

Young Investigators (YI) Forum 2009 Speaker Biographies

Douglas Bradley

Dr. Bradley is Professor of Medicine and Director of the Sleep Research Laboratory at the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, and of the Centre for Sleep Medicine and Circadian Biology at the University of Toronto. Dr. Bradley completed his MD degree at the University of Alberta in Edmonton in 1978. Subsequently, he completed specialty training at the University of Toronto in Internal Medicine in 1982 and Respiriology in 1985. Following completion of clinical training he went on to 3 years of research training in sleep apnea and respiratory muscle physiology at the University of Toronto and McGill University.

Dr. Bradley has been on staff at the Toronto General Hospital, University of Toronto since 1985. His clinical and research work focuses on the relationship between sleep apnea and cardiovascular diseases, with a particular focus on the pathophysiology and treatment of sleep apnea in patients with heart failure and stroke. He holds several peer-reviewed grants from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, and the Canadian Foundation for Innovation. He has published over 160 papers and book chapters on sleep apnea and related topics. Dr. Bradley is a member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation and is an Associate Editor of the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine.

Brenda Brouwer

Dr. Brouwer is a professor of Rehabilitation Science and Neuroscience at Queen's University. She has been conducting biomedical and clinical research in the area of physical dysfunction and stroke recovery for the past 20 years. Dr. Brouwer is currently principal investigator on research supported by the Heart and Stroke Foundation and the Canadian Institutes for Health Research. Additionally, she and her team will begin a new CIHR funded clinical trial this summer.

Jacqui Brinkman

Ms. Brinkman is the Education Coordinator and Privacy Facilitator at The James Hogg iCAPTURE Centre for Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Research at St. Paul's Hospital, University of British Columbia.

Ms. Brinkman received her Bachelor of Science degree (Biology) from the University of Victoria and a Masters degree from McGill University; her thesis project examined the genetic evolution of the Pacific Giant salamander through study of their supernumerary chromosomes. Ms. Brinkman has several years of experience working in biomedical research which began at the Centre for Environmental Health at UVic. Then, as a Laboratory Manager at the Montreal General Hospital Research Institute in the laboratory of Dr. Marcel Behr, Ms. Brinkman used her molecular biology tool set to study the molecular evolution and genetics of *Mycobacterium bovis*, the vaccine of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. In 2001, she moved to Vancouver where she joined the molecular and cell biology department of Micrologix Biotech, Inc. In 2003, the lure of academic research drew Ms. Brinkman into her current role as Education Coordinator of the James Hogg iCAPTURE Centre.

As Education Coordinator Jacqui is the program manager for the CIHR/HSFC IMPACT Strategic Training Program for post-doctoral fellows (www.impacttraining.ca). Ms. Brinkman develops professional development training and organizes seminar series and courses and for post-doctoral fellows and graduate students. She also runs the undergraduate summer student research program at the centre. In January of 2005, Ms. Brinkman worked with the iCAPTURE Privacy Team to create a manual of privacy policies and practices for the iCAPTURE BioBank of cardiovascular and pulmonary human biological materials. The team continues to work to maintain a robust privacy environment at the Centre.

Lisa Cameron (U of A)

Lisa Cameron has a BSc (1995) in Anatomy and Cell Biology and a PhD (2000) in Immunopathology from McGill University, under the supervision of Qutayba Hamid. The focus of her thesis work was demonstrating the importance of the local allergic response, including commitment to IgE production and eosinophil differentiation within airway mucosa.

Dr. Cameron received a CIHR post-doctoral fellowship to train with Donata Vercelli at the Arizona Respiratory Centre, University of Arizona (2000-2005). During this time she studied the regulatory effects of *IL13*-1112C>T, a single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) associated with asthma and asthma phenotypes.

Dr. Cameron also worked with Drs. Michael Kabesch and Erika von Mutius at Ludwig Maximilian's University Munich (2005) where the genotyping of CRTh2 SNPs was performed. This work was founding data of her independent research program focused on the molecular regulation of CRTh2 and the effects of environmental factors such as dietary fats and air pollution.

