2016 turned out to be a challenging year for most people, but with some particular challenges in FHS. I shared the pain of watching the American election along with my colleagues in FHS and everyone reading this, I’m sure. Many of us went from the giddy anticipation of breaking THE glass ceiling to the despair of realizing we are in for at least four years of unprecedented global uncertainty and fear. It was a visceral reaction the day after the election that has not dissipated much with time passing, and has taken a dramatic uptick after the inauguration. For the global public health community, we have our work cut out for us.

FHS also experienced some internal turmoil. Several of our key leadership group decided to take on new responsibilities and challenges in other places, and we struggled to fill these important gaps as we enter an important transition year in the Faculty. But our greatest challenge as a community was the sudden and unexpected death of Elliot Goldner, one of the inspirational founding members of our Faculty and a critically important piece of the leadership structure. Elliot’s death sent our community into deep mourning and our hearts went out to his family – Roslyn, Sarah and Adam – as they struggled to make sense of such a tragic death. We established a memorial page on our website – where the testimonials will tell you what an extraordinary professor and person Elliot was – and we set up a fundraising campaign to establish the Dr. Elliot Goldner Scholarship in Mental Health Policy. FHS has committed to match the money raised through external donations and we are about a third of the way to our goal of raising $100,000. Details of this campaign can be found on our website so please consider helping us if you are able.

As the Dean, I have the privilege to share in the joys and sadness of many of our faculty, staff, and students – both public and private – and these past six months have certainly seen more than usual. Members of our community have demonstrated extraordinary resilience in the face of death and loss, and as always we celebrate birth and renewal in the lives of our members. And as the pages to follow will describe, our members continue to lead the global response to the health inequities that challenge us.

I am mid-way through my last year as Dean and it is indeed bittersweet. I look forward to welcoming a new leader for the Faculty with the same anticipation and (dare I say it) trepidation that others feel. We are collectively a strong and progressive community with an inspirational mission and our efforts will be needed even more as we move into the post US election world. I look forward to working with you all in the months (and years) ahead.

- John O’Neil
Kudos (Awards & Recognition)

Dr. Tim Takaro has been appointed Associate Dean, Research. He began his three-year appointment on January 1, 2017.

Dr. Charlotte Waddell has been appointed as Chair, Tenure and Promotion Committee.

Internal Appointments & Extensions:

- **Dr. Tim Beischlag** – Dr. Beischlag has been appointed Director, Graduate Programs. He began his appointment on September 1, 2016.

- **Dr. Zabrina Brumme** has been appointed Chair, MSc & PhD Programs. She began her appointment on January 1, 2017.

- **Dr. Anne-Marie Nicol** - Dr. Nicol has been appointed Associate Professor of Professional Practice in Human Health Risk Assessment and Communication. She began her five-year renewable appointment on September 2, 2016.

- **Luciana Rad** – Ms. Rad has been appointed Director, Administration. She began her appointment on November 21, 2016.

- **Dr. Hasina Samji** – Dr. Samji has been appointed Assistant Professor of Professional Practice, Infectious Disease Epidemiologist. She began her five-year renewable appointment on January 1, 2017.

- **Dr. Stephen Smith** – Dr. Smith’s appointment as Associate Dean, Education has been renewed from September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2018.

- **Dr. Zabrina Brumme** has been appointed Chair, MSc & PhD Programs. She began her appointment on January 1, 2017.

Au Revoir:

- **Dr. Tim Takaro** received the Public Health Association of BC (PHABC) President’s Award in December 2016 for his remarkable contributions to advancing public health across BC and his countless efforts to create a new generation of climate change champions.

- **Dr. David Whitehurst**, EuroQol Group Executive Committee member, received a €15,000 award to support the organization of the ‘Integrating Patient-Reported Outcome Measures to Support Decision Making’ panel session at the 38th Annual North American Meeting of the Society for Medical Decision Making.

Postdoc & Student Awards

- **PhD student Amanda Butler** received the Multi-Year Funding (MYF) package intended for outstanding incoming PhD students.

- **PhD student Tessa Cheng** with the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS has been awarded a $15,000 Canadian Institutes for Health Research - Planning and Dissemination Grant with Montaner J., Day I., and DeBeck K. for the AIDS 2016 Pre-Conference UN 90-90-90 Target Meeting: The Key to End AIDS Pandemic by 2030 (2016-2017).

- **PhD student Cecilia Heredia** won the Best Oral Presentation award at the 2017 Semiahmoo Annual Occupational, Environmental, and Public Health Conference.

- **PhD student Genevieve Leis** has been awarded the Dr. Djavad Mowafaghian Doctoral Fellowship in Child Health.

- **MSc student Lorato Maje** was awarded the Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Research Scholarship.
Health Sciences 495: Applied Health Science Project
In Fall 2016, FHS lecturer Paola Ardiles and Shawn Smith from the RADIUS Social Innovation Lab, launched the Health Change Lab in collaboration with the City of Surrey, Fraser Health Authority and SFU Surrey campus. The Health Change Lab is an experiential team-based learning program that focuses on using a variety of skills and knowledge to understand and develop possible solutions for community health challenges. Students spend time on leadership development as they prototype solutions that incorporate elements of social entrepreneurship, health innovation, systems thinking and human-centered design.

Health Sciences 424/890: Strategic Applications of GIS in Public Health
This course was taught as a new partnership with the City of North Vancouver in Fall 2016. To feed into the City’s new Pedestrian Plan, FHS student teams used GIS to generate recommendations on how to improve walkability and get more people walking. Students presented posters to city staff and elected officials at City Hall in North Vancouver on Dec 2, 2016.

Health Sciences 488/891: Experiential Learning
Dr. Angela Kaida hosted FHS’ first experiential global health learning course in Durban, South Africa in May 2016. Trainees from SFU (including PhD, MSc, MPH, and senior undergraduate students) and African institutions in Botswana, Kenya, and South Africa participated in the intensive course focused on Global Health, HIV, and Youth. The course was hosted in partnership with the sub-Saharan African Network for TB and HIV Excellence (SANTHE) and will be held again in May 2017.

Postdoc & Student Awards cont’d

MSc student Frederick Omondi was awarded the Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Research Scholarship.

MSc student Lief Pagalan won the Best Poster award at the 2017 Semiahmoo Annual Occupational, Environmental, and Public Health Conference.

MPH student Farshad Palad won the Best Ignite Session award at the 2017 Semiahmoo Annual Occupational, Environmental, and Public Health Conference.

MSc student Khumoekae Richard was awarded the Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Research Scholarship.

MPH student Megan Striha won the Best Poster award at the 2017 Semiahmoo Annual Occupational, Environmental, and Public Health Conference.

Teaching & Programs Update

FHS lecturer Paola Ardiles and Shawn Smith with the Health Change Lab (L), and Dr. Angela Kaida and trainees from Durban, South Africa (R).