

2024 aPHa Winter Symposium

Speakers' Biographies

(IN ORDER OF FIRST APPEARANCE)

FRIDAY, February 16th



Dr. Charles Gardner

Dr. Gardner has been the Medical Officer of Health (MOH) for the Simcoe Muskoka Health Unit since 2005, after having served as MOH with the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit for seven years. Prior to that, he worked in general medical practice in Newfoundland, New Brunswick, and Zimbabwe. Dr. Gardner is the current President of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (aPHa) Board, and an Ex Officio Member of the Executive of the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health (COMOH). In June 2023 he received aPHa's Distinguished Service Award. Dr. Gardner received the Faculty Educator Award for the Public Health and Preventive Medicine Residency, University of Toronto, in 2020. He is also a board member of Physicians for a Smoke-Free Canada. Dr. Gardner is active personally and professionally on the promotion of health through green, compact, complete, walkable and cycleable communities.



Hon. Doug Ford

Doug Ford is the Premier of Ontario. He was elected as the MPP for Etobicoke-North in 2018. Previously, Doug Ford served as Toronto city councillor from 2010-2014, and was vice-chair of the Budget Committee, where he delivered hundreds of millions of dollars in savings for taxpayers. While on city council, Ford served on the board of Build Toronto, and was a director of the Canadian National Exhibition. He also served on the Civic Appointments Committee and the Government Management Committee at Council. A dedicated community leader, successful businessman with Deco Labels and passionate advocate for the people, Doug's commitment to public service runs in the family. Three generations of Fords have served the people of Ontario in elected office. Doug is a life-long resident of Etobicoke. His commitment to public service includes over 20 years of dedicated work with the Toronto West Rotary Club and serving as a member of the Royal Canadian Legion.



Hon. Sylvia Jones

Sylvia Jones serves as the Member of Provincial Parliament for Dufferin-Caledon. She is currently Ontario's Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. Minister Jones previously served as Solicitor General from 2019-2022, where she championed public safety initiatives, including leading the country with an anti-human trafficking strategy and legislation, and passing Canada's toughest animal protection legislation. Minister Jones has lived in Dufferin-Caledon for over 30 years with her husband, David.



Colin Best

Colin Best is the President of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) and a Halton Regional Councillor. He has been involved in his community of Milton in many ways. He has served on Milton council for 33 years and Halton council for the past 19 years. He has served on the AMO Board for six years and the Executive for the past four years chairing the Regional and Single Tier Caucus representing 32 per cent of Ontario's population. He has also chaired the AMO Health Task Force for the last two years. On Regional council Colin is the past Chair of the Planning and Public Works Committee and previously the Vice-Chair of the Health and Social Services Committee. Also serving on the Agricultural, Natural Heritage and Joint Waste advisory committees, Children's Aid Society and Police Services Board. On Local Council Colin is the past Chair of the Budget Committee and current serves on the Downtown Milton Business Improvement Area Board and Milton Hydro Board. Previously he has served on the Milton Public Library Board, Community Services Advisory, Heritage and Town Hall expansion committees.



Steini Brown

Professor Adalsteinn (Steini) Brown was appointed Dean of the Dalla Lana School of Public Health (DLSPH) beginning July 2018 after serving as Interim Dean. He previously served as Director of the Institute of Health Policy, Management, and Evaluation (IHPE) and the Dalla Lana Chair of Public Health Policy also at the University. Professor Brown's research interests relate to performance measurement in health systems and the use of evidence and data in public policy. He has published numerous articles on evidence-informed policy making, health care quality improvement, and health systems strategy. He has worked closely with the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-term Care (MOHLTC) and other government and international agencies and has served as Assistant Deputy Minister in MOHLTC and Assistant Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Research and Innovation. He received his undergraduate degree in government from Harvard University and his doctorate from the University of Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar. He is a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.



