

# INDIGENOUS HEALTH SCIENCES EDUCATION

— SYMPOSIUM 2024 —



Indigenous Health  
Learning Lodge

McMaster  
University 

Health Sciences

# WELCOME TO ALL PARTICIPANTS!

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you to our Indigenous Health Sciences Education Symposium!

We are honored to have you join us in what we hope will be a rich and meaningful exchange of ideas and experiences among participants from interdisciplinary health sciences education programs, health professional associations, health services representatives, regulatory bodies, and Indigenous alumni.

Through a rich dialogue, we aim to illuminate experiences regarding both the successes and challenges faced by those involved in Indigenous reconciliation-focused work. We recognize that progress varies across institutions, with some having advanced resources and strategic initiatives, while others are just beginning their journey.

We hope this symposium will provide a platform for all voices to be heard, fostering mutual learning and support where we can learn from and support each other. We all have a role in moving forward the work of truth and reconciliation in health systems and health sciences education. Through our collective dialogue, we aim to identify strategies that address the unique needs of Indigenous communities and drive positive reform in health sciences education and practice. Most importantly, we come together to share our stories, listen and learn from one another, inspire one another and tell our collective story of how we are moving the work of truth and reconciliation forward into a more equitable health future.

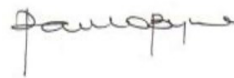
We look forward to your participation and the rich discussions that will emerge from this gathering. Together, we can learn from each other and work towards meaningful and positive change in Indigenous health education and clinical practice.

Sincerely,



**Dr. Bernice Downey, PhD**

Associate Dean, Indigenous Health  
Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University



**Paul O'Byrne, MB, FRCP(C), FRSC, OC**

Dean and Vice-President  
Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University

# AGENDA

## DAY 1 • Wednesday, September 18th, 2024

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- 8:00 am– 9:00 am      **Breakfast and Registration**
- 9:00 am – 9:15 am      **Emcee Introduction**  
• *Diane Hill, Emcee*
- 9:15 am – 9:30 am      **Traditional Opening**  
• *Tehahenteh Miller, Traditional Knowledge Holder, Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, Knowledge Helper, Indigenous Health Learning Lodge*
- 9:30 am – 9:45 am      **Welcoming**  
• *Dr. Bernice Downey, Associate Dean, Indigenous Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University*  
• *Dr. Paul O'Byrne, Dean and Vice President, Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University*
- 9:45 am – 10:45 am      **KEYNOTE ADDRESS;**  
Challenges related to harmonizing Indigenous approaches to health & well-being  
• *Dr. Veronica McKinney, Chair Indigenous Health Committee at College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan*
- 10:45 am – 11:00 am      **Health Break**
- 11:00 am – 12:00 pm      **PANEL: Perspective on Indigenous Education**  
*Moderator: Dr. Rob Whyte, Vice Dean, Education, Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University*

- *Dr. Curtis Sobchak, General Internal Medicine Fellow Alumni, McMaster University*
- *Dr. Patricia Farrugia, Indigenous Chair, Undergraduate Medical Education, McMaster University*
- *Ashley Lickers, Indigenous Midwifery Education Coordinator, National Council of Indigenous Midwives*

12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

**Lunch**

1:00 pm – 1:45 pm

**DISCUSSION CIRCLES: Reflections & Action Items**

- *Diane Hill, Emcee*

1:45 pm – 2:45 pm

**PANEL: Land Based Learning, Traditional Knowledge & Pedagogy**

*Moderator: Dr. Karen Hill, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences – Department of Family Medicine, McMaster University*

- *Tehahenteh Miller, Traditional Knowledge Holder, Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, Knowledge Helper, Indigenous Health Learning Lodge*
- *Dr. Darrel Manitowabi, Associate Professor Human Sciences, Northern Ontario School of Medicine*
- *Valerie King (Edebwed Ojichidaa Kwe), Traditional Knowledge Holder, Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, Knowledge Helper, Indigenous Health Learning Lodge*

