

Confirmed Speakers:

- **Nisha Almeida** is a Research Scientist at the Technology Assessment Unit of the McGill University Health Centre. She has a BSc in Molecular Biology and a PhD in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from McGill University. Her doctoral research focused on the patterns and consequences of prenatal antidepressant use among women with chronic conditions, during which she honed her abilities of working with large administrative health databases. Nisha has also researched novel techniques of quantifying maternal active and passive exposure to tobacco smoke. She is particularly interested in harnessing hospital data to improve health outcomes and services.
- **Marc Beltempo** is a Neonatologist and Assistant Professor at McGill University Health Centre. His research focuses on evaluating how the organization of work affects outcomes of infants in the neonatal intensive care unit. Important contributors to variations in outcomes between neonatal intensive care units include variations in practice and in the organization of the units. Using clinical and administrative databases, he is studying the effects of different healthcare delivery models, team composition and resource allocation (nurse-to-patient ratios, physician-to-patient ratios and other healthcare providers) on quality of care and efficiency in the neonatal intensive care unit.
- **James Brophy** is the Chair of the Policy Committee of the Technology Assessment Unit of the McGill University Health Centre. He is a practicing cardiologist with a PhD in Epidemiology and Biostatistics. He is a funded scholar from les Fonds de Recherche du Quebec (Santé) with a chair in health technology assessment and evidence based medicine. His research interests center on cardiovascular epidemiology with a special interest in pharmacoepidemiology, outcomes research, medical decision making as well as health technology assessments, including economic analyses. He has published over 150 peer reviewed articles. He is a full professor in the departments of medicine and epidemiology and biostatistics at McGill University.
- **Nandini Dendukuri** is Director of the Technology Assessment Unit of the McGill University Health Centre. She is also an Associate Professor at the Department of Medicine, McGill University, Montreal. Her research program in the area of developing Bayesian statistical methods for health technology assessment of diagnostic studies is supported by grants from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC).

- **Felipe Forero** is a Research Assistant at the Technology Assessment Unit of the McGill University Health Centre. He holds a degree in Medicine from Columbia, an MSc in Health Economics from the University Pompeu Fabra of Barcelona and an MSc in Health Technology Assessment from the University of Montreal. His main interests include: Economic evaluation of drugs and medical devices, disease modeling, Budget Impact Analysis (BIA), systematic literature review, and rapid health technology assessment.
- **Carolyn Freeman**, Chair, Clinical Pertinence Committee, McGill University Health Centre. Professor, Division of Radiation Oncology, Department of Medicine, McGill University
- **E. Marc Jolicoeur**, MD MSc MHS FRCP-C FCCS FSCAI is an Associate Professor of Clinic at the Université de Montréal and an interventional cardiologist specialized in advanced coronary artery disease and refractory angina at the Montreal Heart Institute. He received his MD degree in 2000 from the Université of Montréal (Canada) and obtained his specialty board in cardiology in 2006, followed by a fellowship at Duke University. His research interest revolves around the innovative trial designs, including randomized registry trials, Bayesian statistics and adaptive randomization. He runs a large clinic specialized in refractory angina.
- **Laurie Lambert**, completed most of her undergraduate studies in Canada at University of New Brunswick, University of British Columbia and York University in Toronto while playing field hockey for Canada. She then obtained a master degree in public health, research methods and biostatistics from the University of Western Australia. Dr. Lambert completed her PHD at the same university with help from an Australian National Health and Medical Research Council trainee scholarship.

Since 2004, Dr. Lambert has worked at the “Institut National d’Excellence en Santé et en Services Sociaux” (INESSS) in Montreal, Quebec. She is presently the scientific coordinator of the Cardio-neuro vascular Evaluation Unit.

- **Maurice McGregor**, MB, BCH, md, FRCP©, FRCP (Lond), FACC trained in Medicine at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, and following military service in World War II, studied Cardiology in London, England.

From 1950 he was a clinician, teacher, and researcher at his Alma Mater until 1957 when he joined the faculty of McGill University in Montréal, Canada. He has served terms as Head of Cardiology, and Physician in Chief of the Royal Victoria Hospital, in Montréal, and as Dean of Medicine and Vice Principal of McGill University. He has also served terms as Bethune Exchange Professor at Peking Medical College (1973), and as Dean of Medicine of his alma mater (1984-87). He has published over 180 articles, chiefly in the fields of cardiovascular disease, cardiovascular physiology and pharmacology, medical education and health policy. Dr. McGregor has had experience as both a consumer and a producer of HTAs and Clinical Practice

