

2026 alPHa Winter Symposium

Speakers' Biographies

(IN ORDER OF FIRST APPEARANCE)

FRIDAY, February 13



Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang

Dr. Hsiu-Li Wang is the Commissioner and Medical Officer of Health for Public Health and Paramedic Services in the Region of Waterloo, one of the fastest growing communities in Ontario with a population of 700,000. From 2004 to 2017, Dr. Wang served as the Region's Associate Medical Officer of Health, focusing on infectious diseases, environmental health, emergency preparedness and population health assessment. In her current role, Dr. Wang is responsible for all Public Health and Paramedic Services programs in the region, overseeing over 600 staff and a budget of over \$110 million.



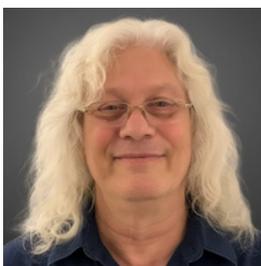
Robin Jones

Robin Jones has been the Mayor of the Municipality of the Village of Westport since 2014 and serves on the United Counties of Leeds & Grenville Council. Mayor Jones has been elected to the Board of Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO) since 2018 and was elected as Chair of Rural Ontario Municipalities Association (ROMA) in 2021. She was elected Warden of the Counties for 2017 & 18 and also elected as Chair of the Eastern Ontario Warden's Caucus in 2018. She is a member of the Board of Management for both Maple View Lodge and St. Lawrence Lodge. Prior to entering political life, Mayor Jones had a 33 year career in policing, holding senior positions with the Waterloo Regional Police, the Ontario Provincial Police and finished her policing career as Chief of Nishnawbe-Aski Police. In 2007, she was seconded to the Government of Ontario, Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services and was the Provincial Negotiator for First Nations Police Services throughout Ontario. In 2021, Robin was appointed by the Government of Ontario to the Ontario Arts Council.



Kimberly Moran

Kim has served as OMA's CEO since December 2023. She is a highly respected health-care leader and accomplished executive with more than 30 years of senior leadership experience in the private and not-for-profit sectors. She has advised health system stakeholders at all levels of government in Canada and internationally. Kim is a recognized health system transformation contributor and collaborator, with previous roles in the Ontario Children's Health Coalition, which represents children's hospitals and children's community healthcare providers, and as Co-Chair of the Children's COVID-19 Vaccine Table. She was previously on the Premier's Council on Improving Health Care and Ending Hallway Medicine, a voluntary expert advisory council reporting to the Premier and the Minister of Health.



Ron Brecher

Dr. Ron Brecher is recognized in Canada and internationally for his expertise in toxicology, risk assessment, and risk communication. He holds a B.Sc. (Honours) in Biochemistry from Carleton University and a Ph.D. in Medicinal Biochemistry from the University of Sussex. Dr. Brecher is a Diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology (DABT) and a Chartered Chemist (C.Chem.) in Ontario. With more than 30 years of experience as a consulting toxicologist, Dr. Brecher specializes in evaluating and communicating the human health impacts of chemical exposures in air, food, water, soil, and consumer products. His work supports evidence-based decision-making in complex regulatory, public health, and environmental contexts, often where scientific uncertainty and public concern intersect. In addition to his technical consulting practice, Dr. Brecher provides training in toxicology, risk assessment, and risk communication to clients across all levels of government and within the private sector. He is frequently called upon to serve as an expert witness in legal and regulatory proceedings, offering clear, defensible scientific analysis.



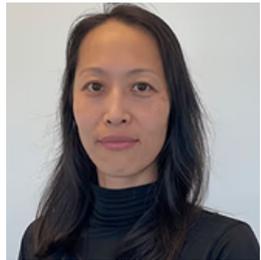
Trevor Smith Diggins

Trevor is a communication strategist with more than 30 years of experience specializing in risk, crisis, and stakeholder communication. His work has included high-profile assignments across North America and internationally, supporting governments, health authorities, military organizations, and complex environmental and infrastructure projects. Trevor has designed and delivered risk communication training for a wide range of public sector and institutional clients, including Health Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, National Defence Canada, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada, the Ontario Ministry of the Environment, the Sudbury Soils Study, Nova Scotia Health, BC Health, and BC Environment. His expertise in managing complex, high-profile issues led to an invitation to the Pentagon by the U.S. Under Secretary of Defense, recognizing the success of an installation restoration project at the Memphis Depot, where Trevor led the strategic communication and stakeholder engagement program.