Dr. Cameron is currently an Assistant Professor, University of Alberta and a Heritage Medical Scholar. She has published 25 peer-reviewed articles to date and her research program is currently funded by the Canadian Institute of Health Research, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research, Canadian Lung Association and the SickKids Foundation.

Gerard Etienne

Director General
Human Resources Services

G rard Etienne is the Director General Human Resources at Health Canada since 7 September 2007. He is the former Vice President, Human Resources for TD Bank Financial Group. He started his career at the City of Ottawa, as a receptionist after having completed his Master’s degree in Education.

G rard joined the Department of National Defence Canadian Forces Personnel Support Agency in 1996 as a Job Evaluation Specialist. In 1997 he became the Director Compensation and benefits and he was appointed VP Human Resources in 2001.

In 2004, G rard joined TD Bank Financial Group as Vice President HR to coordinate the implementation of the overall diversity strategy within TDBFG.

G rard has a Master’s degree in Industrial Relations from l’Universit  du Qu bec   Hull; a MBA from l’Universit  du Qu bec   Montr al; a Master’s degree in Education from the University of Ottawa, a Bachelor of Social Sciences and Bachelor of Administration from the University of Industrial Relations. He was conferred the designation Fellow, Institute of Canadian Bankers with Honours. He has published articles in scientific journals such as Human Resources Management Canada.

Jack Gauldie

Research Interests: Chronic inflammation and tissue remodeling

For a number of years our group has been interested in the molecular events that control the complex process of chronic inflammation. Acute events resulting in the initiation of the inflammatory response are in the most protective and lead to normal tissue repair and return to normal function. We have been studying the molecular controls that govern the conversion of acute responses to chronic inflammatory responses. The chronic nature of the response results in on-going repair and tissue remodeling, with altered cell and matrix deposition and compromise to

tissue function. Such is the case in fibrosis, with common mechanisms and mediators in pulmonary, hepatic and dermal fibrosis, as well as joint remodeling.

We use gene transfer technologies to determine the role(s) of individual cytokine genes to the process of fibrogenesis and have shown that over-expression of active TGF 1 in a tissue- or organ-restricted manner leads to chronic fibrogenesis that involves, but is restricted to, the entire organ of expression. TGF 1 delivered to the lung induces progressive pulmonary fibrosis and represents an ideal model of this disease for therapeutic drug discovery. We also use drug- (bleomycin) and radiation-induced models to test the concepts of gene therapy in fibrosis using genes encoding natural inhibitors of TGF. Using a similar approach we are investigating the involvement of fibrogenesis in peritoneal dialysis membrane failure and uses of gene therapy for intervention.

Cytokine gene transfer and models of inflammation will be developed to identify new targets for therapeutic drug discovery through gene array assessments.

Nathalie Gendron

Following undergraduate and master studies at the Université Laval in Biochemistry, she pursued a Ph.D. in Microbiology in Paris and obtained her degree from the Université de Paris VII in 1993. She subsequently moved to health-related research as a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Ottawa and later at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Research Institute. After holding a position as a Research Scientist at the CHEO Apoptosis Research Centre for 5 years she joined CIHR as a Deputy Director (Program Delivery) in 2006. In that capacity she oversees the peer review for 13 committees in the open competition and the strategic initiatives for 3 CIHR Institutes (Circulatory and Respiratory Health; Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction; Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes).

Donna Goodridge

Donna Goodridge is an Associate Professor in the College of Nursing, University of Saskatchewan and is involved with the Canadian Lung Association as Chair of the Canadian Respiratory Health Professionals Research Committee and member of the Leadership Council. She holds a 5 year New Investigator Award through CIHR and the Saskatchewan Regional Partnership Program. Her program of research focuses on quality of care for persons with advanced chronic illness and she has a particular interest in chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. She is currently working on several projects using large administrative datasets, including the Participation and Activity Limitations Survey.

Donna recently completed a quality indicator development project using a Delphi methodology for care of persons with advanced COPD.