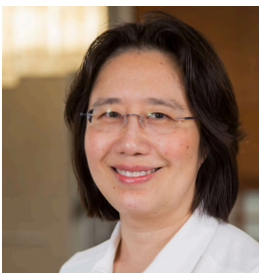
Loretta Ryan

Loretta Ryan is the Executive Director of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies. ALPHA provides leadership to the province's boards of health and public health units. In this role, she works closely with board of health members, medical and associate medical officers of health, and senior public health managers to represent the interests of local public health and to collaborate with governments and other health organizations to advocate for healthy public policy and a strong, effective, and efficient public health system in Ontario. Previously, Loretta was the Director of Public Affairs for the Ontario Professional Planners Institute where she provided leadership in the development and delivery of the Institute's public policy and communication efforts and the Institute's Healthy Communities, Sustainable Communities initiative. Prior to working there, Loretta was with the Toronto Board of Trade and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Loretta is a Certified Association Executive (CAE).



Kelly Pender

Kelly has over 40 years of municipal and health care experience and currently serves as the Chief Administrative Officer for the County of Frontenac. He is the owner and principal consultant of kjpMGT a public sector consultancy specializing in organizational performance and leadership. With degrees in planning, landscape architecture and business, Kelly considers himself a generalist with an emphasis on building consensus and empowering employees. Kelly is also a part-time professor in the Laurentian University Bachelor of Business Administration program at St. Lawrence College in Kingston, Ontario where he teaches human resources, organizational behaviour, and labour relations at the senior level. In his spare time, he enjoys traveling with his wife Rosemary, reading, golf, carpentry, and 3D printing.



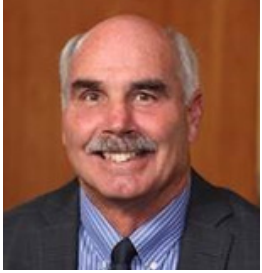
Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang

Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang is the Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health for Region of Waterloo Public Health and Paramedic Services. From 2004 to 2017, Dr. Wang served as the Region's Associate Medical Officer of Health and her portfolio consisted of providing support and medical leadership primarily to the infectious diseases division, the environmental health division, the emergency preparedness program and the Department's population health surveillance and assessment functions. In her current role, Dr. Wang provides leadership and oversight for all Public Health and Paramedic Services programs in the region, including the direct and indirect supervision of over 600 staff and a \$70 million budget. Dr. Wang has also been an assistant professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University, since 2008.



Dr. Piotr Oglaza

Dr. Oglaza is the Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox & Addington (KFL&A) Public Health and is a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in Public Health and Preventive Medicine. He is also an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, Canada. He received his medical degree in Lodz, Poland in 2000 and completed the Bachelor of Applied Science, School of Occupational and Public Health with Honours at Toronto Metropolitan University in 2003. Dr. Oglaza completed the Family Medicine Residency program in 2009 and received his master's degree in public health in 2011, both completed at Queen's University. Dr. Oglaza started in public health as a public health inspector in the Leeds Grenville Lanark region from 2003 to 2007. After spending several years as a rural family physician, within the KFL&A region, Dr. Oglaza held the position of Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer at Hastings Prince Edward Public Health and now at KFL&A Public Health.



Wess Garrod

Wess Garrod is a community representative on the KFL&A Board of Health, appointed by Order-in-Council. Wess completed his Bachelor of Science (Hon) and the University of Guelph and his Bachelor of Education at Queen's University, where he also completed his principal's designation. Wess retired from the Limestone District School Board in 2006. He is a former secondary school principal, supervising principal and member of LDSB's senior staff. He was recognized for his contributions to the field of education and physical activity with an Outstanding Service Award, and the establishment of the "Wess Garrod Healthy Active Living Award", which is presented annually to a LDSB staff member who has worked to improve student and staff health and well-being in their school. Wess has been a great supporter of KFL&A Public Health and has worked in the past with this agency on a variety of projects to promote physical activity in schools. He coached basketball, football and soccer. Wess currently lives on a hobby farm near Yarker and enjoys horseback riding, downhill skiing, water skiing, golf and general fitness activities.



Franger Jimenez

Franger Jimenez is a Workplace Wellness and Health Promoter with an extensive medical background. He works towards improving well-being both in and out of the workplace, adopting a holistic approach to health. Franger has been working with alPHa, designing infographics that promote health topics of general interest in Canada. Previously, he worked as a health promoter, creating and implementing wellness programs targeting individuals with chronic diseases to educate them about health habits, raise awareness about diseases, and provide them with the tools to work towards a healthy lifestyle.