2:45 pm – 3:00 pm

**Health Break**

3:00 pm – 3:45 pm

**DISCUSSION CIRCLES: Reflections & Action Items**

- *Diane Hill, Emcee*

3:45 pm – 4:00 pm

**Closing Comments & Wrap up**

- *Diane Hill, Emcee*

4:00 pm – 6:30 pm

**Cultural Connections Event**

*Women's Drum Group: Kontirenaanoro*



# Day 2 • Thursday, September 19th, 2024

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8:00 am– 9:00 am

## **Breakfast and Registration**

9:00 am – 9:15 am

## **Overview of the Day**

- *Diane Hill, Emcee*

## **Welcome Address**

- *Dr. Bernice Downey, Associate Dean, Indigenous Health, McMaster University*
- *Dr. Barry Lumb, Vice-Dean, Faculty of Health Science, McMaster University*

9:15 am – 10:00 am

## **PANEL: Health Professional Organizations**

*Moderator: Dr. Barry Lumb, Vice-Dean, Clinical Services, Faculty of Health Science, McMaster University*

- *Sandra Porteous Director, DEI, College of Nurses of Ontario*
- *Craig Roxborough, Registrar and CEO, College of Physiotherapists*
- *Dr. Cathy Risdon, Professor and Chair, Department of Family Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University*

10:00 am – 10:15 am

## **Health Break**

10:15 am – 11:15 am

## **PANEL: Grass Roots Indigenous Physicians: Collaborative & Wholistic Approaches to Traditional & Western Medicine**

*Moderator: Dr. Karen Hill, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences – Department of Family Medicine, McMaster University*

- *Dr. Elisa Levi, RD, MPH, Acting Vice-Chair at the Anishnawbe Health Foundation*
- *Dr. Annelind Wakegijig, M.D., C.C.F.P*
- *Dr. Janet Smylie, Faculty, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto*

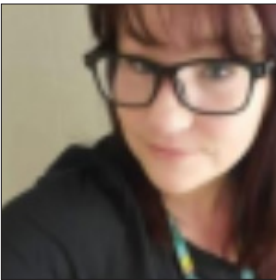
- 11:15 am – 12:00 pm **DISCUSSION CIRCLES: Reflections & Action Items**  
• *Diane Hill, Emcee*
- 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm **Lunch**
- 1:00 pm – 1:45 pm **PANEL: Lived Experience**  
*Moderator: Dr. Aric Rankin, School of Nursing, McMaster University*  
• *Sasha Austin, Indigenous Patient Navigator, De Dwa da Dehs- Nyes Indigenous Health Centre*  
• *Wednesday Johnson, Patient Advocate*  
• *Kelsey Allen, Learner, Undergraduate Medicine, McMaster University*  
• *Colleen Montour, MRT (MR) (R)*
- 1:45 pm – 2:45 pm **PANEL: Institutional Considerations**  
*Moderator: Dr. Tamara Packer, Executive Vice President, Academic and Chief Medical Executive*  
• *Dr. Sarah Jarmain, Chief of Staff & EVP Medical and Academic Affairs, St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton*  
• *Dr. Mark Walton, Vice Dean, Faculty Affairs, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Committee on Specialty Education Chair*  
• *Debra Jonathan, RN, BSCN, Director of Wellbeing, Six Nations of the Grand River*
- 2:45 pm – 3:00 pm **Health Break**
- 3:00 pm – 3:45 pm **DISCUSSION CIRCLES: Reflections & Action Items**  
• *Diane Hill, Emcee*
- 3:45 pm – 4:00 pm **Closing Comments**  
• *Dr. Bernice Downey, Associate Dean, Indigenous Health, McMaster University*
- 4:00 pm – 4:15 pm **Traditional Closing**  
• *Tehahenteh Miller, Traditional Knowledge Holder, Six Nations of the Grand River Territory, Knowledge Helper, Indigenous Health Learning Lodge*

# SPEAKERS



**KELSEY ALLEN**, known to Creator as Brave Bear, is a third year student at the Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine's Niagara Regional Campus. She has been an outspoken advocate for Indigenous health during her time here at McMaster, creating an onboarding package for all future Indigenous medical students, hosting cultural events and liaising with local media to raise awareness about Indigenous ways

of knowing and being in a scholarly setting. Her community is Qalipu Mi'kmaq First Nation in her home territory of Ktaqmkuk (Newfoundland) where she still has many personal ties. In the future she hopes to practice as a rural Family Physician, offering safe and competent care to her patients.



