

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Photo collage from CGS	2
Time to End Ageism in Medical Education	3
Recent Faculty Publications	4-5

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Division Announcements
- Upcoming Events
- Faculty Profile: Dr. Reva Adler



DIVISION OF GERIATRIC MEDICINE  
DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

Issue 7  
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# GERIATRIC MEDICINE

at the University of Toronto



## UofT Strong Presence at Annual Canadian Geriatrics Society Conference in “La Belle Province”

The 32nd Annual Canadian Geriatrics Society Scientific Meeting was hosted in Quebec City on April 19-21 and was well attended by faculty and trainees.

Colleagues from across the country converged to share advances in research and fresh perspectives surrounding the care of older adults. New to this year’s proceedings was a “Medical Student Day” that featured a keynote address by Dr. Roger Wong, CGS President, followed by lectures and workshops geared towards trainees. The day concluded with a networking dinner event.

As part of the trainee-focused proceedings, Geriatric Medicine resident Dr. Karen D’Silva (PGY5) facilitated a gait/falls assessment workshop, discussing falls as a geriatric syndrome and how risk factors can be revealed as part of a focused history, functional

and physical examination. Building on skills honed in the Master Teacher program, Karen engaged participants to integrate their own clinical experiences in learning about methods for assessing gait and performing balance tests.

Karen’s abstract, “Does this patient with LUTS have benign prostatic hypertrophy with bladder outlet obstruction?”, was also accepted for a poster presentation and garnered interest from conference attendees.

The conference provided meaningful opportunities for trainees of all levels. Geriatrics Interest Group (GIG) Co-Chair, Evelyn Cheung, noted that exposure to a wide range of research topics – including such topics as geriatrics oncology – was of particular interest as she explores com-

bined clinical and research career possibilities.

Raza Naqvi (PGY3), was awarded the CIHR Institute of Aging *Réjean Hébert* prize in Geriatric Research. This annual prize is given out the medical resident in either a core or primary residency program for the best scientific presentation. Raza, who will be commencing his geriatrics training at UofT this July, shared that his own passion was strengthened by the



## CGS, continued

phenomenal atmosphere created by the caliber of speakers and thought provoking discussions. Raza also presented a systemic review that he has been working on in conjunction with Dr. Sharon Straus.

Congratulations to Angela Liu, a second year medical student, who received an award for her "Cognition and functional ability in older adults with schizophrenia" presentation.

Travel grants were offered by the Division of Geriatric Medicine and Baycrest to support program and medical school trainees' attendance at this national event. Recipients have expressed their gratitude for the learning opportunities made possible by attending this annual event; UofT representatives included:

- Laura Burnes
- Evelyn Cheung
- Neil Dattani
- Krupa Dighe
- Christine LeFebvre
- Angela Liu
- Kartika Malik
- Raza Naqvi
- Amanda Ramdyal
- Jarred Rosenberg

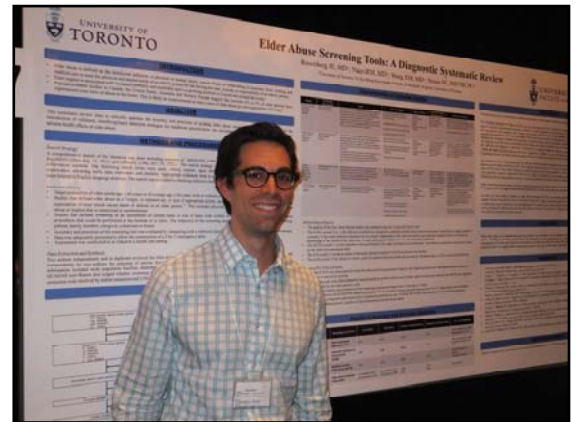
*The 33rd Annual CGS Scientific Meeting will be hosted in Toronto, April 2013.*



Raza Naqvi (L), 2012 recipient of the Réjean Hébert Prize, and Dr. Gary Naglie



Kartika Malik (R) and resident



Jarred Rosenberg (PGY3) will be joining the Geriatric Medicine program in July



Christine LeFebvre (L) and Karen D'Silva



Amanda Goldberg (L) and Amanda Lo



Dr. Karen Fruetel (L), University of Calgary, and Jarred Rosenberg



Raza Naqvi (L) and Dr. Janet Gordon, Dalhousie University

# Announcements

## Congratulations to 2012 Esther and Saul Baker Award Recipients



Mount Sinai recently recognized the 2012 recipients of the Esther and Saul Baker Award: **Vicky Chau** (Geriatric Medicine PGY4), **Grace Leung** (UofT) and **Nathan Stall**. This distinction recognizes outstanding performance by postgraduate trainees within the Geriatrics Program. An award ceremony will be hosted at Mount Sinai on Wednesday, May 16.