Charlie Goldsmith (McMaster)

After completing his PhD at North Carolina State University, Raleigh, in Experimental Design, a sub-area of Statistics, in 1969 Dr. Goldsmith returned to Canada to take up a post at McMaster University. He spent his entire career at McMaster apart from sabbaticals and leaves at other locations.

Charlie is a Fellow of The American Statistical Association and in 1995 won a Founders Award from The American Statistical Association. He is an elected member of the International Statistical Institute. He is currently a member of the Editorial Board of The Journal of Rheumatology, Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety, The Palmer Journal of Research, the Canadian Journal of Chiropractic and BMC-Trials. He has served on a variety provincial, national and international grant review bodies.

Dr. Goldsmith's research interests are in Statistical Methodology related to the evaluation of therapies involved in musculo-skeletal conditions, namely, rheumatology, physical therapy, chiropractic, etc, and more recently in surgery; developing research methodology for carrying out studies of quality-of-life in patients who use pharmaceutical agents; developing standards for research quality assessment in manuscripts, grants and research articles, developing improved understanding of graphical communication, and helping health care delivery adopt quality improvement methods.

Jeremy Grimshaw

Dr Jeremy Grimshaw received a MBChB (MD equivalent) from the University of Edinburgh, UK. He trained as a family physician prior to undertaking a PhD in health services research at the University of Aberdeen. He moved to Canada in 2002. His research focuses on the evaluation of interventions to disseminate and implement evidence-based practice. Dr. Grimshaw is the Director, Clinical Epidemiology Program, Ottawa Health Research Institute, Director, Centre for Best Practices, Institute of Population Health, University of Ottawa, Director, Canadian Cochrane Network and Centre, Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Health Knowledge Transfer and Uptake, and is a Full Professor in the Department of Medicine, University of Ottawa.

His has conducted a number of relevant research projects including:

- *systematic reviews professional, organisational, financial and regulatory interventions to improve professional and health care system performance.* He is the Co-ordinating Editor of the Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care group. He has undertaken systematic reviews of interventions to improve diabetes and other healthcare problems.
- *rigorous evaluations of dissemination and implementation strategies.* He has conducted over 30 cluster randomised trials and two interrupted time series of different dissemination and implementation strategies.
- *methodological and theoretical developments.* He has undertaken *methodological* research into guideline development methods and the design, conduct and analysis of cluster randomised trials. He is currently exploring the applicability of behaviour change theories to professional behaviour. He has also participated in a number of international collaborations to support wider development of knowledge research.

He has over 265 peer reviewed publications and during the last seven years has received over \$26 million as PI/Co-PI and \$21 million as Co-I in peer reviewed research funding.

Helen Johansen (Stats Canada)

Helen Johansen is a senior analyst within Health Analysis Division, Statistics Canada as well as an adjunct professor in the Department of Community Medicine and Epidemiology at the University of Ottawa. The main goal of her current work is the analysis and publication of person-oriented health information based on the linkage of registry, health care, survey and vital statistical data. She has been the project manager of a multi-disciplinary team and the manager of professional and technical staff. During her career, she has represented Health & Welfare on the Interdepartmental Secretariat on Drug Abuse, coordinated and analyzed a national survey on high blood pressure, represented Health & Welfare on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Coalition for High Blood Pressure Prevention & Control, acted as a statistical consultant for researchers at the University of Ottawa Heart Institute, been a member of the organizing committees for several Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada projects, and is a member of PHAC's CVD and Respiratory disease surveillance advisory groups. She has a PhD in Physical Chemistry from the University of California at Berkeley and she has co-authored more than 60 peer-reviewed scientific articles, many of them using record linkage.

Lorrie Kirschenbaum

Dr. Lorrie Kirshenbaum's laboratory is focused on understanding the molecular pathways and genetic factors that underlie the mechanisms of cardiac growth control and heart cell death. "There are certain genes that are highly regulated in the body that tell cells when to live and when to die, and we're just beginning to understand why this takes place," he explains. "We want to learn how these genes become turned on or turned off in disease processes." Employing advanced techniques in molecular biology to this largely uncharted area of research, this laboratory is helping to set the stage for the use of gene therapy in the treatment of cardiovascular diseases.

