



Dr. Robert Woollard  
(Professor of Family  
Medicine, University of  
British Columbia | Co-Chair,  
Global Consensus for Social  
Accountability of Medical  
Schools) keynote  
presentation "Social  
Accountability in Canada:  
Where are we going?" to  
COM faculty, students, and  
staff March 21, 2016.

## Social accountability in Canada: where are we going?

On March 21, 2016 the College of Medicine and the Division of Social Accountability (DSA) hosted **Dr. Robert Woollard** as a guest speaker for a full day of events and discussion around where we as a college, and a country, are moving towards with regard to social accountability of medical schools.

Dr. Woollard completed two terms as Head of the Department of Family Medicine at the University of British Columbia and works extensively on the issue of social accountability, co-chairing the [Global Consensus for Social Accountability of Medical Schools](#), developing a national medical school in Nepal founded on these principles, and chairing a Task

Group of the AFMC charged with implementing the policy paper [Social Accountability: A Vision for Canadian Medical Schools](#).

Dr. Woollard met with College of Medicine Senior Leadership in the, presented his keynote session to faculty, students and staff during the lunch-hour and joined in roundtable discussion with members from the Social Accountability Committee, the Indigenous Health Committee and the Global Health Committee.

His insight into how we can continue to move social accountability forward at the College of Medicine was invigorating and thought provoking. Notable in the

discussion was the need for a culture shift in moving social accountability from the "margins to the mainstream" and the importance of promoting the scholarship of engagement in order to understand and address pressing health problems. We thank Dr. Woollard for sharing his expertise and his leadership in continuing to move the social accountability mandate forward both locally and globally.



## Navigating the unique medical needs of refugees

On Friday March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016 approximately 115 physicians, allied health professionals, students and community members from around Saskatchewan gathered at TCU Place for a full day Immigrant and Refugee Health Conference put on by the Division of Continuing Medical Education in collaboration with the DSA.

Featured speakers included **Dr. Kevin Pottie**, Associate Professor Family Medicine, University of Ottawa | Co-Chair Canadian Collaboration for Immigrant and Refugee Health | Founding Director Immigrant Health Clinic of Ottawa; **Dr. Anna Banerji**, Director Global and Indigenous Health, University of Toronto | Founder Canadian Refugee Health Conference; **Dr. Chris Greenaway**, Associate Professor Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases, McGill University; and **Dr. Peter Polatin**, Professor of Psychiatry & Director Global Mental Health, George Washington University | Senior Health Advisor DIGNITY Institute Against Torture.

Conference presentations included in-depth discussions on [Canada's Clinical Guidelines for Immigrant and Refugee Health](#), improvements on screening for infectious diseases, specific health concerns of women and children, unique mental health indicators and recommendations for the



*“The Twentieth Century will be chiefly remembered by future generations not as an era of political conflicts or technical inventions, but as an age in which human society dared to think of the welfare of the whole human race as a practical objective.”*

– Arnold J. Toynebee

refugee population, and a panel discussion specific to the Syrian Refugee Community and their medical needs.

In the conference evaluation, participants noted the wealth of expertise present in the room, the practicality of the information and tools shared, and the value of the interactive cases and stories of lived experience. About 80% of attendees who responded to the survey (48% response rate) said the content presented in the conference convinced them to make a change in their practice.

The College of Medicine's Immigrant & Refugee Health Committee is re-convening in September 2016 and has an open call for faculty, student, and clinician members. Please contact Erin Wolfson ([erin.wolfson@usask.ca](mailto:erin.wolfson@usask.ca)) if you are interested.