**SASHA AUSTIN**, born and raised in Hamilton, Ontario. Her background is of mixed ancestry, mainly the East Coast. She has served within the Indigenous Community for over 25 years. Additionally, she has worked throughout Hamilton and surrounding areas, in mainstream social service agencies as well as healthcare facilities. Sasha is currently employed as the Indigenous Patient Navigator within the Aboriginal Health Centre Hamilton location. Sasha's aspirations include strengthening Indigenous foundations and optimizing prosperity as well as affirming Indigenous grassroots as the core of healthcare. She is deeply grateful for the opportunity to fulfill this journey.



**DR. BERNICE DOWNEY** is a woman of Ojibwe and Celtic heritage, a mother and a grandmother. She is a medical anthropologist and her current research interests include Indigenous Women's Heart Health, health literacy and Indigenous Traditional knowledge and health/research system reform for Indigenous populations. She is a Heart & Stroke Foundation- CIHR (Early Career) Chair in

Indigenous women's heart and brain health. She is also the inaugural Associate Dean, Indigenous Health and currently holds a Heart & Stroke Foundation - CIHR Early Career Chair in Indigenous Women's Heart and Brain Health. Dr. Downey has participated on multiple, national and international Indigenous research policy initiatives.

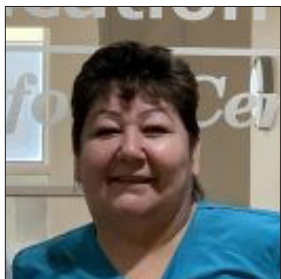


**DR. PATRICIA FARRUGIA** is an orthopedic surgeon, Associate Clinical Professor Department of Surgery, Chair of Indigenous Health, UGME Program, and Adjunct Professor, Health Impact and Evidence (HEI), at McMaster University.



**KATSITSAWAKS DIANE HILL** is a member of the Bear clan, Mohawk Nation of the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. She is the owner/operator of the Ka'nikonhriyohtshera Healing Lodge & Learning Center situated at Six Nations and works as an Integrative Programs consultant both nationally and internationally. Diane's work is distinguished in the areas of Education, Social Work and Indigenous Cultural Studies.



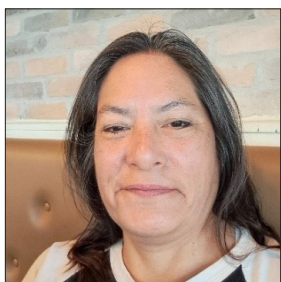


**DR. KAREN HILL** Kareenna'onwe (Gaw-law-naw-oo-way) is a Mohawk woman and practicing physician from Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. She is a Daughter, Sister, Mother Auntie, and Grandmother. She completed medical school in 2003 and Family Medicine Residency in 2005 - both from McMaster University. Her passion is to see Traditional Indigenous Knowledge return to the centre of life and healthcare for Indigenous people across Canada.

This vision led her to co-create a collaborative practice with Traditional Medicine Practitioners at Six Nations called "Juddah's Place".

In 2015 Karen became the first recipient of the Thomas Dignan award for Indigenous Health conferred by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons. In the same year she also received The College of Family Physicians Excellence Award for leading the way in Indigenous collaborative care in primary practice. Also, in 2016 she was honored by McMaster University with a Community Impact Award.

Karen continues to practice consultative medicine at Six Nations and is the Clinical Lead for the Indigenous Medicine Service at the Brantford General Hospital. Karen is an Assistant Professor and Faculty Lead for Indigenous Health with the Department of Family Medicine at McMaster University. She has completed 4 years apprenticeship in Traditional Indigenous Medicine and continues this learning along with Mohawk language classes as lifelong commitments.



**WEDNESDAY JOHNSON** is a member of the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. She is Mohawk and Wolf clan. She is mother to a 24 year old son. Along with being a mother, daughter, sister, she is an identical twin to sister Juanita Johnson whom she lost in Dec. 2024. Wednesday was the lead family advocate and patient navigator for Juanita for the year Juanita was in hospital as a quadriplegic. Wendy holds

a Bachelor of Arts Degree from McMaster University, in Sociology. This degree is accompanied with over 20 years of community experience in the Social Service field, ensuring a secure and empowering environment for the community. Working specifically with but not limited to Aboriginal Family Violence, violence against women, human trafficking, chronic homelessness, addictions, mental health, and food insecurity. She currently works as the Brief Services Worker for the Ontario Native Women's Association.



