

Seminar

on Monday, July 3, 2017, 16:00 (ISPM seminar room 606, 1st floor)

Miettinen OS, Faculty of Medicine, McGill University, Montreal On the Health of Medical Academia

Abstract The faculty of medicine in any modern university has a dual mandate (from the university): first, to provide education – the content of which is maximally research-based – for (suitably-learned) practice of medicine; and second, to conduct medically-relevant research. In an *intellectually healthy faculty of medicine* in a modern university, both of these functions are in conformity with the logical dictates of tenable general theory – concepts and principles – of medicine. Thus, the first, undergraduate phase of the education focuses on topics that logically constitute 'the medical common' – that is, topics whose mastery truly is relevant to (suitably-learned) practice in all (sub)disciplines of medicine – while the second, graduate phase of any given student's education (supplemented with training in relevant skills) is specific to his/her chosen, logically-constructed (sub)discipline of medicine and is focused on truly-relevant topics (and skills) peculiar to the (sub)discipline at issue. And the research in such a faculty of medicine is principally directed to advancement of the knowledge-base of the practice of medicine, in conformity with the logical dictates of the theory of directly practice-relevant medical research. As of now, alas, such *intellectually healthy faculties of medicine still are but a dream* of a small avant-garde of medical academia. But once the needed 'paradigm shift' takes place, the preparation for practice in whichever (sub)discipline of medicine will be much shorter, and also distinctly more meaningful, than in the framework of the culture that now animates medical academia.

Mini-CV, Olli Sakari Miettinen

Education:

MD, University of Helsinki, 1962
MPH (major: epidemiology), University of Minnesota, 1964
MS (biostatistics, mathematical statistics, genetics, sociology), University of Minnesota, 1966
PhD (biostatistics), University of Minnesota, 1968

Principal appointments held:

Assistant Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Harvard School of Public Health, 1966-1969
Associate Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Harvard School of Public Health, 1969-1974
Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Harvard School of Public Health, 1974-1986
Professor, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, and Department of Medicine, McGill University, 1985-2016
Adjunct Research Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Cornell University, 1993-

Principal honours:

Knight First Class, Order of White Rose of Finland, 1976
Doctor Honoris Causa, University of Tampere, 1982
Doctor Honoris Causa, University of Athens, 1998

Principal publications:

Citation Classic:

Miettinen OS. Estimability and estimation in case-referent studies. *Am J Epidemiol* 1976; 103: 226-235

Books:

Miettinen OS. *Theoretical Epidemiology: Principles of Occurrence Research in Medicine*. New York: John Wiley & Sons, 1985
Miettinen OS. *Up from Clinical Epidemiology & EBM*. Dordrecht: Springer, 2011
Miettinen OS. *Epidemiological Research: Terms and Concepts*. Dordrecht: Springer, 2011
Miettinen OS, Karp I. *Epidemiological Research: An Introduction*. Dordrecht: Springer, 2012
Miettinen OS. *Toward Scientific Medicine*. Cham: Springer, 2014
Miettinen OS. *Medicine as a Scholarly Field*. Cham: Springer, 2015
Miettinen OS, Steurer J, Hofman A. *Clinical Research Transformed*. In preparation

Career focus:

Theory (concepts & principles) of medicine and directly practice-relevant medical research