Dr. Samir Patel

Dr. Samir Patel provides executive and scientific leadership, strategic direction and accountability for the planning and priorities of the Microbiology and Laboratory Services portfolio. He has been the clinical lead of many important programs at the laboratory, including vector-borne and zoonotic infections such as Lyme and West Nile, antimicrobial resistance, and a novel pathogen discovery program. He has provided leadership for the Ontario COVID-19 Genomics Network and the Testing Strategy Expert Panel, which were established to support the response to COVID-19. He has also actively contributed to many important committees, including the Institute of Quality Management Microbiology Committee, and the Canadian Public Health Laboratory Network's Antimicrobial Resistance and Lyme Working groups.



Dr. JinHee Kim

Dr. JinHee Kim is the Physician Lead of Population Health at PHO and an assistant professor in the Clinical Public Health Division at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health and the Department of Medicine at the University of Toronto. JinHee's interests include assessment of environmental hazards, exposures, and health outcomes to enhance information for public health action; the relative effects of different environmental health issues on the health of the population; food safety and human health risk assessment for environmental hazards as it applies to public health.



Dr. Catharine Chambers

Dr. Catharine Chambers is an Applied Public Health Science Specialist at Public Health Ontario where she serves as the Scientific Liaison for the Ontario Immunization Advisory Committee and provides scientific and technical advice on vaccines and immunization programs. She holds an adjunct faculty appointment at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. She has completed graduate degrees in epidemiology from the University of Toronto (PhD) and the University of British Columbia (MSc). Dr. Chambers has almost 20 years of applied public health experience working at academic research institutes and government public health agencies. Her research program uses observational epidemiology methods to evaluate immunization programs, with a focus on understanding vaccine uptake and effectiveness in real-world settings. Its goal is to maximize the impact and reach of our immunization programs and find more effective ways for transforming scientific evidence into public health practice. She has extensive methodological expertise in the design and implementation of epidemiological studies using cross-sectional and longitudinal participant surveys, public health surveillance data, linked administrative health data, and mixed methods approaches.



Dr. Michelle Murti

Dr. Michelle Murti is the Medical Officer of Health for Toronto Public Health, the largest public health agency in Canada, responsible for serving Toronto's 3million+ residents. Dr. Murti completed her Public Health and Preventive Medicine residency from the University of Toronto, and completed fellowships at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Johns Hopkins University. She has worked in various roles in public health locally, provincially, and internationally. Prior to joining TPH, she was an Associate Chief Medical Officer of Health with the Ontario Ministry of Health, Medical Director at Public Health Ontario, and Medical Health Officer/Medical Director at Fraser Health Authority, BC. She is an Adjunct Professor at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto.



Dr. Tamara Wallington

Dr. Tamara Wallington is responsible for leading PHO's work generating and providing evidence to guide action in the areas of health promotion and environmental and occupational health, with the aim of improving health outcomes and reducing health inequities across Ontario. Tamara is a physician leader with over 20 years of experience working across all areas of Ontario's health system, from population health, to public health, to acute care, to administrative medicine and education leadership. In addition to her current PHO role, Tamara works as a part-time Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of Toronto. Prior to joining PHO, she spent several years working as an Associate Medical Officer of Health at Toronto Public Health, before transitioning to a physician leadership role at William Osler Health System, as well as a regional leadership role as Vice President, Clinical at the Central West Local Health Integration Network.



Adalsteinn (Steini) Brown

Adalsteinn (Steini) Brown has served as the Dean of the Dalla Lana School of Public Health (DLSPH) since 2017. His research largely now focuses on the use of evidence and data in public policy. He has published over 100 peer-reviewed articles, a dozen book chapters and over 100 reports, editorials and commentaries. Prior to serving as Dean, Steini was the Director of the Institute for Health Policy, Management and Evaluation in the DLSPH, an Assistant Deputy Minister in two different Ontario government ministries, and worked in start-up and Fortune 500 companies in the US. 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.



Dr. Laura Rosella

Laura Rosella is the Chief Scientist and Stephen Family Research Chair in Community Health at the Institute for Better Health, part of Trillium Health Partners. She is a Professor at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto, and holds a Canada Research Chair in Population Health Analytics. Dr Rosella leads several artificial intelligence (AI) and data science training initiatives, including the AI for Public Health Research Training Platform. She has authored more than 310 publications and was named one of Canada's Top 40 Under 40. In 2024, she became Editor-in-Chief of the Canadian Journal of Public Health. Dr Rosella has a Master's degree in community health and epidemiology and a PhD in epidemiology, both from the University of Toronto.



