

4th Annual Measuring Health Equity in TC LHIN Symposium How to Collect and Use Demographic Data with Care

Wednesday March 9, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Bridgepoint Health Care, 1 Bridgepoint Drive

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



Sophia Ikura, MPA
Senior Director, Community Engagement and Corporate Affairs,
Toronto Central LHIN

Sophia joined the Toronto Central LHIN after a 13-year career in public administration with the Government of Ontario where she held a series of operational and leadership roles in the civil service. During this time, Sophia also acted as a policy advisor to three Ontario health ministers and a provincial Premier. Through her different roles, Sophia has made significant contributions to the development and implementation of a number of health policy initiatives including the Ontario Nursing Strategy, the Quality Agenda and the Excellent Care for All Act, the Ontario Surgical and Emergency Department Wait Times Initiative, the Alternative Level of Care Strategy and the health system funding reform.

At the TC LHIN, Sophia leads the community engagement team to inform population health planning and is responsible for the design and execution of the LHIN's strategic planning processes and communications. She is also accountable for programs that improve the quality of care and experience for Aboriginal people and Francophones within the TC LHIN.



Gary Newton, MD FRCPC
Chief Medical Strategy Officer, Sinai Health System

Gary is the Chief Medical Strategy Officer for Sinai Health System and has been on faculty at the University of Toronto since 1996. Prior to taking on this role, Gary was the Head of the Division of Cardiology, University Health Network and Mount Sinai Hospital from 2009 through 2013. He was appointed Physician-in-Chief at Mount Sinai Hospital in November 2013.

Gary is a graduate of the University of Toronto Medical School. He completed internal medicine at the University of Toronto, and training in adult cardiology at the University of Ottawa Heart Institute. This was followed by specialty training in heart failure, combined with an integrative cardiac physiology fellowship at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto.



Cynthia Damba, MBChB, MHSc
Senior Planner/Epidemiologist, Toronto Central LHIN

Cynthia joined Toronto Central LHIN 8 years ago and is a Senior Planner/Epidemiologist in the Performance Measurement & Information Management Department. Presently, in addition to other projects, she is the co-lead for the Equity initiative and has managed the standardized equity data collection project. She is also in charge of the Quality portfolio as well as a subject matter expert on Mental Health and Addictions.

Cynthia is a foreign trained physician with extensive experience in the areas of health equity, population health surveillance and health care system performance measurement. Prior to joining TC LHIN she worked in different roles ranging from senior epidemiologist to senior research associate at various organizations like Toronto District Health Council, Ministry of health and Long Term Care and St Michael's Hospital, Centre for Research on Inner City Health. She managed various innovative system level projects such as "Health System Monitoring and Evaluation", "Toronto Small Planning Areas: A Population-Based Approach to Constructing New Health Planning Areas" and the Project for Ontario Women's Health Evidence-Based Report Card (POWER Study).



Karen Okrainec, MD MSc
General Internist, UHN
Incoming Clinician Scientist

Karen is a General Internist practicing at Toronto Western Hospital on the Internal Medicine in-patient units and consultative service. She recently completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the Institute for Clinical and Evaluative Sciences. Her research focused on studying health disparities among immigrants with chronic disease using large population-based databases and

has received local, national and international recognition. As a new Clinician Scientist, she is currently leading a multicenter study across Ontario that engages patients, caregivers, and health care providers to ensure discharge instructions are relevant, equitable and meaningful.



Lisa Richardson, MD MA
Division of General Internal Medicine, UHN
Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, University of Toronto
Curricular Co-Lead for Indigenous Health Education, University of Toronto

Lisa Richardson is an award-winning clinician-educator in the University of Toronto's Division of General Internal Medicine. Her academic interest lies in the integration of critical perspectives from the social sciences and humanities into medical education with a specific focus on equity and cultural safety. She currently practices at the Toronto Western Hospital where she is Site Director for the Core Internal Medicine Residency Program. She is Faculty co-Lead in Indigenous Medical Education for the University of Toronto's medical school and is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine. She is a 2014-2016 AMS Phoenix Fellow.



Caroline Bennett-AbuAyyash, PhD
Health Equity Project Coordinator, Mount Sinai Hospital

Caroline is the Health Equity Project Coordinator in the Human Rights and Health Equity Office at Mount Sinai Hospital. In this role she provides 17 hospitals in Toronto with evidence-driven recommendations for embedding standardized patient demographic data collection in their organization. Caroline's primary interest is in advancing data-driven health equity for marginalized populations and has previously published and worked in areas of

immigrant access to social services, immigrant integration, and the impact of poverty on health. She received her PhD in Social Psychology from the University of Western Ontario (London, ON) with an interdisciplinary concentration in migration.



Fran Odette
Part-Time Faculty, George Brown College
**Senior Research Consultant, Institute for Research on Development
on Inclusion and Society**

Fran has worked in the area of social justice and equity for approximately 20 years, with a particular focus on issues impacting women with disabilities and Deaf women. Fran comes to this work from her own lived experience and as

someone who is committed to advocating that people with disabilities live their lives with self-determination and agency. She works closely with service providers working with people with disabilities to ensure that programs reflect a human rights perspective, which include working from a place of respect and dignity. She has delivered workshops on healthy relationships and violence against people with disabilities to audiences both provincially and nationally.

Currently, Fran is the Senior Research Consultant with the Institute for Research and Development on Inclusion and Society (IRIS). As an educator, Fran has been a guest lecturer at Ryerson University, York University and University of Toronto, and is currently, part-time faculty in the Assaulted Women and Children's Counsellor and Advocate (AWCCA) Program at George Brown College. Fran has written and co-authored journal articles related to gender, disability and violence. She co-authored with Cory Silverberg and Dr. Miriam Kaufman, a book entitled "The Ultimate Guide to Sex and Disability – For All of Us Who Live with Disabilities, Chronic Pain and Illness".



Carla Rice, PhD
Founder, Project Re•Vision
Canada Research Chair in Care, Gender and Relationships,
University of Guelph

Carla is a leader in the field of body image and of embodiment studies in Canada. She is a founding member and former director of innovative initiatives such as the Body Image Project at Women's College Hospital in Toronto and Canada's National Eating Disorder Information Centre. Her research explores cultural representations and narratives of body and identity. Over the past five years, Dr. Rice has developed a dynamic research program through her CRC appointment, achieving full professorship and expanding her research program and profile extensively. She founded Project Re•Vision and the Revisioning Differences Media Arts Laboratory (REDLAB), an assemblage of cutting-edge research projects and a state-of-the-art media lab using innovative arts-informed research to understand and intervene in the misrepresentation and marginalization of disenfranchised groups within institutions and broader society.

Carla has written extensively on issues of identity and embodiment and has published in national and international journals, including *Feminism & Psychology*, *Body Image*, *Women's Studies International Forum*, *Ethics, Medicine and Public Health*, *Cultural Studies <=> Critical Methodologies*, and *The Journal of Eating Disorder Treatment and Prevention*, among others. Recent books include *Gender and Women's Studies in Canada: Critical Terrain* (2013), and *Becoming Women: The Embodied Self in Image Culture* (2014).