

Session Chairs



Dr. Anna Ziomek is the current President (2016-2017) of the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada and Chair of FMRAC's 2017 educational conference. She is the Registrar and CEO of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba.

Dr. Anna Ziomek is an International Medical Graduate. She obtained her medical degree from the Medical Academy of Gdansk, Poland. She has worked as a physician in Winnipeg, Manitoba for over thirty years. She previously worked in emergency medicine and continues to work in clinical practice. She has served as a medical administrator for over twenty years, including her role as Chief Medical Officer of the Concordia Hospital; ten years as the Assistant Registrar of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba and in January 2015 became Registrar of the College. She lives in Winnipeg with her husband and three children.



Mr. Wade Hillier Wade is responsible for three operational units (Practice Assessment & Enhancement, Applications & Credentials, and Membership Services, Corporations & Physician Register) plus one project unit (Quality Management Partnership) a joint initiative with Cancer Care Ontario. Since joining the College in 2001 Wade has supported and led a variety of initiatives with the ultimate goal of improving patient and public safety by ensuring the development of clinical practice standards and guidelines, inspection of out of hospital facilities, improving access to quality physicians through implementation of pathways and processes for physician registration and by providing transparent information to the public through the oversight of the physician register.

Prior to joining the College, Wade worked in a variety of capacities at the City of Toronto where he led a large initiative on HIV and drug use in Central and Eastern Europe (working with CIDA, Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) and UNAIDS), and developed and implemented Canada's First Drug Treatment Court.

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Dr. Karen Mazurek practiced as a family physician for 16 years before joining the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta as a full time assistant registrar in 2003, with responsibility for various functions including registration, complaints, finance, human resources and information technology. She currently serves as the deputy registrar and oversees the College's competence programs.



Dr. Ailve McNestry obtained her medical degree from University College in Dublin, Ireland and completed her training in Newfoundland and Labrador. She arrived in BC in 1986, taking on the role as medical director of the Prince George Regional Hospital, before settling in Vancouver to open a family practice. Prior to joining the College in 2011, Dr. McNestry served as a medical advisor and medical manager with WorkSafeBC. As deputy registrar of the College, she is responsible for the drug programs and the monitoring department.

Speaker/Panelists Profiles



Dr. David Juurlink is a staff internist and head of the division of Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology at [Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre](#) in Toronto. He is also a medical toxicologist at the [Ontario Poison Centre](#) at the Hospital for Sick Children and a scientist at the [Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences](#). In addition to degrees in Pharmacy and Medicine from Dalhousie University he completed postgraduate training in Internal Medicine, followed by residency in Clinical Pharmacology, a fellowship in Medical Toxicology (2002), and a PhD in Clinical Epidemiology (2003), all at the University of Toronto.

He is presently the Sunnybrook site director for the program in Clinical Pharmacology & Toxicology and is actively involved with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons subspecialty program in Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology as a member of the Nucleus committee and Vice Chair of the Examinations committee. In addition to his clinical, teaching, and administrative activities, Dr. Juurlink maintains an active research program in the field of drug safety. His areas of particular interest include drug safety, adverse drug events, the consequences of drug-drug interactions in clinical practice, and the epidemiology of suicide and deliberate self-poisoning.



Ms. Rita Notarandrea has been Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction since 2015, working with the government, as well as the not-for-profit and private sectors, to ensure that problematic substance use and addiction remain on the national agenda as significant health, social and economic issues. In addition to holding several degrees, prior to joining CCSA, Rita enjoyed a number of senior leadership positions with major health service organizations, including the Royal Ottawa Hospital where she was Chief Operating Officer.

Speaker/Panelists Profiles



Dr. Douglas Bell is the Associate Executive Director of the Canadian Medical Protective Association and the Managing Director, Office of the CEO. His role is to provide leadership, management and strategic direction as well as oversee the departments of Communications, Executive Services and Governance, and Regional Affairs. In the fall of 1993, Dr. Bell started full-time employment as a physician advisor at the CMPA. He obtained his MD in 1980 from Queen's University, Kingston Ontario. Dr. Bell did his residency training in obstetrics and gynecology at McGill University.



Ms. Katherine Stansfield is a registered nurse and the Executive Director of the College of Registered Nurses of Manitoba. Born in Manitoba, she was most recently the Vice President and Chief Nursing Executive of Quinte Health Centre in Ontario and was directly responsible to the President and CEO for quality care across four hospitals of Quinte Health Care. Throughout her career as a registered nurse, Katherine has also held clinical, education, professional practice and administration roles in Manitoba and several other provinces.



