

# Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research (CRaNHR)

## Health Care Research Seminar Series 2008-2009

**October 28, 2008 (Tuesday)**

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

Room 109  
Health Sciences Education Resource Centre  
Laurentian University

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### ***Do Organization and System Factors Affect Family Physician Performance?***

**Elizabeth Wenghofer, PhD.**

*Assistant Professor, School of Rural and Northern Health  
Faculty Investigator, Centre for Rural and Northern Health Research  
Laurentian University*

A growing literature suggests that a physician's ability to provide good patient care and avoid medical errors is dependent on multiple factors including, but not limited to, their personal and professional characteristics. The practice environment, including both the influence of organizational structures and the larger healthcare system as a whole, also impacts on the ability of physicians to perform adequately. In this study, we explore how performance is influenced by physician factors and additionally by the broader organization and system contexts. To do this, we analyze data from actual performance assessments of general/family practitioners (GP/FPs). We hypothesized that physicians' personal and professional characteristics constitute only one, and not necessarily the most important, determining factor of performance. We consider the implications of our findings on physician governance and performance improvement.

**Assistant Professor Elizabeth Wenghofer** joined the School of Rural and Northern Health at Laurentian University in 2007 where she teaches in the Interdisciplinary PhD Program in Rural and Northern Health. Elizabeth's research and teaching interests lie in the areas of health policy, health human resources, continuing competence and performance of the health professions and professional governance. Her research activities have focused on the importance of understanding the environmental factors that influence physician performance, in particular those associated with the practice structure and community needs and resources.

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

**Call Margaret G. Delmege at 675-1151 ext. 4369 for more information**