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UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF MEDICINE

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Message from the Dean

Catharine Whiteside

Undergraduate Medical Education - Survey of Teaching Faculty

Undergraduate Medical Education - Survey of Teaching Faculty
Providing the highest quality teaching and learning experience for our faculty and students is one of the chief priorities of our academic mission, and is reflected throughout our *Strategic Academic Plan*.

To achieve this goal, we have started by communicating with our teaching faculty to better understand the issues they face. Last fall, we

embarked on two survey projects to begin collecting the feedback that would enable strategic directions supporting this mission. The first survey reached out to faculty members who teach in the Undergraduate Medical Education program and a second survey focussing on diversity was shared with all faculty members.

These surveys are crucially important to us and to the work of the senior leadership at the Faculty of Medicine - they help us to better understand and support our faculty in their academic career endeavours.

In terms of the outcomes of the teaching survey, the findings suggest some areas of real strength, while others helped us discover some very important challenges to be addressed.

The survey was distributed to all teaching faculty, and we received 860 responses on issues including the availability of feedback and reviews, understanding teaching objectives, use of educational technology, effectiveness of Faculty communication, and inclusion in Faculty governance, among others.

Some of the areas we're learning about include the benefit of having regular interaction or assessment with a supervisor as a determinant for feeling valued, or the need to consider whether we could improve uptake of faculty development sessions with improved communications and scheduling options. We've also noticed a gap between how faculty perceive the effectiveness of clinical versus classroom environments in promoting professional attitudes and behaviours. These are the type of issues that have come to light and will inform much of Undergraduate Medical Education's future work and planning.

We also welcomed some very positive feedback among those surveyed, notably that 92% of respondents agree or strongly agree that they are proud to be a faculty member at U of T Medicine. In my view, that's a sign of the extraordinary strength of our community here at U of T and a foundation for us to continually strive to improve.

Again, establishing these baselines and creating a framework for future communication on these issues is incredibly important for our Faculty and instrumental to growing our culture of valuing academic performance. For everyone who completed the survey, **thank you so much for participating and contributing to our efforts**. We take your feedback seriously and are committed in the months ahead to developing clear strategies to build on our strengths and improve where we have the opportunity to do so.

Stay tuned for reflections on the diversity survey in the next edition of MedEmail.

Catharine Whiteside

Dean, Faculty of Medicine

Vice-Provost, Relations with Health Care Institutions

IN THE NEWS:

How Toronto-based epidemiologist Prabhat Jha is counting the dead to save the living

U of T Medicine celebrates three inductees to the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame

If you would like to have a news item or a research or education award announcement placed in MedEmail please forward it by e-mail to Leslie.Church@utoronto.ca.

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EVENTS CALENDAR

MEDEMAIL ARCHIVE

1. Honours and Awards

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Honorary Doctor of Science, Ohio State University

Dr. Keith L. Moore (Professor Emeritus of Surgery and former Chair of Anatomy) was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Science from Ohio State University in recognition of his lifetime of achievements in the field of anatomy and on the advancement of medicine. Celebrated for his over 60 years of teaching, Dr. Moore has lectured across the world to faculties and students on topics including anatomy, embryology and genetics.

Mental Health Commission of Canada

Dr. David Goldbloom (Professor of Psychiatry and Senior Medical Advisor, Education and Public Affairs at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health) has been appointed the new Chair of the Board of Directors of the Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC). The MHCC works to improve services and support for Canadians who live

with mental health problems. For more information, [click here](#).

E.W. Crampton Award

Dr. Mary L'Abbe (Chair and Professor of the Dept. of Nutritional Sciences) received the E.W. Crampton Award from McGill University recognizing merit in any academic, research, administrative or industry/community activities which result in significant progress in knowledge, and /or development of programmes and/or services that enhance nutrition and the quality of food for humans and/or animals.

Canada Research Chair Renewal

Dr. Daniel Dumont of medical biophysics and a Senior Scientist in Biological Sciences at Sunnybrook Research Institute was incorrectly identified in the previous issue as affiliated with UHN. We apologize for the error and congratulate him on his CRC renewal in Angiogenic and Lymphangiogenic Signalling.

OMA Ophthalmology Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Jeffrey Hurwitz (Dept. of Ophthalmology & Vision Sciences and Mount Sinai Hospital) will be receiving the OMA section on Ophthalmology's Lifetime Achievement Award. This award is a tribute to Dr. Hurwitz' outstanding leadership contributions to the field, and will be awarded at the OMA AGM in May 2012.

2012 W.T. Aikins Award - Course/Program Development

Dr. Anita Rachlis (Dept. of Medicine and Sunnybrook Research Institute) has been awarded the 2012 Aikins Award for Course/Program Development in recognition of her leadership on a foundational reorganization of the clerkship curriculum. In her role as Clerkship Director of the Undergraduate Medical Program, Dr. Rachlis was commended by the selection committee for her "sustained commitment to the student experience throughout the creative process" and for the tremendous "respect and appreciation" she received from both students and faculty.

The Aikins Awards are the most prestigious Faculty awards for commitment to and excellence in undergraduate medical education and each nomination requires extensive support from both peers and students.