Carmen McGregor

Carmen is a Municipal Councillor with Chatham-Kent first elected in 2014 and has managed her husband's Law Practice for the past 20 years. She joined the alPHa Board in June 2015 as the South West region's Boards of Health Representative and retains that position to this day. She has served the alPHa board as Treasurer in 2015, Vice President in 2016, President in 2017, 2019 & 2020 and Past President in 2018 and 2021. Currently she serves as the Chair of the Board of Health Section on the alPHa Board and Executive Committee. Prior to municipal council, Carmen was a publicly elected School Board Trustee for the Lambton Kent District School Board for 11 years, serving as Vice Chair, Chair and a Director and Vice President to the Ontario School Board Assoc. (OPSBA). Along with her political career Carmen has a long history committee work and community volunteerism including Branch 18 of the Royal Canadian Legion, the Sydenham Community Curling Club, the Wallaceburg and District Chamber of Commerce and the United Way of Chatham-Kent. When not occupied in politics she enjoys spending time with her children and grandchildren, and she is an accomplished Mixed Media Artist.



John Allen

John Allen has a general practice, with a focus on business law and estate planning. After being called to the Bar in 1991, John clerked with the Ontario Superior Court, joining his father Bill Allen in the practice of law in 1992. John has a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Science, a Bachelor of Laws, and, while working full-time, obtained his Masters and PhD in law from Osgoode Hall Law School in Toronto. John has been counsel for and a director of a number of private and public companies, including a real estate investment company and an energy resource company both listed on the TSX Venture Exchange. John was a Certified Financial Planner (CFP). He also teaches law and legal history at Humber College in the Bachelor of Arts degree program in Paralegal Studies and he has taught business law at Ryerson University in Toronto.



Dr. Robert Kyle

Dr. Robert Kyle has been the Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health for the Regional Municipality of Durham since 1991. He is a certificant in the Specialty of Community Medicine from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and holds a certificate in Family Medicine from the College of Family Physicians of Canada. Robert is an active member of many provincial and regional health organizations. For example, he is currently Chair of the Durham Nuclear Health Committee; past Chair of the Port Hope Community Health Centre; and Past-Chair of the Public Health Ontario Board of Directors. Robert is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and the American College of Preventive Medicine, and is a former Medical Officer of Health for the Peterborough County-City Health Unit.



Trudy Sachowski

Trudy Sachowski serves the Northwestern Board of Health as the municipal appointment for the Municipality of Machin and City of Dryden. Trudy is a true champion for public health and has remained steadfast in her commitment to improving the health outcomes of the people of Northwestern Ontario and across the province. She enthusiastically provides leadership and advocacy for local public health. Prior to her current position as Past President, she has held the aPHa offices of President, Vice-President, BOH Section Chair and Vice-Chair. Trudy is an Ontario Volunteer Service Award recipient. Her volunteerism includes having served as the Chair of the Ontario Parent Council, Chair of the Northwestern Healthy Living Partnership, Chair of the Dryden Public Library Board, Vice-Chair of the Northwestern Early Years Steering Committee and serves on the Board of Directors for the Points North Family Health Team. Trudy was awarded aPHa's 2022 Distinguished Service Award for exemplifying exceptional qualities of leadership and for her devotion to advocacy for public health both locally and provincially.



Michael Sherar

Michael Sherar leads Public Health Ontario, the provincial agency that provides evidence to inform policy, undertakes public health capacity building, and provides integrated public health laboratory and surveillance systems. Prior to joining PHO, Michael held several senior management positions in the public sector. He was previously the interim Transitional Lead and Chief Corporate Officer for the Toronto Seniors Housing Corporation (TSHC), where he led planning for TSHC to assume operating responsibility for seniors' social housing buildings from the Toronto Community Housing Corporation. Prior to TSHC, Michael spent 17 years at Cancer Care Ontario (CCO), nine of which as President and CEO. He led the expansion of CCO's mandate, built an effective infrastructure to support health system improvement in Ontario and led the smooth transition of CCO to become a division of Ontario Health. Michael received his doctorate in Medical Biophysics from the University of Toronto. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Physics from Oxford University.