### Feedback from conference participants

*“This was an excellent opportunity to expand my awareness of the emotional and mental stresses of the refugee process.”*

*“[I]t was great to hear about the services available in Regina, Saskatoon, and Moosejaw.”*

*“It was useful to hear of the comparisons across the country and the challenges”*

*“[T]he content reinforces that cultural sensitivity is important for refugees, but also immigrants and the Indigenous populations here in Saskatchewan.”*

*“I hope to become more involved in working with refugees. My interest was more than sparked!”*

## Division of Social Accountability finalizes the 2016-2020 College of Medicine Social Accountability Strategic Plan

Between the months of August 2015 – March 2016, the DSA held various collaborative review sessions with faculty, students and staff around the *College of Medicine Social Accountability Strategic Plan 2016-2020*. The plan will guide the work of the DSA, the Social Accountability Committee and the College of Medicine in its social accountability mandate and is intended to be a living document that will grow and change as appropriate strategies are identified and progress is made. Dean Preston Smith [blogged](#) about social accountability at the College of Medicine noting that the college has been a recognized leader in this area. The strategic plan will support and guide the work as we continue to advance social accountability to the next level.

### The full 2016-2020 strategic plan can be viewed here:

<http://medicine.usask.ca/documents/social-accountability/SocialAccountStratPlan-2016.pdf>

The current context is ripe for social accountability growth - CACMS (Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools') recent release of [Standard 1.1.1](#) puts social accountability at the forefront. As Saskatchewan's only medical school, the University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine is committed to delivering success for the people of our province and has already begun the planning process for our next full accreditation visit in 2017. The DSA and various committees are working diligently to support the college in its alignment with these standards.

Upcoming months for the DSA are focused on building awareness and identifying what already exists within our college. Dr. Ryan Meili, Division Head, has already begun a department tour, presenting at Psychiatry grand rounds on March 18<sup>th</sup> with Dr. Stefan Brennan, MC, FRCPC and Marcia Santiago, PGY-III, and the Department of Surgery and the Department of Emergency Medicine on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016. The DSA will be working with the various departments and units of the college to highlight social accountability activities and upcoming opportunities. The DSA is also hosting a Master of Public Health practicum student this summer to undertake an environmental scan of social accountability units/committees in the 17 Canadian medical schools.



What does social accountability mean to you, as a future medical practitioner?

During the strategic planning review sessions, current University of Saskatchewan medical students and residents were asked what social accountability means to them.

*“Fulfilling the needs of the community”*

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*“Understanding patient demographics.”*

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*“Patient-centered care.”*

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*“Being a productive member of the community.”*

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*“Being able to predict future problems and take action.”*

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*“Preventative medicine.”*

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*“Advocacy.”*

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*“Having the means to assist people in more than just medicine.”*

## Medical students traveling internationally attend global health pre-departure orientation

In the evening on March 18<sup>th</sup> 2016, twenty-three medical students who are traveling internationally this summer with the Making the Links – Certificate in Global Health program and the International Federation of Medical Students (IFMSA) program attended a pre-departure orientation session at St. Andrews College. Dr. Ryan Meili, *Faculty, Community Health and Epidemiology*, Dr. Michael Schwandt, *Faculty, Community Health and Epidemiology*, and Dr. Edward Rooke, *family physician and MTL Preceptor*, led students through in-depth discussions on personal health and safety, risk management, cultural safety, ethical considerations and global health issues to prepare them for their learning experiences. Students in attendance are traveling this summer to Slovakia, Jordan, Mozambique, Vietnam, Switzerland, Finland, Croatia, Brazil, Czech Republic, Honduras, Montenegro, Grenada, Australia, Malta, Colombia, and Armenia.

If you are a medical student who is interested in these types of community service-learning/travel opportunities, visit the DSA website for information on:

- Making the Links – Certificate in Global Health  
<http://medicine.usask.ca/programs/making-the-links.php#Courses>
- Global Health Research and Travel Awards Program -  
<http://medicine.usask.ca/department/schools-divisions/social-accountability.php#MakingtheLinks>

For more information on IFMSA opportunities visit <http://ifmsa.org/introduction-to-ifmsa-exchanges/> or contact (do we have a university contact for this?)



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