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology and the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto.

Encephalitis is a rare, but often deadly, inflammation of the brain. A person may develop changes in mental state, such as confusion or drowsiness, a loss of consciousness, seizures, or a lapse into coma. The most common known cause of encephalitis is infection by a virus, such as the herpes simplex virus. But, in many cases, a cause is never found, which makes it difficult to devise new treatments or develop interventions to prevent serious complications. Around 700 people in England develop acute encephalitis every year and about 7% of these cases are fatal.

Over 200 patients with encephalitis were studied in this, the largest study of its kind in England. A cause was found for 63% of cases; the most frequent was herpes simplex virus (19%). However, because of the many unknown causes among the cases of encephalitis (37%), the authors uncovered the potential for hidden yet-to-be discovered infectious diseases.

Prompt distinction between causes of acute encephalitis is essential to ensure appropriate care. The recommended treatment for most cases of encephalitis is an antiviral called acyclovir, which is effective in treating encephalitis cases caused by the herpes virus. However, this is of no help for patients with antibody-related encephalitis (8%), for whom immunosuppressive treatment can be effective when started early. One priority for clinicians that has emerged is to consider antibody-mediated encephalitis so that the correct diagnosis is made and treatment is provided. It is hoped these findings will help clinicians to diagnose and treat patients as early as possible.

Vaccination has substantially reduced the number of encephalitis cases associated with vaccine-preventable diseases. Some vaccines may very rarely cause encephalitis and it is reassuring that no cases were identified in this study.

This important study has led to the production of UK national clinical case definitions for encephalitis and better

YOU SHOULD KNOW...

(cont...) laboratory methods and algorithms for identifying causes of this devastating syndrome. It has demonstrated a model approach and methodology for the detection of emerging infections. The overall approach was designed to provide a platform for future studies including, for example, an evaluation of the burden of disease, the long-term impact on quality of life, and a study of neuroimaging and outcome. It has led to an ongoing partnership between UK and Canadian researchers. It has also triggered interest from multi-disciplinary experts from around the world with an interest in encephalitis, benefitting patients worldwide.

Centre for Research on Work Disability Policy (CRWDP) will address the changing labour market and Canada's fragmented disability benefit and employment support systems

Emile Tompa and Ellen MacEachen (Centre Co-Directors and DLSPH status faculty) funded at McMaster University by the Social Science Humanities and Research Council, 2013-2020

Work disability, or inability to work due to a physical or mental impairment, touches most people at some point over their lifetime, whether from work exposures or other sources, early or late in life, acute and temporary or chronic and episodic. Yet our fragmented Canadian income support and work reintegration systems barely help people to remain employed and sometimes prompt unemployment. A significant challenge to addressing work disability is the changing nature of work, workers, and injuries. Today, many people can secure only contingent work, including contract work and self-employment. Our ageing labour force faces an increase of episodic and chronic disabilities. These each reduce eligibility for disability and employment support programs which might help sustain employment, but which have outdated criteria and foci.

Past efforts to revamp the Canadian work disability policy system have been piecemeal, uncoordinated, and have failed to address core changes to workplaces and the labour markets. Given the current economic climate, the tendency may be to cut budgets, restrict eligibility and downsize programs in order to address short-run constraints. However, such tactics can backfire; further magnifying system

inadequacies and increasing disparities and cost shifting. With recent SSHRC Partnership funding, our new Centre for Research on Work Disability Policy will lay the ground for a national, evidence-informed, coordinated approach. Our overall objective is to identify how people, when impaired, can be better retained and integrated into the Canadian labour market. The ultimate goals of the centre's research program are to improve public policy that fosters accessible paid labour-market engagement and to establish the field of Work Disability Policy in Canadian universities.

The centre is unique in that it bridges the divide between workers' compensation and other social security programs. To date, academics, policy makers and community members have considered these disability support programs separately, in silos. Our centre brings together over 50 academics and 40 partners from across Canada who do not often collaborate. This is a new approach to addressing the complex and critical challenge of work disability policy. Our transdisciplinary research centre, co-governed by participants and partners, will 1) provide a forum for within- and cross-provincial and national dialogue on challenges and opportunities for improving the Canadian work disability policy system; 2) identify problems and challenges associated with program coordination and complexity; 3) identify relevant and favourable alternative approaches to system design and service provision through select comparisons with countries and small scale trials; 4) mobilize knowledge developed within and outside of the centre in order to inform policy; and 5) build capacity for research and knowledge mobilization on the topic of work disability policy and labour-market engagement of individuals with disabilities.