**DEBRA JONATHON** is a member of the Turtle Clan, Cayuga Nation, of the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. She is a daughter, sister, wife, mother to four and grandmother to ten grandchildren. She graduated nursing in 1995 from Mohawk College (Hamilton, ON) and received her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from Ryerson University in 2020. Much of her nursing career has been spent in

Community/Public Health in First Nations communities in Alberta and Ontario. For the past 25 years she was employed by Indigenous Services Canada as a front-line community health nurse, Nurse in Charge and Nurse Manager working and supporting not only Six Nations, but First Nation communities in the Southern Ontario, Thunder Bay, Sioux Lookout and Moose Factory regions. From 2019 to 2023 she also acted in the capacity as the Regional Indigenous Cancer Lead for the Hamilton/Niagara/Haldimand/Brant region. In December 2023, she returned to Six Nations of the Grand River as the Director of Wellbeing, managing the department of 465+ employees. She is committed to a wholistic system of health and a vision of wellbeing for the community. This will be upheld through the foundational pillars of Haudenosaunee culture, tradition, and ways of knowing, woven throughout program development and service delivery. In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, camping, fishing, and spending time with her family, especially those grandbabies!!



**SARAH JARMAN**, MD, FRCPC, CCPE - Dr. Sarah Jarman, psychiatrist, is the Chief of Staff and VP Medical and Academic Affairs at St. Joe's in Hamilton, Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences at McMaster University and Adjunct Professor at Western University. She is also the Clinical Lead (Specialty Care) for the Middlesex London Ontario Health Team, and Physician Lead for the Thames

Valley Mental Health and Addictions Collaborative Care Network – an initiative to integrate mental health and addictions care into primary care. She has been actively involved in health system transformation, digital health implementation, and the promotion of population health, collaborative and integrated care models. She uses tools from organizational development, quality improvement and informatics, along with a human centred design approach, to partner with patients, family caregivers, and other stakeholders to improve the system.



## **VALARIE KING** (Edebwed Ojichidaa Kwe).

She has lived on Mississaugas of the Credit all of her life. She has been a skaabayis (helper) in the community and off reserve in various employment and volunteer or grass root positions. For the last 30 years, she strived to bring the sacred bundles of traditional teachings back to the people. Ceremonies and rites of passages such as Grandmother moon ceremonies,

fastings, traditional teachings workshops, drumming, singing, and feasts.

She has been working with the Traditional medicines and will be soon opening Dancing Moon Holistic centre offering traditional programs for healing and herbal products. She uses her spiritual sight to be a good helper utilizing energy work to do clearings, medicines, her medicine bundles, and sometimes Western methods. She has 7 children and 7 grandchildren in which they all sing and do traditional dancing around the big drum and hand drum. She does activism work for families of missing and murdered Aboriginal women, for the sacred water. She had worked at Juddah's place as the holistic counsellor working collaboratively with a doctor and herbalist. She is a Chartered Herbalist, completed her ECE, Bachelor Arts in Health and Women Studies and A minor in Indigenous Studies. Completed her Masters in Indigenous Social Work.



**DR. ELISA LEVI** has advised numerous non profit, government and Indigenous organizations on food & health strategies working with Indigenous peoples. She practices family medicine in the traditional territory of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation. Dr. Levi attended medical school and rural family medicine training at the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine, McMaster. She also holds a Master of Public Health,

Lakehead University and Bachelor of Applied Science from Toronto Metropolitan University as well as dual designation as a Registered Dietitian. Honouring reciprocity, she volunteers on several advisory committees and boards including the Anishnawbe Health Foundation as ViceChair. Elisa is a proud Anishinaabe, mother of two and member of the Chippewas of Nawash in Ontario.



**ASHLEY LICKERS** is a Haudenosaunee midwife working under the exemption from the Cayuga nation of Six Nations of the Grand River territory. She provided prenatal, perinatal, and postpartum care to Indigenous families across southern Ontario for years before turning her focus to Indigenous Midwifery Education. She now works to create community-based programming in attempts to bring midwifery education to communities across Turtle Island.