Darryl Knight

Dr. Knight obtained his PhD at the University of Western Australia in 1993 and did post doctoral training at the University of British Columbia. From 1997 to 2001 he was a Senior Research Officer in the Asthma & Allergy Research Institute of the University of Western Australia and was Head of the Experimental Biology division of the Institute from 2002-2004. In 2004, Dr Knight was recruited back to the University of British Columbia as the Canada Research Chair in Airway Disease and Associate Professor of Pharmacology. In 2008, he assumed the role of Associate Director of the James Hogg iCAPTURE centre for Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Research. Dr Knight has sat on two CIHR grant review panels (Respiratory and Cardiovascular C) and is on the editorial board of 3 Respiratory Journals. Dr. Knight's research program is focused on two independent but interrelated themes designed to increase our understanding of how the abnormal repair responses within the lung i) develop ii) contribute to the severity and chronicity of disease and iii) impact on treatment. These themes are focused the respiratory epithelium and adjacent fibroblasts. This microenvironment is the critical site for the initiation and perpetuation of the pathologic processes which contribute to fibrotic pulmonary diseases. My research program involves the investigation of two diseases, Asthma and idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, both of which are intimately associated with remodeling and fibrosis. The research is performed at molecular, cellular levels as well as intact animal models in the belief that no single disease perspective or methodology will yield complete insights into the nature of the interaction between these two cell types. He also link to clinical investigators who bring my work directly into the context of patients suffering from these diseases.

Dennis Ko

Dr. Ko received his M.D. from the University of Ottawa and did postgraduate training at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and Yale University School of Medicine. Dr. Ko is an assistant professor at the University of Toronto, a scientist at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) and an interventional cardiologist at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. His work focuses on clinical epidemiology and health services research to generate knowledge to improve the health care and outcomes patients with cardiovascular disease. He has been supported by a Clinical Scientist Award by the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario (HSFO) and a New Investigator Award by the CIHR. He is currently leading a CHIR funded national effort to develop quality and outcomes indicators for Percutaneous Coronary Interventions (PCI) in Canada.

Kim Lavoie

I completed my Bachelor's degree (Honours) in Psychology at McGill University (1995), my Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology at Concordia University (1997), and my PhD in Clinical Health Psychology at Concordia University and the Montreal Heart Institute (2002). I completed 3 years of post-doctoral studies in the Dept of Psychology at McGill and the Dept of Chest Medicine of Hôpital du Sacré-Coeur de Montréal (Faculty of Medicine).

In general, my research interests fall into 4 categories: (1) the impact of psychological stress (e.g., anxiety, depression, psychiatric disorders) on the development and progression of chronic illnesses (e.g., cardiovascular disease, asthma, and occupational asthma); (2) psychophysiological and behavioral mechanisms linking psychological stress to disease (cardio-pulmonary reactivity; inflammatory responses; poor health behaviors); and (3) behavioural medicine (e.g., behavioral interventions for chronic illnesses, including motivational interviewing, and cognitive-behavioral therapy).

<http://asthma-workplace.com/en/research/researchers/team/lavoie>

<http://www.axe-recherche-sante-respiratoire.org/fr/chercheurs.php>

Montreal Behavioral Medicine Center (in preparation)

Peter Liu

Dr. Peter Liu is the Scientific Director of the Institute of Circulatory and Respiratory Health at the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. He is also the Heart & Stroke/Polo Chair Professor of Medicine and Physiology at the Toronto General Hospital, University

Health Network, and until recently, the Director of the Heart & Stroke Richard/Lewar Centre of Excellence for Cardiovascular Research at the University of Toronto.

He completed his MD degree at the University of Toronto, and did his postgraduate training at Harvard University. Dr. Liu has focused his research on the causes of heart failure from bench to bedside, and the condition afflicts 1 in 5 Canadians. His team has identified the role of inflammation in changing heart structure and function, and identified potential novel biomarkers through system biology approaches and novel treatment targets. His laboratory has also identified how viruses and bacteria can accelerate heart failure and coronary artery disease, and is developing novel vaccines to prevent these complications.