This award was established by Gerald and Michael Baker to honour the memory of their parents and as a lasting demonstration of gratitude for the care Saul received towards the end of his life.

Dr. Joanne Ho, has been accepted to the Clinician-Scientist Training Program for July 2012. Since completing Geriatric Medicine training in December 2012, Joanne has been continuing with her research while working towards her Clinical Epidemiology Masters through UofT's Department of Health Policy Management and Evaluation.

Dr. Camilla Wong, together with her husband and daughter Abby, are enjoying the splendours of the newest addition to the family: Watson Yuen. Abby has gracefully accepted the role of doting older sister since Watson's early morning Feb 15 birth.



## CMAJ Article a Call to Action to End Ageism in Medical Education

In a recent article published by CMAJ, medical student Nathan Stall expresses his concern that medical education is unfairly biased against the care of older adults.

In his article, he elucidates that ageism is entrenched within the structure of formal education curricula as there is limited exposure to geriatrics clinical rotations within Canadian medical schools and the absence of cases that reflect older adults with complex comorbidities.

Currently a medical student at UWO, Nathan will be joining UofT to pursue Internal Medicine training next year.

The article, "Time to end ageism in medical education", is available online and can be accessed at the following address:

<http://www.cmaj.ca/content/early/2012/03/12/cmaj.112179>



## Upcoming Events

Baycrest Rounds: Drs. Daphna Grossman and Jennifer Moore, "Prescribing Opioids to the Elderly" (Thurs, May 17 – 12:00pm-1:00pm) Baycrest, rm. 2E01

- Videoconferencing available (TSM# 19718345)

\* Mock Exam (PGY4s, PGY5s) (Thurs, May 17 – 1:00pm-4:00pm) Sunnybrook, rm. H421

\* Journal Club (Fri, May 25 – 8:00am-9:00am) St. Michael's, rm. 211-Li Ka Shing Videoconferencing available at:

- Baycrest, rm. 2E11
- Mount Sinai, 15th Floor Classroom
- Sunnybrook, rm. M1006

Program Committee Meeting (Wed, May 30 – 2:00pm-5:00pm) Sunnybrook, rm. H483

ABSTRACT DEADLINE: Tri-University Research Day (Wed, Jun 6 – submit to [nisreen.murad@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:nisreen.murad@uwaterloo.ca))

Baycrest Rounds: Dr. Kaveh Shojania, topic TBD (Thurs, Jun 7 – 12:00pm-1:00pm) Baycrest, rm. 2E01

- Videoconferencing available (TSM# 19718405)

Clinical and Ethical Issues in Geriatric and Long-Term Care (Fri, Jun 15 – 8:15am-4:00pm) Baycrest, Joseph E. & Minnie Wagon Centre

- RSVP and inquiries to Paula Ferreira ([pferreira@baycrest.org](mailto:pferreira@baycrest.org))

\* Tri-University Research Day (Wed, Jun 20 – 1:15pm onwards) Cambridge Mill, 130 Water St North, Cambridge

- This event is in place of a June Journal Club

Executive Committee Meeting (Wed, Jun 27 – 5:30pm via teleconference)

\*Trainee participation is mandatory

Have an upcoming event or announcement that you would like to share with the division in an upcoming issue?

Send pertinent details to:  
[liis-ann.klein@sunnybrook.ca](mailto:liis-ann.klein@sunnybrook.ca)



## Recent Faculty Publications

[Discrete choice experiment produced estimates of acceptable risks of therapeutic options in cancer patients with febrile neutropenia.](#)

Sung L, **Alibhai SM**, Ethier MC, Teuffel O, Cheng S, Fisman D, Regier DA.  
J Clin Epidemiol. 2012 Jun;65(6):627-34. PMID:22424607

[Search filters can find some but not all knowledge translation articles in MEDLINE: an analytic survey.](#)

McKibbin KA, Lokker C, Wilczynski NL, Haynes RB, Ciliska D, Dobbins M, Davis DA, **Straus SE**.  
J Clin Epidemiol. 2012 Jun;65(6):651-9. PMID:22424986