Dr. Vera Etches

Dr. Etches was appointed as Medical Officer (MOH) of Health for Ottawa Public Health (OPH) in April 2018, having served as Deputy MOH for three years and Associate MOH for five years before that. She is passionate about preventing illness and injury and working with partners across many sectors to keep people well and to promote population health. Highlights include fostering a culture of community and client engagement and providing information to help people navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. She is also committed to public health work to address inequities in health status stemming from racism and colonialism.



Dr. Kieran Moore

Dr. Kieran Moore has been appointed as the province's Chief Medical Officer of Health, effective June 26, 2021. Dr. Moore served as the Medical Officer of Health for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington from 2011 to 2021. Dr. Moore is also the Medical Officer of Health of the Department of Emergency and Family Medicine of Queen's University and the Program Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Queen's University. Dr. Moore received his Medical degree from the University of Ottawa and subsequently received his specialty certification in Family Medicine and Emergency Medicine from the College of Family Physicians of Canada. He has Master's degrees in Disaster Medicine (DM) and Public Health (PH) as well as a Physician Leadership and Diplomas in Sports Medicine, Tropical Medicine & Hygiene, and Humanitarian Assistance. He has completed a Canadian Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Fellowship in Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Queen's University. Dr. Moore has extensive experience in surveillance systems for bioterrorism and outbreak detection, public health, pre-hospital care, and multidisciplinary research projects. His main area of interest is in the evaluation of various data streams for the early detection of outbreaks as well as assessment of deprivation distribution in populations. In 2018 he was named Principal Investigator of the CIHR-funded Pan-Canadian Research Network on Lyme Disease.



Sabine Matheson

Since 1998, Sabine has been a Principal at StrategyCorp, which serves clients across Canada and internationally. She is the founder of StrategyCorp's Municipal Affairs Practice Group, which has served well over a hundred municipalities across Canada on a variety of strategic projects. Sabine is currently strategic advisor to Ontario's Large Urban Mayors Caucus on provincial relations. A well-known commentator on the municipal world, she has also been an advisor to AMO, AMCTO, and OMAA. Since 2016, Sabine has been the lead author of StrategyCorp's influential Annual CAO Survey, which gives voice to Ontario and Canadian Chief Administrators. Sabine served as Chief of Staff to Ontario's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. Since 2007, she has been an instructor in UOIT's Municipal Management Program. Sabine also teaches provincial-municipal relations through AMCTO.



Jennifer Vickers-Manzin

Jen Vickers Manzin is the President of the Ontario Association of Public Health Nursing Leaders (OPHNL). She supports the achievement OPHNL's mission to promote and protect the health of Ontarians through excellence in public health nursing leadership. As we transition from the crisis phase of COVID response, Jen's voice will represent Public Health nursing leaders in highlighting the significant return on investment of returning to routine public health programming while maintaining the COVID-19 response. Jen brings over 20 years of experience in Public Health in Ontario. She currently holds the position of Director of Healthy Families Division and Chief Nursing Officer for The City of Hamilton Public Health Services.



James LeNoury

James LeNoury has represented alPHa since 2001. He represented alPHa at the Walkerton Water Inquiry. He has presented regularly at alPHa conferences and written a number of papers for alPHa members. James was called to the Bar of Ontario in 1992 and has specialized in employment and labour law since that time. Prior to attending law school James completed a Masters of Counselling Psychology Degree and worked as a crisis counsellor, and child and family therapist at childrens’ mental health centres in Ontario. In his employment and labour law practice he represents a wide range of private and public sector employers and individual employees with respect to employment and labour employment and labour relations legal matters. In recognition of his accomplishment in the Supreme Court of Canada Wilson v AECL landmark ruling which affects 10,000 federally regulated employers and 500,000 employees, James was awarded the National HR Employment Lawyer of the Year for 2016.