2012 W.T. Aikins Award – Individual Teaching Performance - Small Group

Dr. Robert Silver (Dept. of Medicine and Toronto Western Hospital) has been awarded the prestigious 2012 Aikins Award for Individual Teaching Performance (Small Group) in recognition of his remarkable contribution to endocrinology teaching. In selecting Dr. Silver, the selection

committee remarked on his "infectious enthusiasm for teaching and learning, impressive teaching scores, reflective approach to his field and most importantly, his commitment to students."

2012 W.T. Aikins Award - Individual Teaching Performance - Large Group

Dr. Dante Morra (Dept. of Medicine and University Health Network) has been awarded the 2012 Aikins Award for Individual Teaching Performance (Large Group) for his scholarly and innovative approach to teaching in a demanding subject area. The Aikins Awards are the most prestigious awards presented by the Faculty of Medicine for commitment to and excellence in undergraduate medical education. Dr. Morra is being presented with this award in recognition of his "ability to challenge our students and to lead them through the sometimes difficult learning process in an engaging and enthusiastic manner."

The Aikins Awards will be presented at the Faculty of Medicine's Education Achievement Celebration on April 30, 2012 and at Medicine's Pre-Convocation ceremony on June 5, 2012.

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council André Hamer Postgraduate Prize

Mr. Matthew Florczynski, a Master's student in the Institute of Medical Sciences, won one of four André Hamer Postgraduate Prizes, awarded to the most outstanding candidates in NSERC's postgraduate scholarship competitions. Working in the field of neuroscience and mental health, Mr. Florczynski's research is described as having "long-term implications for treating a range of neurological diseases and injuries."

Higher Education Strategy Associates H-Index Ranking (Globe and Mail Report on Business)

Professor Edward (Ned) Shorter (Dept. of Psychiatry and History of Medicine program) was ranked as the third-most influential historian in Canada based on an H-index ranking of Canadian university historians provided by Higher Education Strategy Associates (HESA) for the Report on Business. The full article can be viewed here: [Who are Canada's research stars?](#) and [click here](#) to view the accompanying ranking.

2. Announcements

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Launch of the Future of Medical Education in Canada Postgraduate Project

On March 29th, the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada (AFMC), along with le Collège des Médecins du Québec (CMW), the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC), and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPC), launched their landmark

report on [The Future of Medical Education in Canada - A Collective Vision for Postgraduate Medical Education \(FMEC PG\)](#).

The FMEC PG project examined postgraduate medical education as part of the learning continuum for physicians, focusing on medical students as they move into postgraduate training and, later, into practice. The report culminated in 10 recommendations for change, each one backed by a key transformative action, and designed to transform our PGME system and act as an anchor for future changes.

The University of Toronto played a significant leadership role in the development of this report and the substantial consultation involved in informing its recommendations. In particular, the contributions of **Dr. Sarita Verma** (Deputy Dean, Faculty of Medicine) and **Dr. Salvatore Spadafora** (Vice-Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education) were invaluable to this project as they collaborated with colleagues from across the country in leading both the FMEC PG Liaison and Engagement Consulting Group and the instrumental FMEC PG Environmental Scan over the past two years.

For more information about this innovative and groundbreaking project, or to read the report, please visit the project's website [here](#).

Toronto Central LHIN Inaugural Primary Care Physician Advisors

The Department of Family & Community Medicine is proud to share the news that three faculty members have been appointed to the Toronto Central LHIN as the LHIN's inaugural Primary Care Physician Advisors. In their new roles, **Dr. Phil Ellison** (University Health Network, Toronto Western Hospital), **Dr. Yoel Abells** (Community Family Physician and Mount Sinai Hospital) and **Dr. Tara Kiran** (DFCM New Investigator and Family Physician, St. Michael's Hospital) will make an important contribution to strengthening primary care for patients and leading engagement of primary care physicians and stakeholders in support of a regional primary care strategy.

3. Call for Applications

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IHPME offers new MSc Concentration in Quality Improvement and Patient Safety

The Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation (IHPME) now offers a concentration in **Quality Improvement and Patient Safety** in its MSc Program beginning Fall 2012.

The one-year research degree prepares individuals to create and apply evidence in this emerging field - and to lead sustainable quality improvement within organizations and across the health care system. Designed for administrators, physicians and health professionals, the modular format allows individuals to complete the degree in one year without interrupting their careers.

Areas of study include: improvement science theory and research methods; measurement methods and tools; best practices in implementing quality improvement and patient safety; systems thinking; and theory and tools for leading change. Courses begin September 2012. **Application deadline is May 15, 2012.** For more information, [click here](#).

4. Medicine Research Online

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RESEARCH GRANTS

- [Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada: Career Awards 2012/2013](#)
- [Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada: Grants-In-Aid 2012/201](#)
- [Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada 2012/2013](#)

~ Our congratulations to all! ~

UPCOMING AWARD DEADLINES

April

[American Academy of Arts & Sciences Fellows](#)

May

[Canadian Cardiovascular Society Awards](#)

[King Faisal International Prize](#)

[World Food Prize](#)

[Bower Award](#)

[Rolf Luft Award in Endocrinology and Diabetes Research](#)

June

[Killam Prize](#)

[Canadian Medical Hall of Fame](#)

[Steacie Prize for Natural Sciences](#)

[BBVA Foundation - Frontiers of Knowledge Awards](#)

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