[Information needs of men on androgen deprivation therapy.](#)

Soeponggo T, Warde P, Fleshner N, Timilshina N, **Alibhai SM**.  
BJU Int. 2012 May;109(10):1503-9. doi: 10.1111/j.1464-410X.2011.10475.x. PMID:21883845

[Predictors of early mortality after radical nephrectomy with renal vein or inferior vena cava thrombectomy - a population-based study.](#)

Yap SA, Horovitz D, **Alibhai SM**, Abouassaly R, Timilshina N, Finelli A.  
BJU Int. 2012 Apr 13. doi: 10.1111/j.1464-410X.2012.11125.x. PMID:22500493

[Cost-utility analysis of primary prophylaxis versus secondary prophylaxis with granulocyte colony-stimulating factor in elderly patients with diffuse aggressive lymphoma receiving curative-intent chemotherapy.](#)

Chan KK, Siu E, Krahn MD, Imrie K, **Alibhai SM**.  
J Clin Oncol. 2012 Apr 1;30(10):1064-71. PMID:22393098

[Impact of androgen deprivation therapy on depressive symptoms in men with nonmetastatic prostate cancer.](#)

Timilshina N, Breunis H, **Alibhai S**.  
Cancer. 2012 Apr 1;118(7):1940-5. doi: 10.1002/cncr.26477. PMID:22009684

[Asthma action plans are highly variable and do not conform to best visual design practices.](#)

Gupta S, Wan FT, Ducharme FM, Chignell MH, Loughheed MD, **Straus SE**.  
Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol. 2012 Apr;108(4):260-265.e2. PMID:22469446

[Clinician-trialist rounds: 9. Mentoring - part 3: the structure and function of effective mentoring: advice and protection.](#)

**Straus SE**, Sackett DL.  
Clin Trials. 2012;9(2):272-4. No abstract available. PMID:22496399

[The enablers and barriers to the use of direct observation of trainee clinical skills by supervising faculty in a psychiatry residency program.](#)

**Madan R**, Conn D, Dubo E, Voore P, Wiesenfeld L.  
Can J Psychiatry. 2012 Apr;57(4):269-72. PMID:22480593

[Usability testing of two e-learning resources: Methods to maximize potential for clinician use.](#)

Menon A, Korner-Bitensky N, Chignell M, **Straus S**.  
J Rehabil Med. 2012 Mar 28;44(4):338-45. doi: 10.2340/16501977-0952. PMID:22453773

[Survival Duration among Patients with a Noncancer Diagnosis Admitted to a Palliative Care Unit: A Retrospective Study.](#)

Downar J, Chou YC, Ouellet D, **La Delfa I**, Blacker S, Bennett M, Petch C, Cheng SM.  
J Palliat Med. 2012 Mar 20. PMID:22432440

[Dihydropyridine calcium channel blockers and the progression of parkinsonism.](#)

Marras C, Gruneir A, **Rochon P**, Wang X, Anderson G, Brotchie J, Bell CM, Fox S, Austin PC.  
Ann Neurol. 2012 Mar;71(3):362-9. doi: 10.1002/ana.22616. PMID:22451203

[Thyroid cancer patients' involvement in adjuvant radioactive iodine treatment decision-making and decision regret: an exploratory study.](#)

Sawka AM, **Straus S**, Gafni A, Meiyappan S, David D, Rodin G, Brierley JD, Tsang RW, Thabane L, Rotstein L, Ezzat S, Goldstein DP.  
Support Care Cancer. 2012 Mar;20(3):641-5. PMID:22072050

[Health-related quality of life anticipated with different management strategies for febrile neutropenia in adult cancer patients.](#)

Teuffel O, Cheng S, Ethier MC, Diorio C, Martino J, Mayo C, Wing R, Sung L, **Alibhai SM**.  
Support Care Cancer. 2012 Feb 17. PMID:22350594

[Risk factors for medication nonadherence in older adults with cognitive impairment who live alone.](#)

Thiruchselvam T, **Naglie G**, Moineddin R, Charles J, Orlando L, Jaglal S, Snow W, Tierney MC.  
Int J Geriatr Psychiatry. 2012 Feb 15. doi: 10.1002/gps.3778. PMID:22337284

[Clinician-trialist rounds: 8. Mentoring - part 2: the structure and function of effective mentoring linkage, resources, and academic opportunities.](#)