**DR. LUMB** was appointed as Vice-Dean, Clinical Services for the Faculty of Health Sciences, on July 1, 2023. As Vice-Dean, Clinical Services, Lumb will create a strategic vision and guide the clinical mission of the faculty.

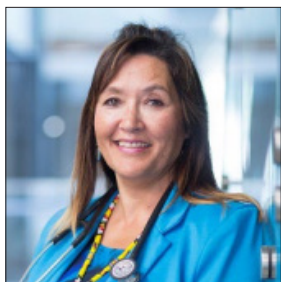
Lumb is a professor of medicine in the Division of Gastroenterology. Throughout his career, Lumb has held several leadership roles, most recently as the executive lead of Epic Implementation at Hamilton Health Sciences (2018-2022), regional endoscopy lead at Cancer Care Ontario (2016-2022) and physician-in-chief at Hamilton Health Sciences (2008-2020). He served on the Royal College Examination Board for six years, including four years as chair of the board. Lumb has continued his clinical practice with a major interest in inflammatory bowel disease and interventional endoscopy. Lumb is noted as saying, ‘As a McMaster-educated physician, it is especially exciting for me to take on this role and to work closely with our affiliated hospital partners to advance our world-class medical education and patient care.’



**DARREL MANITOWABI**, PhD, is an associate professor at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine University (NOSM U). He is the inaugural Jason A. Hannah Chair in Indigenous Health and Traditional Medicine. He is a Three Fires Anishinabe citizen of Wiikwemkoong Unceded Territory and currently resides in the Whitefish River First Nation. He is an applied, medical, and Indigenous scholar with

research interests in Anishinabe ethnohistory and Indigenous healing, Indigenous social determinants of health, Indigenous gambling, Indigenous resurgence, and medical education. He hosts the Indigenous Medicine Stories podcast in collaboration with Associated Medical Services Incorporated.





## **DR. VERONICA MCKINNEY**, MD CCFP

- Tansi. Nehiyaw niya. Dr. McKinney is a Cree woman whose family originates from northwest Saskatchewan. She was brought up in her traditional culture, and is the Director of Northern medical services, which provides medical care to approximately half of the northern geographical area of the province where the majority of the population are Indigenous.



## **TEHAHENTEH (FRANKLIN) MILLER** is Kanyen'kehà:ka (Mohawk) Turtle

Clan from Six Nations of the Grand River territory. He has taught Mohawk Language in public schools, high school, Brock, McMaster and Grand River Polytechnic University. He has been involved with Adult Immersion at Six Nations since its inception in 1999, developing curriculum, teaching in class, Master Apprentice, and advanced level Iroquoian philosophy. Presently he is teaching, Mohawk grammar at Grand River Polytechnic, and performing duties as a Knowledge Holder at Hamilton Wentworth, Dufferin Peel, Niagara Region District School Board and Aboriginal Legal Services in Brantford . In his spare time, he lectures at universities, conferences, and other public events. He has translated several books to Mohawk, and many stories including transcribing old texts on Creation and Kayaneren'kó:wa commonly known as 'The Great Law'. Along with that he records and films events of cultural value, translating them and doing voice overs in Mohawk, for those who are studying the language. Many of these efforts may be viewed on YouTube.



**COLLEEN MONTOUR** is a Mohawk Wolf who resides on Six Nations with her husband and is the mother of 4 children and 5 grandchildren. Colleen's 30-year experience working in Radiology has encouraged her to co-develop Haudenosaunee Health Inc. This endeavour provides pathways to promote and encourage more Indigenous members into the health field. Haudenosaunee Health has recently applied for licensing for MRI and CT, to be operated on Six Nations.



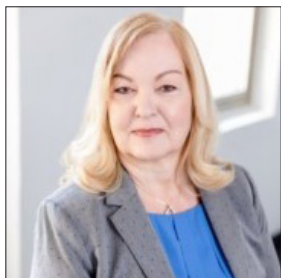
**DR. PAUL O'BRYNE** obtained his Medical Degree at University College, Dublin. He is currently the Dean and Vice President of the Faculty of Health Sciences at McMaster University. His research interests focus on the mechanisms and treatment of asthma. He has published more than 530 peer reviewed papers and has an h-index (Google Scholar) of 125. His accolades include the James H. Graham

Award of Merit of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada; election to the Royal Society of Canada; the European Respiratory Society Congress Award and Medal; election to the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences; and, McMaster's top academic award, Distinguished University Professor. In 2017, the American College of Chest Physicians named him a Giant of Chest Medicine and more recently, he received an Honorary Life Achievement Award from the Ontario Thoracic Society, the Jack Hirsh Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement from McMaster University and Medical Graduate Distinguished Alumnus Award from University College, Dublin. He was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2023.