Key highlights of the Centre for Research on Work Disability Policy:

- 51 participants (including co-directors, co-investigators and collaborators); DLSPH participants include Linn Holness, Patrick Loisel, Pat O'Campo, Pierre Cote, Heather Scott-Marshall, and the Co-Directors Emile Tompa and Ellen MacEachen.

YOU SHOULD KNOW...

- 15 research institutions that include the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, the Centre for Research on Inner City Health at St. Michael's Hospital, the Institute for Work & Health, McMaster University, York University, Simon Fraser University, University of British Columbia, Memorial University, Centre interdisciplinaire de recherche en réadaptation et intégration sociale (CIRRIIS), Laval University, Sherbrooke University, and Pacific Coast University; 46 partner organizations;
- Sub-Centres in British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, Ontario and Newfoundland; and \$2.76M from SSHRC over 2013-2020.

Research Services Unit at St. Michael's now offering assistance with recruitment, interviewing and project management for the health and social sciences community

The CRICH Survey Research Unit (SRU) is housed at the the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute of St. Michael's Hospital. They provide primary data collection and related research services to the health and social sciences community. You can visit their website for more information. <http://sru.crich.ca> or email: sru@smh.ca.

Engineering and DLSPH faculty secure internal grant to create new initiative on exposomics---the use of 'omics to characterize environmental exposures

Many chronic diseases are now believed to be due to a combination of an individual's genome and their cumulative environmental exposure. Exposome, analogous to genome, is an emerging approach to assessing this exposure. Internationally very large research initiatives are planned or underway in this new field but there has been little activity to date in Canada. Internal funding has just been awarded to a team lead by Prof. Greg Evans to launch an exposomics research initiative, as a multi-disciplinary collaboration between the faculty of Applied Science and Engineering and the Dalla Lana School of Public Health. This three year \$350,000 project will bring together and leverage existing infrastructure, expertise, and research activities across our University. The objective will be to put in place a foundation of people, methods and pilot data needed to support large research proposals and help position our University to become a leader in this exciting new research field.

ACCOLADES



The Public Health and Preventive Medicine Residency program celebrated the success at the Royal College exams in June. The following fifth year residents completed the residency program and successfully passed the Fellowship written and oral exams:

- Dr. Kimberly Barker
- Dr. Kate Bingham
- Dr. JinHee Kim
- Dr. Shovita Padhi
- Dr. Michael Schwandt
- Dr. Ryan Sommers

Congratulations to all!

ACCOLADES (CONT.)

Congratulations to **Dr. Arnold M. Noyek**, DLSPH Professor and CISEPO founder, who has received the Order of Canada. This is the highest recognition of Dr. Noyek's compelling vision and the incredible accomplishments of his career in international development, global health, and peace building.

Congratulations to **Dr. Anna Charelli** on her newly awarded CIHR operating grant as Principal Investigator in the latest competition for the project: Evaluating the effectiveness of organized breast assessment among women screened in the Ontario Breast Screening Program.

Congratulations to **Dr. Robert Remis** on his newly awarded Ontario HIV Treatment Network grant for the project: Understanding HIV transmission among persons from Africa and the Caribbean following their arrival in Canada.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



LAURA ROSELLA, MHS_c 2005, PhD 2009
Scientist, Public Health Ontario
Adjunct Scientist, ICES
Assistant Professor, Dalla Lana School of Public Health

The strength of our School is exemplified by the success and prominence of our graduates throughout the public health world, locally and abroad. Our alumni uphold the School's reputation for being the best institution of its kind, and in turn carve the way for future and current students to develop their own expertise.

We are excited to introduce the *Alumni Spotlight*, a new series highlighting the accomplishments and experiences of our DLSPH alumni. Each DLSPH Newsletter will feature an alumna/us who was asked to describe their current career pursuits, reflect on their time as a student at the School, and provide advice for current and prospective learners.

How did you become interested in your field of public health? What led you to DLSPH? In high school I wanted to work for the CDC, like something from the movie "Contagion" – I naively thought "that would be awesome!" During my undergraduate degree my interests in disease control and prevention remained, however I developed a concurrent focus in mathematics and statistics, a combination well suited to the discipline of epidemiology. I had the opportunity to work in a lab for a summer, studying the epidemiology of a pathogenic fungus, which was my first flavor of epidemiology and introduction to research. I loved everything about the methods and the challenges of research, but I became more interested in applying the methods to chronic disease prevention. I looked

into clinical epidemiology but didn't feel like that was the right fit given my desire to focus on prevention and population health. When I found UofT's program in Community Health and Epidemiology, I knew it was THE program for me.