**Straus SE**, Sackett DL.  
Clin Trials. 2012 Feb;9(1):128-31. PMID:22334471

[Do we continue to unnecessarily perform ipsilateral adrenalectomy at the time of radical nephrectomy? A population based study.](#)

Yap SA, **Alibhai SM**, Abouassaly R, Timilshina N, Finelli A.  
J Urol. 2012 Feb;187(2):398-404. PMID:22177155

*Continued on next page...*



## Recent Faculty Publications *(Cont'd from previous page)*

### Development and validation of a utility weighting function for the patient-oriented prostate utility scale (PORPUS).

Tomlinson G, Bremner KE, Ritvo P, **Naglie G**, Krahn MD. Med Decis Making. 2012 Jan-Feb;32(1):11-30. PMID:21653804

### The Impact of Explicit Values Clarification Exercises in a Patient Decision Aid Emerges After the Decision Is Actually Made: Evidence From a Randomized Controlled Trial.

Feldman-Stewart D, Tong C, Siemens R, **Alibhai S**, Pickles T, Robinson J, Brundage MD. Med Decis Making. 2012 Jan 27. PMID:22287534

### Screening for osteoporosis in men receiving androgen deprivation therapy.

**Alibhai SM**, Yun L, Cheung AM, Paszat L. JAMA. 2012 Jan 18;307(3):255-6. PMID:22253389

### Systematic review and evaluation of web-accessible tools for management of diabetes and related cardiovascular risk factors by patients and healthcare providers.

Yu CH, Bahniwal R, Laupacis A, Leung E, Orr MS, **Straus SE**. J Am Med Inform Assoc. 2012 Jan 3. PMID:22215057

### A prospective study comparing the outcomes and health-related quality of life in adult patients with myeloid malignancies undergoing allogeneic transplantation using myeloablative or reduced-intensity conditioning.

Gupta V, Panzarella T, Li L, Khan J, Sharma A, Lipton JH, Kuruvilla J, Messner H, **Alibhai SM**. Biol Blood Marrow Transplant. 2012 Jan;18(1):113-24. PMID:21703974

### Clinician-trialist rounds: 7. Mentoring: why every clinician-trialist needs to get mentored.

**Straus SE**, Sackett DL. Clin Trials. 2011 Dec;8(6):765-7. PMID:22167113

### Core competencies in the science and practice of knowledge translation: description of a Canadian strategic training initiative.

**Straus SE**, Brouwers M, Johnson D, Lavis JN, Légaré F, Majumdar SR, McKibbin KA, Sales AE, Stacey D, Klein G, Grimshaw J; KT Canada Strategic Training Initiative in Health Research (STIHR). Implement Sci. 2011 Dec 9;6:127. PMID:22152223

## Faculty Profile: Reva N. Adler

Here are a few things that you may not already know about your colleague:

### *Why I chose Geriatric Medicine as a subspecialty:*

- When I was a medical student and resident, I lived in a neighbourhood in northern Manhattan that was the destination for many refugees during WWII. Most of my neighbours were older women who had arrived in New York in the late 1930's with whom I developed friendships – one worked at the League of Nations as it was transforming into the UN, another was one of the first female law professors in New York. Both these friendships as well as my interest in, and respect for, older people motivated me to pursue geriatrics.

### *Where I completed my training:*

- GIM: Columbia University (PGY1-2), Albert Einstein College of Medicine (PGY3); Geriatric Medicine: University of British Columbia; Masters of Public Health: University of Washington

*If I could have any career outside of Geriatric Medicine it would be:*

- Yarn shop owner...or denizen!

### *My very first job was:*

- Selling yard goods at Jack's Fabrics in Port Chester New York when I was 15.

### *The one gadget or piece of gear that I could not do without is:*

- Portable BGAN satellite uplink for internet and phone. It's the size and weight of an average hardcover novel and can be powered by portable solar panels. Invaluable when working off the grid in Rwanda or Sudan! I carry it for emergencies, to read the New York Times online and to call home from places like the middle of the Sahara to check what my family is having for supper in Cabbagetown.

### *My tip for relaxing after a stressful day/week/month:*

- An unplugged weekend at home: unplug the phone, computer, TV and electronics. Sleep, read books, go for walks, exercise, go out for a meal and a movie and hang out with loved ones. A mini-holiday that you can fit into a weekend!

### *The words I live by are:*

- Do what you think is right. Do your best. Be dignified.