**DR. TAMARA PACKER** began her career in 1990 as a family physician in Hamilton. Since then, she has held progressive leadership roles within HHS, SJHH, including Chief of Family Medicine for HHS and St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton (SJHH), and both hospitals' Clinical Advisor for the Greater Hamilton Health Network (GHHN). Throughout her career she has provided inpatient care as a hospitalist in adult

and pediatric services. Most recently, she has held the role of Chief of Family Medicine, Complex Continuing, and Post-Acute Care at HHS. Dr. Packer holds keen interest and experience in advancing hospital and community care delivery, care transitions, quality of care, and patient experience. She brings to the EVP Academic & CME role a wealth of experience leading diverse, inter-organizational teams and implementing largescale programs and innovative care models. Her experience in health administration has been bolstered by her involvement in a number of leadership programs, including HHS' Reimagining Leadership leader development program (2019). She is also an alumnus of leadership programs at Harvard University, McMaster University's DeGroote School of Business, and the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management.



**SANDRA PORTEOUS** is the Director of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at the College of Nurses of Ontario. The role includes working with multiple CNO partners, both external and internal. As a former educator and journalist, much of Sandra's career has revolved around equity and human rights. The key question is simply – who is NOT at the table? Sandra was hired to be the first Director of DEI for

the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, after a career working as a journalist and then as CBC's Head of Learning and Development and Director of Employee Engagement. Sandra launched an award-winning, annual CBC Leadership Program for candidates from Equity Deserving Groups. The DEI program still fast-tracks talented employees into key roles at CBC. In 2019, Sandra became the first Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion at one of Canada's largest transit agencies – Metrolinx. The role included building the provincial agency's multiyear DEI strategy and launching Employee Resource Groups. A DEI curriculum for staff was created and rolled out in 2020. The transit agency also launched their first demographic workforce census of 10-thousand employees and reviewed policies and processes through a DEI lens. In 2023, Sandra was delighted to join the College of Nurses of Ontario – and key to her decision was a chance to learn from the College's CEO and a talented team of Directors. She partnered with the Director of People & Culture to build CNO's 3-year DEI Strategy, just after CNO launched their first ever demographic survey of 200-thousand registrants. The chance to work with one of the leading health regulators in Canada as they transform and embrace change is an amazing opportunity.



**ARIC RANKIN** is a nurse practitioner at McMaster University. His interest in working with Indigenous communities was sparked by an Indigenous health-care provider who was a guest speaker during his undergraduate nursing program at the University of Windsor. He found himself captivated by her stories and the use of Indigenous knowledge, medicine and traditions to bring wellness to the

community. He has worked in isolated First Nations fly-in communities. While being exposed to the resiliency and beauty of various communities he visited, Rankin became acutely aware of the barriers to care that community members experienced and the systemic racism Indigenous people face. This inspired him to continue his education and become an NP. Rankin worked collaboratively

with an interprofessional team to develop programming for chronic disease management at his clinic. He also developed relationships with external Indigenous organizations to provide optimal care for his clients and their families. Rankin is actively involved as a mentor, supporting others in achieving excellence in all nursing domains. Rankin worked as a clinical instructor at Western University and was a preceptor and a clinical tutor for the NP program at McMaster University.



**DR. CATHY RISDON** is Professor and Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at McMaster. Dr. Risdon completed an Interdisciplinary Studies Degree in Journalism and Women's Studies at Carleton University before becoming a proud "Class of '92" graduate of McMaster. Her residency and early career at North Hamilton Community Health Centre focussed on inner city health and care for persons living with HIV and AIDs. She was the first holder of the David Braley-Nancy Gordon Endowed Chair in Family Medicine, mandated to develop innovations relating to the doctor-patient and interdisciplinary team relationships. She co-created the Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine's Professional Competency Curriculum, a two-year course to teach professionalism, communication skills, advocacy, ethics and reflective practice. Dr. Risdon has a Doctorate in Organizational Change and Complexity Theory from the University of Hertfordshire and is one of three Canadians who has been inducted as a Fellow of the Academy of Communications in Healthcare in recognition of her contributions to curricular design and facilitation.