Dr. Trevor Arnason

Dr. Trevor Arnason was appointed Deputy Medical Officer of Health for Ottawa Public Health in May 2024 and has been an Associate Medical Officer of Health (AMOH) since 2019. As AMOH, he was the physician responsible for immunization programs and served as the lead medical consultant for the City of Ottawa's COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Taskforce. He has also been the AMOH responsible for portfolios in sexually transmitted and bloodborne infections, chronic disease and injury prevention and mental health and substance use. Prior to joining Ottawa Public Health as an AMOH, Dr. Arnason was the Regional Medical Officer of Health for Halifax, Nova Scotia from 2016 to 2018, where he co-led responses to multiple infectious disease outbreaks including one of the largest measles outbreaks in Canada in recent years. Trevor also maintains a part-time clinical practice in Ottawa where he focuses on immunizations and disease prevention for newcomers.



Dr. Lianne Catton

Dr. Lianne Catton is the Medical Officer of Health and Chief Executive Officer for the Northeastern Public Health (NEPH), the largest geographic health unit in the Province at over 288,000 square kilometers. Prior to medicine Lianne worked as a health promoter at the Hamilton-Wentworth Health Unit. Completing family medicine residency with additional training in emergency medicine she travelled across Northeastern Ontario gaining an appreciation for the unique challenges faced by communities and patients in achieving health. Dr. Catton settled in Timmins as a full-time emergency physician in 2008 and shortly after, also provided clinical care at Misiway Milopemahtesewin Community Health Centre, and the PHU Sexual Health Clinic. Years of treating individuals with poor health outcomes and seeing tragedies in the emergency department reignited a passion to focus upstream to prevent illness and injury. These clinical experiences led to a deep understanding of the inequities impacting health and well-being, especially in the North, and continue to inform and inspire her work since April 2016.



Michelle Boileau

Born and raised in Timmins, Michelle has over a decade of experience working as director, manager, support staff and part-time professor in the postsecondary education sector. Previously, she worked as the Employment & Immigration Services Manager for a community college. She also has a Master of Research (M. Res.) degree in Educational and Social Research from the University of London (UK), as well as an Honours Bachelor's (Hon. B.A.) degree from the University of Ottawa. Michelle was elected to the municipal council in the City of Timmins in 2018, and has served on several community boards and committees including the Northern Ontario Service Deliverers Association (NOSDA) and the Association française des municipalités de l'Ontario (AFMO).



Trudy Sachowski

Trudy Sachowski appointed to the Northwestern Health Unit (NWHU) Board of Health by the Municipality of Machin and the City of Dryden is a true champion for public health having dedicated countless hours over the past several years to public health and in the neighbouring sectors of healthcare and education. Since her appointment to the Northwestern Board of Health, Trudy has remained steadfast in her commitment to her role in improving the health outcomes of the people of Northwestern Ontario and across the province. As the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (Ontario) North West Region Board of Health Section representative, Trudy enthusiastically provides leadership and advocacy for local public health. Prior to her current position as the Past Chair of the alPHA Board of Directors Trudy served on the alPHA Executive Committee as Chair, President, Vice President, Past President, and Board of Health Section Chair. She believes in the work of public health, and she is driven to contribute her time, knowledge, influence, and passion to move this work forward for the betterment of the people of Ontario.



Loretta Ryan

Loretta Ryan is the Chief Executive Officer 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, government relations, and communications. Notably, she headed up the Institute's Healthy Communities, Sustainable Communities initiative, an area where planning and public health intersect on the built environment. 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) and a Registered Professional Planner (RPP).



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.



Carolyn Doris

Carolyn Doris is a Registered Dietitian and Manager of Family and Community Health in the Peterborough office of the newly merged Haliburton, Kawartha, Northumberland Peterborough Health Unit Peterborough. Carolyn has been seconded to support merger activities and project management as part of the Transformation Office of HKNPHU. Public Health has been Carolyn's specialization since completing a dietetic internship in Community Nutrition. She has been a long-time member and Chair of Ontario Dietitians in Public Health and led provincial workgroups including School Nutrition and Food Insecurity. A life long learner, Carolyn recently completed a Masters of Public Administration from Queen's University.



