

Pre-Conference: May 29th
Forum: May 30th — 31st
Kelowna, British Columbia

wcaf

Conference Agenda

Coming Together.
Building Connections.
Challenging our Differences.

REGISTER

More Information:
wcaforum.com

Contact Us:
info@wcaforum.com



Western Canada Addiction Forum Planning Committee

Dr. Rob Tanguay, BSc (Hons), MD, FRCPC, CISAM, CCSAM, Conference Co-Chair
Calgary, Alberta

Dr. Annabel Mead, MBBS DipABAM, Conference Co-Chair
Vancouver, British Columbia

Dr. George Budd, Pharm.D., FBCCSU, B.Sc. (Pharm)., R.PEBC., R.Ph.
Vancouver, British Columbia

Robert De Clark, MSW
Victoria, British Columbia

Joan Hollihan, B. Comm
Calgary, Alberta

Dr. Martha J. Ignaszewski, MD, FRCPCP, DiplABPN, DiplISAM, DiplABPM
Vancouver, British Columbia

Dr. Morris Markentin, M.D., CCFP (AM), FCFP
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

The Western Canada Addiction Forum would like to acknowledge the land on which we gather is the unceded territory of the Syilx (Okanagan) Peoples. The Syilx Okanagan Nation and their peoples have taken care of their homelands for thousands of years. The Western Canada Addiction Forum is respectful of the Syilx Okanagan Nation and their peoples, their history, knowledge and language, as well as their ongoing relationship to the land and natural world.

Overarching Event Learning Objectives

- Describe current treatment approaches to co-occurring mental health conditions in a range of substance use disorders.
- Employ new skills for addressing co-morbidities in the setting of addiction.
- Compare innovative, best practice treatments for substance use in special populations.

Accreditation:

The Canadian Addiction Counsellors Certification Federation has approved this conference for up to 12.00 continuing education hours (CEU's) that is valid for two years until April 9, 2027. This includes the Pre-Conference Workshop on May 29, 2025 and the Forum on May 30 & 31, 2025.

Session Number: 2025-4-001

Western Canada Addiction Forum

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP: MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING Thursday, May 29th

Learning Objectives:

- Apply core principles of Motivational Interviewing (MI), including open-ended questions, affirmations, reflective listening, and summarization (OARS), through interactive exercises and real-world case scenarios.
- Demonstrate MI-consistent communication strategies to enhance patient engagement and facilitate behavior change, using role-play and guided feedback
- Analyze common challenges and barriers in applying MI in clinical practice, and develop strategies to adapt MI techniques effectively to develop discrepancy and roll with resistance.

Distinguished Speakers:

- Dr. Wiplove Lamba
- Dr. Martha Ignaszewski
- Dr. Valerie Primeau

0800h - 0900h **Breakfast and Registration**
Columbia Room

0900h - 1200h **Workshop**
Columbia Room

1200h - 1300h **Lunch**
Columbia Room

1300h - 1600h **Workshop**
Columbia Room

Western Canada Addiction Forum

Friday, May 30th | Forum Day One

0715h - 0800h Breakfast and Registration
Okanagan Room and Grand Foyer

0800h - 0810h Welcome and housekeeping

0810h - 0820h Land Acknowledgement

0820h - 0830h Opening Remarks
Dr. Alex Caudarella

0830h - 0900h Review of Negative Studies of Involuntary Care
Dr. Robert Tanguay

Dr. Tanguay will present a narrative review exploring the negative 10 studies from the Systematic Review comparing involuntary and voluntary treatment for substance use disorders (SUDs). The review published in the Canadian Journal of Addiction psychiatry concluded there is a lack of high-quality evidence to support or refute involuntary treatment for SUD. Evidence-based interventions with opioid agonist treatment was key for patients with opioid use disorder. There was significant heterogeneity in the studies reviewed. Involuntary treatment demonstrated benefits in some of the negative studies.

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Discuss the current involuntary treatment criteria in Canada
- Review the existing literature around involuntary treatment and the negative studies published in the largest review done on the subject.
- Discuss current state and next steps regarding the treatment of individuals with complex concurrent disorders.