In what ways has your DLSPH experience had an impact on your career? The best thing about doing my Masters at DLSPH was the faculty. From their guidance, I not only developed excellent technical skills but the vision of what was possible. I recall introductory lectures given by Drs. John Frank, David Butler-Jones, Vivek Goel, and Cam Mustard. In those first few weeks of the program, I became instantly inspired by their work and impact on population health. I knew

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

then I had chosen the right school and the right career path. Training at DLSPH has connected me to the brightest public health minds in Canada and the world. Add to the fact that I was able to obtain two amazing practica, one at CancerCare Ontario, and another at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES). I was able to learn and practice in world class research institutions surrounded by inspirational public health researchers.

Was there a specific faculty member or course that was particularly influential? My first epidemiology course taught by Prof. Gail Eysen was very influential. The learning environment was really positive, shaped by her passion for the discipline, and the rigor was extremely high. I would say we definitely got pushed as graduate students! Nothing was “easy” but I appreciated that and have benefited from that rigor in my career today. In addition to the teaching faculty, my classmates were wonderful and remain some of my closest friends and colleagues. We really were comrades in the program together, which taught me the importance of collaboration and mutual respect, an essential skill for succeeding in academia.

What have you been doing since leaving DLSPH? After completing my doctoral degree in epidemiology at DLSPH based out of ICES, I completed a postdoctoral fellowship within the CIHR strategic training program in public health policy and was given the opportunity to carry out research at the then Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion. I am currently a Scientist at Public Health Ontario, an adjunct Scientist at ICES, and an Assistant Professor at DLSPH. My main responsibilities are to conduct scientific research. I specialize in studying population based approaches to reducing diabetes and obesity, but I also work as a methodologist in multiple content areas. My research is motivated by my policy interest focused on the integration of scientific evidence and tools into public health decision-making.

What advice would you give to younger alumni or current students who aspire to follow a similar career path? First, seek good mentors early in your training. At DLSPH you truly have the best to choose from. I’ve been so fortunate to benefit from outstanding mentors, who have been my source of inspiration and provided me with many opportunities to develop as a researcher (and still do to this day). Second, find your source of motivation beyond academic achievement. This inspiration will facilitate your success, even during the challenging times, and ensure a meaningful contribution to public health. Finally, find the intellectual time and space to be creative, because solving today’s complex public health problems requires innovation and collaboration.

What would you say to a prospective student who is considering DLSPH? The DLSPH at the University of Toronto is truly unique. The concentration of public health leaders both within and associated through the various affiliated institutes is unparalleled in Canada. In addition to a strong training program, the DLSPH will offer many opportunities for an exciting career in public health.

Dr. Rosella is a new investigator with over 35 publications and 3 funded CIHR grants as Principal Investigator, and multiple as co-investigator. Her list of achievements include the 2012 Robin Badgley Teaching award, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto; the 2011 Zollikofer Award (Switzerland); Post-doctoral fellowship award in the CIHR Strategic Training Program in Public Health Policy; the Canadian Public Health Association Population and Public Health PhD level student award; and the 2003 University of Toronto Leadership Award.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Practicum at ICES

STEPHANIE DELLA SMIRRA
MPH Epidemiology Student

I am fortunate to be working at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) with Dr. Jeff Kwong for my first practicum placement. I had heard of ICES in several of my classes this year, and I envisioned a mysterious and top-security building that holds a vast amount of health data. I have to admit that it is exciting to be here in person for the summer! I am working on a project that identifies ethnic disparities in healthcare use for infectious diseases, which is an important area of research considering the ethnic diversity of Canada. It also aligns perfectly with my interests in infectious diseases, global health, and the social determinants of health.

At the start of my practicum, I set two goals for myself to accomplish by the end of the summer: to be proficient with SAS and to finally learn mediation analysis. I am independently developing all of my code, and I am happy to say that I recently completed my preliminary analyses! Although I have a love-hate relationship with SAS, I am quite confident in the skills I have gained.

So far, my practicum has been a valuable experience that enables me to apply the theory I've learned in the classroom into practice. It is great to see that concepts that are taught in separate classes are integrated in the real world. The multidisciplinary nature of public health is also apparent, which is evident from the research team I am a part of. I am over halfway through my placement and I can confidently say that I have acquired a skillset that will serve me well in any public health setting.

All in all, my experience at ICES has been a great learning opportunity. I definitely feel better prepared for my future career as an epidemiologist!



SHARE YOUR PHOTOS!

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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