He has published over 250 peer reviewed articles in high impact journals, including Nature, Nature Medicine, New England Journal of Medicine, etc. He has received numerous awards in recognition of his accomplishments, including the Rick Gallop Research Award from the Heart & Stroke Foundation (2003), the Research Achievement Award from the Canadian Cardiovascular Society (2003), the Extramural Award of Merit from the American College of Cardiology (2005), Postgraduate Mentorship Award from the University of Toronto (2006), and Award of Merit from the Federation of Chinese Canadian Professionals (2006), amongst others. He has been the scientific program chair of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society, Heart Failure Society of America and International Society of Heart Research scientific sessions. He is the President-Elect of the International Society of Cardiomyopathy and Heart Failure of the World Heart Federation. He co-chaired a series of Canadian Cardiovascular Society Consensus Guideline Recommendations for heart failure care. He also chaired several CIHR and NIH scientific review panels.

At the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR), he coordinates research in heart, lung, blood and critical care and establishes strategic directions for the Canadian research community, and liaises with national and international partners.

Paul Man

Dr. Man earned his medical degree from the University of Alberta in Edmonton in 1970. He did post-graduate training in Internal Medicine and Respiriology at the University of Toronto and a research fellowship at both the University of Toronto and Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. Man's research expertise is in clinical trials and translational research, particularly in chronic obstructive lung disease.

The clinical outcomes in COPD are unexpectedly influenced by the premature development of atherosclerosis. In close collaboration with Dr. Don Sin, another iCapture investigator, we have been trying to understand epidemiological observations in clinical context, and to design and execute clinical studies and trials to test specific hypothesis.

Currently, the team is well supported by a CIHR operating grant and several investigator-initiated, pharmaceutical company supported, clinical research grants.

André Marette (CHUL Centre RechercheCRML)

Andre Marette graduated from Laval University in 1990 with a PhD in Physiology and Endocrinology. After post-doctoral training in Cell Biology with Dr. Amira Klip and Dr. Mladen Vranic at the Hospital for Sick Children and University of Toronto, he joined Laval University; there, he is a professor in the department of Anatomy and Physiology.

Dr. Marette is an international expert on the pathogenesis of insulin resistance in altered metabolic states and on the mechanisms by which exercise improves muscle metabolism. His research in the areas of insulin action and insulin resistance has advanced the understanding of the cellular/molecular defects leading to diabetes and opened new possibilities for pharmacological intervention. Some of his most important scientific contributions are 1) Identification of nitric oxide as a novel modulator of insulin action in insulin target cells, 2) Discovery that dietary fish proteins and omega-3 PUFA prevent obesity-linked insulin resistance and inflammation 3) Demonstration that the mTOR/S6K1 pathway operates a nutrient-sensing negative feedback loop regulating insulin signaling to glucose metabolism, 4) Novel mechanisms of regulation of muscle glucose transport by insulin and contraction, and 5) Finding a novel role for the protein tyrosine phosphatase SHP-1 as a negative modulator of insulin-mediated glucose metabolism and hepatic insulin clearance.

Dr. Marette has received scholarship and salary awards from MRC/CIHR and Fond de la Recherche en Santé du Québec. He also holds several national and international research grants and awards from CIHR, CDA, CFI, AFMnet, and the industry. He is currently leading a CIHR-funded team grant on the cardiovascular complications of diabetes. This international project (\$3.5 million for 5 years) includes collaborators at York University in Toronto and the University of Kuopio in Finland. He also holds a Pfizer Canada/CIHR research Chair in the pathogenesis of insulin resistance and cardiovascular diseases. He

has received several awards including the prestigious Young Scientist Award of the Canadian Diabetes Association and the Charles Best Lectureship Award of the University of Toronto, both in recognition for his outstanding contribution to diabetes research.