Paul Sharma

Paul Sharma is the Director for the Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention division at Region of Peel-Public Health. Before Peel, Paul was the Manager of the Oral Health programs at Middlesex-London Health Unit and previously Manager in the Department of Oral Health at the Hastings & Prince Edward Counties Health Unit. Paul is also appointed as an Adjunct Professor at the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Toronto. Paul currently sits on the Executive of the Ontario Association of Public Health Dentistry (OAPHD) serving as President. As well, Paul sits on the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA) Board of Directors representing OAPHD. Paul's first position in health care was working as a registered dental hygienist in Toronto primarily providing services to individuals living with HIV. Paul has also been involved in dental hygiene education in a teaching and management capacity. Paul has completed his Masters of Science in Dental Public Health from King's College, University of London, in London, England.



Caitlyn Paget

Caitlyn Paget is the Manager of the Health Analytics and Research Team at the Durham Region Health Department. She has been a member of the Association of Public Health Epidemiologists in Ontario (APHEO) for over 12 years and has chaired the Core Indicators project since 2016. Caitlyn is passionate about making epidemiologic and analytic evidence both beautiful and easy to understand, to support public health decisions and risk communication. With a background in both epidemiology and engineering, she brings a systems approach to population health assessment and surveillance. Her focus is to automate foundational analytics to create time for deeper epidemiologic contribution in local public health.



Shannon Robinson

Shannon Robinson is the Director of Health Promotion at Thunder Bay District Health Unit. She holds a Bachelor of Health Sciences from the University of Western Ontario and Master of Science in Health Promotion from the University of Alberta. She is a Certified Evaluator with the Canadian Evaluation Society, a Certified Health Executive with the Canadian College of Health Leaders, and a Certified Human Resource Professional with the Human Resources Professionals Association. With interests spanning health promotion at the local and provincial levels, she has over 20 years of experience in local public health and currently chairs the Ontario Chronic Disease Prevention Management in Public Health network.



Bernia Martin

Bernia Martin was elected Councillor for the City of Woodstock and County of Oxford in October 2022 and was subsequently appointed to the Southwestern Public Health Board of Health as Vice Chair for the 2023 year and elected as Chair of the Board in 2024. Raised in rural Southwestern Ontario, and a graduate of the University of Waterloo, she is no stranger to the unique opportunities and challenges that face the residents of the South West region. As a local business owner, elected official, advocate, and mother, Bernia is dedicated to advancing local public health work in our community and committed to creating healthier and more vibrant places to live and work.



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.



Dr. Robert Kyle

Dr. Robert Kyle has been the Commissioner & Medical Officer of Health (MOH) for the Regional Municipality of Durham since 1991. Prior to this appointment, he served as MOH for the Peterborough County-City Health Unit since 1987. Dr. Kyle is a Fellow of the RCPSC and the American College of Preventive Medicine. He is an Adjunct Professor, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto and Department of Family Medicine, Queen's University. He is also a member of the medical staffs of Lakeridge Health and Oak Valley Health. Dr. Kyle is an active member of many provincial and regional health groups and organizations. For example, he is a Past-Chair of Public Health Ontario's Board of Directors, Past-President of the Association of Local Public Health Agencies (alPHA) and Past-Chair and current member of the Public Health and Preventive Medicine Exam Board and Examination Committee of the RCPSC



Karen Nesbitt

Karen Nesbitt is the Director of Policy and Government Relations at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), bringing over 15 years of public sector leadership, primarily from the Ontario Public Service (OPS). A proven policy leader, Karen passionately champions the critical issues facing municipalities, drawing on her OPS background leading complex initiatives, such as social assistance system transformation and major capital projects. Karen holds a B.A. from Mount Allison University.



Alicia Neufeld

Alicia Neufeld is a Senior Manager of Policy at the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), where she is responsible for health and human services in addition to a range of other municipal priorities. Before joining AMO in January 2024, Alicia was the Associate Director of the Toronto Drug Strategy Secretariat at Toronto Public Health. Prior to that, she spent more than a decade with the provincial government, including many years in strategic policy at the Ministry of Health where she led complex policy files, including the implementation of Medical Assistance in Dying, the development of Ontario's first Strategy to Prevent Opioid Addiction and Overdose, and approvals for two rounds of health system transformation.



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.



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