

# Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research (CRaNHR)

## Health Care Research Seminar Series 2007-2008

**October 30, 2007 (Tuesday)**

**12:00 pm to 1:00 pm**

Room 109  
Health Sciences Education Resource Centre  
Laurentian University

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### *Rural surgeons' confidence in evidence-based medicine*

#### **Dr. Simon Kitto**

Senior Lecturer (Medical & Health Sociology)  
Department of Rural and Indigenous Health  
Lecturer (honorary), Department of Surgery  
Monash University, Australia

In recent years there has been a great deal of debate within surgery about the nature and place of evidence-based medicine (EBM) within surgical practice. Nonetheless, EBM techniques are being embedded into undergraduate medical curricula and surgical training programs across Australia. The Monash University Department of Surgery at Monash Medical Centre and the Department of Rural and Indigenous Health have implemented pilot studies, using both quantitative and qualitative survey instruments in metropolitan (2004) and rural areas (2007) to explore current knowledge, attitudes and behaviours of practising surgeons towards EBM techniques. This paper reports on one aspect of the research - urban and rural surgeons' confidence in sources of evidence. The results are discussed from a medical sociology framework which emphasises the importance of incorporating the concept of 'surgical culture' as an important factor in understanding the nature of the surgical profession as a community and the clinical behaviour of surgeons. We argue that the effective mobilization of Australian surgeons to adopt EBM into their practice is not possible without understanding the heterogeneous situated culture(s) of urban and rural surgeons.

**Dr. Simon Kitto's** research focuses on using sociological theories and methodologies to investigate contemporary socio-technical configurations in society in the areas of: evidence-based surgery and medicine, the construction of medical knowledge (including the use of qualitative systematic reviewing), health services delivery, information technology in higher education and designer-user-computer interactions. His research interests in sociology are operationalised through qualitative and mixed methodology approaches.

Dr. Kitto was involved in the development and implementation of sociological curricula throughout the five years of the MBBS medical curriculum at Monash University. Prior to joining Monash University, he lectured in the School of Public Health, Queensland University of Technology where he taught qualitative research methods. Currently, he is responsible for the coordination of postgraduate research degrees and honours programme in the School of Rural Health at Monash.

**This free seminar is open to all interested persons  
Pay parking available in Lot D**

**Call Linda Liboiron-Grenier at 675-1151 ext. 4358 for more information**