Dr. Marette has published over 100 papers in high-impact journals (*Nature Medicine*, *PNAS*, *J Biol Chem.*, *FASEB J*, *Diabetes*, etc...) and 12 reviews or book chapters. He has organized a number of national and international meetings and symposia and has been invited to speak at more than 60 national and international meetings. He is currently Associate Editor at the *Am J Physiol : Endocrinology & Metabolism* section and also serves as internal or external referee to a number of international and national funding agencies.

Bruce McManus, PhD, MD, FRSC, FCAHS

Dr. Bruce McManus is a Professor in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the University of British Columbia. He serves as Director of the James Hogg iCAPTURE Centre for Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Research located at St. Paul's Hospital and as Director of the Heart + Lung Institute at St. Paul's Hospital.

Dr. McManus served as the inaugural Scientific Director of the Institute of Circulatory and Respiratory Health, Canadian Institutes of Health Research, from December 2000 until April 2006. In this capacity, he led the development and implementation of a strategic research plan for Canada to address scientific questions related to cardiac, respiratory, vascular, brain (stroke), blood, sleep, and intensive care-related disorders and diseases.

Dr. McManus' basic and translational investigative program is focused on the mechanisms, consequences, detection and prevention of injury and aberrant repair involved in inflammatory diseases of the heart and blood vessels, with particular emphasis on enteroviral infections of the heart and allograft vascular disease. He leads a Genome Canada and Genome BC funded program to discover and develop genomic, proteomic and metabolomic biomarkers of acute and chronic immune rejection. He also serves as Director of the NCE CECR Centre of Excellence for Prevention of Organ Failure (PROOF), a not-for-profit organization focused on biomarker development for assessing risk, presence and progression of heart, lung and kidney failure. Dr. McManus has co-authored 300 peer-reviewed papers, as well as many chapters. He has edited four books. He has served as Councilor for the International Society for Heart Research and for the American Society for Investigative Pathology. He has long been committed to

training and mentoring scientist trainees across a range of disciplines. He has convened many public and private sector partnerships in research.

Dr. McManus was co-recipient of the prestigious Max Planck Research Award with Dr. Reinhard Kandolf. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Sciences in the Royal Society of Canada, of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences, and of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences. He has received the UBC Killam Research Prize, and the BC Innovation Council's Lieutenant Governor's Technology Innovation Award. He was also recently recognized with the UBC Faculty of Medicine Distinguished Medical Lecture Award and the David Hardwick Lifetime Achievement Award.

Howard Morrison

Dr. Howard Morrison is a chronic disease epidemiologist (PhD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) at the Public Health Agency of Canada. Dr. Morrison is the Senior Science Officer at the Centre for Chronic Disease Prevention within PHAC, where he runs the Science Office.

Vivek Rao (UHN)

Dr. Vivek Rao is an Associate Professor, Division of Cardiovascular Surgery, Toronto General Hospital and Director of Mechanical Circulatory Assistance.

His research areas include Myocardial preservation for heart transplantation, ventricular recovery during mechanical circulatory support. influence of aortic valve size on survival following AVR, cell transplantation for end-stage heart disease, and molecular mechanisms underlying transplant coronary artery disease.

James Richards

Dr. James (Jim) Richards is the Director General of the National Research Council Institute for Biological Sciences (NRC-IBS) where he leads a multi-disciplinary life sciences research team of 200 with expertise in immuno- and neuro-biology focused on reducing the impact of infectious and neurodegenerative diseases. Glycosciences is an underlying theme in Institute research which is also providing solutions leading to the development of environmentally friendly bioproducts. Prior to taking on the role of Director General in 2007, Dr. Richards was a research director in the Institute where, over the course of 12 years, he led and promoted Institute research programs focused on the design and development of vaccines and immunotherapeutics against infectious

diseases and cancer. He is currently conducting research in the field of prokaryotic glycobiology. His research interests aim at understanding the molecular basis of lipopolysaccharide expression and the role these molecules play in infection and immunity of *Haemophilus influenzae* and *Neisseria meningitidis*, which are serious causes of disease in childhood. He has published more than 140 papers in peer-reviewed research journals. Prior to joining the institute management team, Dr. Richards carried out research at NRC-IBS for 14 years after receiving his Ph.D. in Chemistry from McMaster University. In addition to his position at NRC, he is a member of several Government Advisory Committees and an Associate Member of the Ottawa Institute for Systems Biology.