**CRAIG ROXBOROUGH** has served as the Registrar & CEO at the College of Physiotherapists of Ontario (CPO) since May 2023. With over 11 years of experience in health regulation, Craig has a demonstrated history of building strong and collaborative relationships with registrants, the public, and system partners. As Registrar & CEO at the CPO, he has supported a right-touch approach to regulation, strengthened the organization's commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion across all levels of decision-making, and modernized the college's work to be more efficient and sustainable. Craig has a PhD in Philosophy from York University.





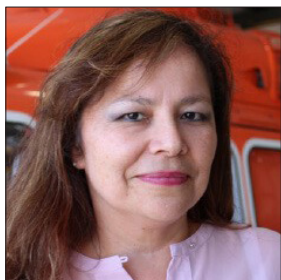
**DR. JANET SMYLIE** is Director of the Well Living House ([www.welllivinghouse.com](http://www.welllivinghouse.com)) at St. Michael's Hospital, Unity Health Toronto; Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Advancing Generative Health Services for Indigenous Populations in Canada; and Professor, Dalla Lana School of Public Health and Department of Family and Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto. Her

research is focused on addressing Indigenous health inequities in partnership with Indigenous communities. She has practiced and taught family medicine in diverse First Nations, Inuit, and Metis community contexts for 30 years. A Métis woman, Dr. Smylie acknowledges her family, traditional teachers, and ceremonial lodge.



**DR. CURTIS SOBCHAK** is a Clinical Scholar at McMaster University in General Internal Medicine. He completed his medical school at the University of Toronto and his Internal Medicine residency and General Internal Medicine fellowship at McMaster. During this time, he worked to improve Indigenous supports for McMaster students and completed the Indigenous Health Administration and

Leadership Program at the University of British Columbia. Currently, he is working to improve community partnerships with his home nation, Six Nations, while also looking to build an IM service in northern Ontario for rural Indigenous communities.



**DR. ANNELIND WAKEGIJIG** is a Family Physician and currently Lead Physician at the Baawaating Family Health Team on the Batchewana First Nation, Ontario. Dr. Wakegig has worked exclusively across northern Ontario providing primary care through office, hospital and emergency department settings. She is keenly aware of the challenges of working in rural and remote communities.

Presently, Dr. Wakegijig is a Board member at Anishnawbe Health Toronto and is actively involved in preserving and promoting Traditional Indigenous Healing.

Dr. Wakegijig obtained her Medical Doctorate at the University of Alberta in 1997, and went on to complete her Residency in Family Medicine in Sudbury, Ontario.

Throughout her career, Dr. Wakegijig, has maintained a very strong connection to her cultural heritage and is often willing to share the teachings of the Medicine Wheel with colleagues and learners.



**DR. MARK WALTON**, MD, FRCS(C) is a Professor of Pediatric Surgery at McMaster University and has served as the Vice-Dean of Faculty Affairs within the Faculty of Health Sciences since July 2017. In this role, Dr. Walton has been instrumental in shaping the faculty experience by promoting an inclusive and culturally safe environment, enhancing faculty well-being, and facilitating professional development. He

oversees strategies aimed at furthering the success, well-being, and professional development of faculty members, ensuring they are supported as clinical scholars, researchers, educators, and leaders. With a strong commitment to advancing the success and well-being of faculty, Dr. Walton fosters a culture of professionalism and academic excellence across the Faculty of Health Sciences, working collaboratively with faculty to implement initiatives that promote a positive and supportive work environment.



**DR. ROB WHYTE** is the Vice Dean, Education in the Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University. He works clinically as an anesthesiologist with Hamilton Health Sciences. Dr. Whyte has a Master's in Education from the University of Toronto which focused on the intersections of culture, medical education, medicine, and healthcare. This led him to being involved with work on several initiatives within McMaster's Faculty of

Health Sciences including interprofessional education, professionalism, and work on creating more diverse and inclusive educational environments.





**EVENT POWERED BY:**



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