Health Research - From Particles to Policy

The ultimate aim of health research is to eradicate all disease. As a matter of fact, past health research has enabled us to do this with smallpox; we have also managed to eliminate and/or control other diseases. However, many still exist, and some people who survive disease are left with impairments that persist, e.g. limb amputation.

Caries and periodontitis are infectious diseases in the oral cavity that often require tooth amputation (extraction). Approximately 22% of Canadians aged 60-79 years have lost all of their teeth* and need prosthetic devices (complete dentures) to help them speak, chew food and look normal. Professor Feine’s research has focused on understanding the needs of this population so that design, production and provision of oral prostheses can better improve lives.

In this talk, Professor Feine will describe how her experiences as a new dentist led her to pursue a career in health research that has had an impact on practice and policy worldwide. Through examples, she will demonstrate how interdisciplinary research can offer relevant and comprehensive evidence of major value to decision-makers at all levels.

*2009 Canadian Health Measures Survey

Qualifies for 2 Continuing Education Points