Stephen Samis

Stephen Samis has been Director of Health Policy at the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada (HSFC) in Ottawa since 2004. He is also past Chair of the Chronic Disease Prevention Alliance of Canada. Stephen's role at Heart and Stroke is to lead the Foundation's health policy, health promotion and advocacy efforts to improve the health of Canadians by eliminating heart disease and stroke and reducing their impact.

Prior to joining HSFC, he was Manager, Research and Analysis at the Canadian Population Health Initiative of the Canadian Institute for Health Information in Ottawa and was a research and policy consultant based in Vancouver, British Columbia.

Stephen has a strong interest in population health and specifically the relationship between the built environment and health. He holds a Master's degree in Sociology from Simon Fraser University.

Sylvie Stachenko

Sylvie Stachenko is dean of the School of Public Health at the University of Alberta. She was appointed to the position for a five-year term, effective January 1, 2009.

Most recently, Dr. Stachenko served as the Deputy Chief Public Health Officer at the Public Health Agency of Canada. From 2002-2004 she was the director general in the Centre for Chronic Disease Prevention and Control at the Public Health Agency of Canada. From 1997 to 2002, Dr. Stachenko worked with the World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Office for Europe located in Copenhagen, Denmark as the director of Health Policy and Services.

Dr. Stachenko was an associate professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the Université de Montréal, where she served as research director from 1984 to 1988. In 1988, she joined the federal government with the Department of Health and Welfare and, in 1989, was appointed director of Preventive Health Services.

Dr. Stachenko earned a doctorate in medicine from McGill University in 1975. She finished her residency in family medicine at the Université de Montréal in 1977 and she earned a master's degree in epidemiology and health services administration from the Harvard School of Public Health in 1985.

Jefferson Tea

Medical Advisor, Cardiovascular/CNS/Pain
AstraZeneca Canada Inc.

Dr. Jefferson Tea is a pharmacologist trained in the area of cardiovascular medical research with over 14 years of experience in the drug development process. He has held numerous positions in pre-clinical and clinical research (management/design of pre-clinical, phase I-III and post marketing phase IIIB and IV studies), scientific affairs and marketing at the pharmaceutical industry level.

His work experience includes CHUM Research Centre, Phoenix International Life Sciences, Pfizer Canada and AstraZeneca Canada. Currently, Dr. Tea is a Medical Advisor for the Cardiovascular/CNS/Pain Therapeutic Group at AstraZeneca Canada, based in Toronto, ON.

Dr. Tea graduated with a PhD in Pharmacology and a Master of Business Administration (MBA), both from the University of Montreal (Montreal, QC).

Andreas Wielgosz

Dr Wielgosz holds the rank of Full Professor in the Departments of Medicine and of Community Medicine and Epidemiology at the University of Ottawa. He obtained a PhD in Public Health from the University of North Carolina and he has a Masters in Physiology from the University of Toronto.

Dr Wielgosz does clinical work and also part-time work with the Public Health Agency of Canada. His research interests are primarily in the area of cardiovascular surveillance.

Dr Wielgosz is Editor-in-Chief of CVD Prevention and Control, official journal of the World Heart Federation. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the World Heart Federation and the Board of Directors of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, for which he is also a senior spokesperson.

Linda Wright

Linda Wright is Director of Bioethics for University Health Network (UHN), Toronto, assistant professor in the Department of Surgery, Faculty of Medicine, and a member of the Joint Centre for Bioethics at the University of Toronto. Linda provides clinical and organizational ethics consultation and teaching and has research expertise in organ transplantation ethics. She is a member of the UHN Research Ethics Board and ethics section editor of the journal Progress in Transplantation.