Lindsay Jones

Lindsay Jones joined the Association of Municipalities of Ontario as the Director of Policy and Government Relations in October 2022, where she leads advocacy and policy work on behalf of Ontario’s municipal governments. Over the past 20 years, she has developed a deep expertise in strategy, policy and government decision-making through progressively senior roles in the Ontario and federal governments in areas such as income security, labour markets and employment, and community infrastructure. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the Parkdale Queen West Community Health Centre and the Jane and Finch Centre.



Michael Jacek

Michael Jacek is Senior Advisor to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) on health and human service policy. Michael’s works collaboratively with alPHa to promote ways to strengthen the local public health system in Ontario. Prior to joining AMO, Michael worked for the City of Toronto in various capacities such as homelessness services, social assistance, corporate governance, and intergovernmental relations. Other experience involved managing a federal government refugee resettlement program for Ontario and providing business development services in a joint federal-provincial agency. Michael has also been an elected union official and active volunteer, including as a board member, with health and social service community agencies in Toronto. His educational background is a master’s degree in political science with a primary focus on local government.



Daniela Spagnuolo

Daniela Spagnuolo is a Policy Advisor at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario, where her work includes supporting health and human service policy among other policy areas. Daniela has previously worked as a Health Policy Analyst with the College of Family Physicians of Canada, a Research Assistant with Women’s College Hospital, and in various roles in food policy research. She currently serves as Community Advisory Committee Chair for a research project funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council studying innovative community responses and intersectoral collaboration for health and food justice beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. Daniela holds a Master of Arts in Public Policy and Administration from Toronto Metropolitan University.



Steven Rebellato

Steven Rebellato is the Vice President for the Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit. He has his PhD in Public Health from the University of Waterloo. Steven is a part-time Assistant Professor at McMaster University in the Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence, & Impact and Adjunct Professor at the University of Waterloo. Steven is a Fellow at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health in the AMS-Fitzgerald Fellowship in Artificial Intelligence and Human-Centered Leadership. He is the Vice-Chair for the York Hills Centre for Children, Youth and Families in the Region of York.



Maureen Wilson

Maureen Wilson is the Councillor for Ward 1 in the City of Hamilton. Maureen also serves as the Vice Chair of Hamilton's Board of Health for the 2022-2026 term. A strong advocate for maternal health and women's reproductive rights, Maureen also seeks to advance the goals of public health into all city building practices and outcomes. Maureen is a board member of the Hamilton Conservation Authority and Halton Conservation Authority. She holds a Master's degree in both urban planning and political studies.



Cynthia St. John

Cynthia St. John is the CEO of Southwestern Public Health, formed in 2018 by the merger of the former Oxford County Public Health and Elgin-St. Thomas Public Health. Prior to the merger, Cynthia presided as the Executive Director of Elgin-St. Thomas Public Health for 18 years. Cynthia now leads an organization of approximately 200 employees responsible for providing public health programming to a population of over 200,000 in southwestern Ontario. Cynthia began her career in the charitable sector having had the privilege of working with exceptional organizations such as the YWCA, the Anne Johnston Community Health Centre, and Dying with Dignity Canada. She holds a Masters of Business Administration with a specialization in Leadership.



Emma Tucker

Emma Tucker is Acting Director of the Public Health Resources Division at Halton Region Public Health. The division provides leadership and support to the Foundational Standards (Population Health Assessment, Effective Public Health Practice, and Emergency Management), as well as the Accountability Framework and Organizational Standards. Emma first started working in Public Health in 1999 and has held a number of positions: dietitian, environmental health analyst, epidemiologist, manager of surveillance and evaluation, and business administrator. She has also held clinical dietitian, research and teaching roles at St. Michael's Hospital, and early in her career worked on Bay Street in the financial markets. Emma has Bachelors degrees in Applied Mathematics and Nutrition, and a Masters degree in Statistics. She is passionate about using local data and research evidence to help address the health needs of her community, with a focus on priority populations.



Association of Local
PUBLIC HEALTH
Agencies

Association of Local Public Health Agencies
PO Box 73510, RPO Wychwood Toronto, ON M6C 4A7
(416) 595-0006 | info@alphaweb.org | www.alphaweb.org
Follow us on X (formerly Twitter) [@PHAgencies](https://twitter.com/PHAgencies)