Guidelines, the former as a member of numerous hospitals' Governing Boards, and the latter as the founding President of Quebec's HTA agency, the Conseil d'évaluation des technologies de la santé du Québec (1988 to 1994), as a founding Board member of the Canadian Coordinating Office for Health Technology Assessment, and as Chair and Editor of Canada's Guidelines for the Management of Breast Cancer (1994-98). He is a Cardiologist, and a Prof Emeritus at McGill University, and is Chair of the Technology Assessment Unit of the McGill University Health Centre

- **Robert Platt** is Professor in the departments of Pediatrics in addition to Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Occupational Health (EBOH) at McGill University, where he holds the Albert Boehringer I endowed chair in Pharmacoepidemiology. He is the leader of the Methods team of the Canadian Network for Observational Drug Effect Studies (CNODES). His main research interests are statistical methods and applications for administrative data, pharmacoepidemiology, perinatal epidemiology, and methods for causal inference from epidemiological studies.
- **Thomas G. Poder** is a health economist specialized in HTA and health preferences. He holds a Ph.D. from the CERDI, University of Auvergne, France. He is actually researcher at the Centre de recherche du CHUS and HTA specialist at the HB-HTA unit of the CIUSSS de l'Estrie - CHUS. He is also the editor in chief of IJHBHTA, a journal dedicated to HB-HTA.
- **Marc Rhainds**, Certified specialist in Community Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (1992) and holder of a Master's degree in Epidemiology (1992) at Laval University. He is a clinical Professor of the Department of Preventive and social Medicine at Laval University since 1995. He has held various positions as medical advisor and expert in the public Health network of Québec from 1992 to 2009 and in environmental health research fields from 1994 to 2008 at the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Québec. He is currently medical and scientific coordinator of the Health technology assessment unit at the CHU de Québec-Université Laval since 2006.
- **John Kildea** is a medical physicist at the MUHC, junior investigator at the RI-MUHC, and assistant professor in Oncology at McGill University.

Dr. Kildea's background is in astrophysics, with a PhD in high-energy astrophysics from University College Dublin and postdocs at McGill and at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. As a medical physicist, Dr. Kildea's research interests include neutron-induced carcinogenesis, quality and safety in radiation oncology, and health informatics. Dr. Kildea is vice-chair of the Canadian Partnership for Quality Radiotherapy, an alliance of the national professional associations involved in Canadian radiation oncology. Together with Prof. Laurie Hendren and Dr. Tarek Hijal, Dr. Kildea co-created the Opal patient portal project in

Quebec (opalmedapps.com). Opal is currently in use at the MUHC and is being expanded to at least five other cancer centres in the province.

- **Dr. Daniel Thirion** is currently Full Clinical Professor of pharmacy at the Université de Montréal where his teaching responsibilities are focused on infectious diseases pharmacotherapy. He is also pharmacist at the McGill University Health Center.

He earned his Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the College of Pharmacy at Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan (1999), his Bachelor of Pharmacy (1996) and Masters of Science (1997) from Université de Montréal, Montreal, Quebec. He completed post-doctoral training in infectious diseases at University of California, San Francisco. He is recognized as Fellow of the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists.

His research and clinical practice focuses on antibiotic stewardship; the impact of antimicrobial use on emerging diseases and development of resistance, and appropriate use of antimicrobials in clinical practice. He has published over 100 articles and book chapters, served as invited speaker for over 400 conferences, and trained numerous pharmacy graduate students. Numerous awards demonstrate the quality of practice and excellence in research and teaching.

- **Isabelle Ganache** completed a Ph.D. in bioethics at the Université de Montréal in 2006. She then pursued her interest in the integration of ethics at the Agence d'évaluation des technologies et des modes d'intervention en santé (AETMIS) in a project related to genetic policy. At the Commissaire à la santé et au bien-être (2007-2016), she participated in the evaluation of the performance of the health and social services system and actualized a vision of ethics related to citizen and stakeholder participation. Member and chair of ethics committees from 2002 to 2014, she also has an expertise in responsible conduct of research. Since 2012, Isabelle has been a clinical assistant professor in the bioethics programs at the Université de Montréal.

Before acting as a senior scientific professional in ethics at INESSS, since 2016, she was member of the Standing Scientific Committee on Health and Social Services of the organization(2011-2016). Since 2017, she is the scientific coordinator of the "Methodology, Ethics and Participation" Unit of the Vice Presidency of Science and Clinical Governance.

- **Tarek Hijal MD, C.M., M.Sc., FRCPC**
Director, Division of Radiation Oncology, McGill University Health Centre
Associate Professor, Department of Oncology, Division of Radiation Oncology, Faculty of Medicine, McGill University.

His research focuses on assessing new radiation treatments for breast and rectal cancers, such as one-day radiation treatments for breast cancer. He is also involved in improving radiotherapy care through the use of databases and machine learning.