Ms. Joy Bhimji is currently the Manager of Drug Programs at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC and volunteers regularly at a medical clinic in Haiti. She has a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy and has spent 24 years at various chain and independent pharmacies as well as 8 years in Pharmaceutical Sales. In addition to having written and presented weekly pharmacy radio segments, she has written journal articles on common health conditions, and served on advisory boards for Okanagan College Pharmacy Technician Program accreditation and for Interior Health medication reconciliation process review.

Speaker/Panelists Profiles



Dr. Hakique Virani is a Royal College specialist in Public Health and Preventive Medicine and a Diplomate of the American Board of Addiction Medicine. His work has been focused on special populations, including First Nations on reserves and the inner city, and incarcerated individuals. He championed the first naloxone distribution program on reserve in Canada, which was the impetus for an Alberta-wide program. He is currently a Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of Alberta and Medical Director of Metro City Medical Clinic.

Hakique is a vocal advocate for public health. He recently worked on a documentary called Dopesick about Canada's opioid epidemic, which won a 2017 Canadian Screen Academy Award, a 2016 Digi Award, and was nominated for a Canadian Association of Journalists award. Prior to a career in medicine, Hakique worked briefly as a TV news reporter, as well as with the Calgary Police Service in cultural education.



Mr. Graydon Woodward, who likes to be called "Grady", was born and raised in Winnipeg and built his own successful business. He is a loving husband and proud father of 5 children. Grady was first introduced to opioids via a prescription from his family physician. Opioid addiction profoundly affected his own life and the lives of his loved ones. In recovery, Grady is rebuilding his life, relationships and financial future. Grady courageously shares his story in an effort to increase awareness about prescription opioid addiction and what can be done to prevent and treat this devastating illness.

Speaker/Panelists Profiles



Among his many roles, **Dr. Benedikt Fischer** is a Senior Scientist at the Institute of Mental Health Policy Research, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health and Professor at the Department of Psychiatry. He is also the NPI of the Ontario Node of the CIHR-funded Canadian Research Initiative in Substance Misuse. The recent main foci of Dr. Fischer's research have been the harms of and evidence-based interventions and policy development for illicit and psycho-pharmaceutical drugs, mainly opioids, cannabis and crack-cocaine, within a public health framework. He has been a vocal advocate for evidence-based approaches to reduce the immense harms from opioid misuse, including both effective and comprehensive prevention and treatment measures.



Mr. Ed Jess has a BA in Economics and Statistics in 1990 and more than 20 years of varied experience in the healthcare and pharmaceutical industries. He joined the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta in 2012 as Director, Prescribing and Analytics, in the Continuing Competence Department. His position at the CPSA includes overseeing Alberta's Triplicate Prescription Program (TPP), the Physician Prescribing Practices Program (P4), and the CPSA's Research & Evaluation team.



Dr. Gus Grant is the Registrar and CEO of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia. He is currently the Chair of the Nova Scotia Prescription Monitoring Program, President of the Nova Scotia Medical Legal Society, and Past-President of the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada. He has degrees in literature, law and medicine and has practiced both law and medicine in Nova Scotia. Dr. Grant is an active member on a number of Committees at the Faculty of Medicine at Dalhousie University. He maintains an active interest in the arts, in the interaction of law and medicine.

Speaker/Panelists Profiles



Dr. Gordon Wallace is the Managing Director of Safe Medical Care for the Canadian Medical Protective Association and a member of the senior management team. He is recognized internationally as a leader in patient safety education with a special interest in disclosure, building a just culture of safety, and promoting quality improvement in healthcare. At the CMPA, Gord leads a large staff of analysts and educators dedicated to improving the safety of the medical system and helping physicians to improve the quality and safety of their practices so that patients receive the best possible care.



Dr. Jamie Meuser is a family physician with a practice in home palliative care in Toronto. He is the Executive Director of Professional Development and Practice Support for the College of Family Physicians of Canada. Dr. Meuser holds the academic rank of Associate Professor at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto.



Ms. Susan Lessard-Friesen is a graduate of the College of Pharmacy at the University of Manitoba and first joined the College of Pharmacists of Manitoba in 1995 as Coordinator of the Manitoba Pharmaceutical Care Project, then progressed to various other roles including Assistant Registrar. In 2010, Susan was appointed Deputy Registrar and in 2016, the Registrar. During her years with the College, Susan has had the opportunity to partner with several other provincial and national organizations on initiatives aimed at advancing patient care and improving patient safety.

Speaker/Panelists Profiles



Dr. Peter Butt is an Associate Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan in a position dedicated to Addiction Medicine, and serves as a consultant to Mental Health and Addictions in the Saskatoon Health Region. He is also the physician lead on the Saskatchewan provincial “Take Home Naloxone” project, chairs the Opioid Advisory Committee for the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan, and serves on the Health Canada - First Nation Prescription Drug Abuse Initiative.