0900h - 0915h Moderated Question and Answer

0915h - 0935h Plenary Session
Okanagan Room

Business and Property Owners' Perceptions and Actions on Mental Health and Addictions

Lisa Baroldi

Mental health and addictions are crises in communities across our country. The negative impact of people suffering from mental health and addictions in our streets and in public spaces has an adverse impact on private property, with security and other costs being downloaded onto properties and businesses. Drug addiction and mental health challenges for vulnerable populations, rising crime, homelessness, and lack of safety and cleanliness are top concerns listed in national Leger surveys of businesses and citizens. The status quo is not working. What actions are business and property owners taking to address root causes and symptoms of mental health and addictions among vulnerable people?

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Understand public and private sector perceptions of mental health and addictions.
- Improve their communications with these groups.
- Utilize data that could be useful in their own research or work.

0935h - 0945h Moderated Question and Answer

0945h - 1015h Refreshment Break

Grand Foyer. Exhibitor Booths are open.

1015h - 1100h Keynote Panel: Policing and the Opioid Epidemic

The Opioid Epidemic from the Police Commission and Policy Perspective

Micki Ruth

This session will examine the impact of the opioid crisis on police planning, strategy and policy from a board perspective. It will address the challenges that the opioid crisis has had on each of these.

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Understand what is a police board or commission.
- Review how commissions can help to address the impact of the opioid crisis.
- Discuss an overview of the current challenges facing the police and the commissions as they address the opioid crisis.

Police Response to the Current Drug Crisis

Deputy Chief Katie McLellan, Calgary Police Service

In response to the current drug crisis, the Calgary Police Service has been implementing a comprehensive range of initiatives aimed at supporting those experiencing addiction, including call diversion and crisis response models, as well as shifting investigations to focus on individuals exploiting vulnerable populations. Deputy Chief McLellan's presentation will provide an overview of the CPS approach, emphasizing the importance of working together with partners for a community-led solution.

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Identify the current trends police officers are encountering in our communities.
- Explain how police services are innovating to focus

investigations and enforcement activity on those causing harm / exploiting vulnerable populations.

- Discuss opportunities to move forward together to reduce harm in our communities.

Leveraging Police & Health Data to Proactively Identify and Support Clients at High Risk: What is Currently Possible?
Superintendent Howard Tran, Vancouver Police Department

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Discuss the importance of using large-scale studies to assist in overdose risk assessment.
- Describe the current data available and its clinical relevance relating to overdose prevention.

1100h - 1115h Moderated Question and Answer

1115h - 1145h Lunch
Okanagan Room and Grand Foyer. Exhibitor Booths are open.

1145h - 1230h Sponsored Lunch Presentation
**non accredited activity*

1230h - 1240h Refreshment Break

1240h - 1255h Opening Remarks
Dr. Vijay Seethapathy

1255h - 1330h Keynote Panel: Benzodiazepines: Concurrent Harms

Benzodiazepine Withdrawal
Dr. Annabel Mead

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Review the range of substances found in the toxic drug supply in BC.
- Describe the clinical presentation of acute withdrawal from benzodiazepine-contaminated fentanyl.
- Discuss the pharmacological management of complicated withdrawal syndromes.

Outpatient Taper

Dr. Robert Tanguay

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Understand benzodiazepine pharmacology.
- Employ long term tapering techniques.
- Formulate a plan for difficult high dose benzodiazepine tapering.

1330h - 1345h Moderated Question and Answer

1345h - 1430h Psychiatric Assessment and Management of Acquired Brain Injury Among People Who Use Substances

Dr. Julius Elefante & Dr. Anyssa Shakeri to co-present

This interactive session will delve into the psychiatric assessment and management of acquired brain injury (ABI), with a specific focus on individuals who use substances. Designed for both psychiatrists who work in Concurrent Disorders and/or Consultation Liaison Psychiatry, the course will explore how substance use complicates psychiatric presentations following ABI, such as traumatic brain injury, stroke, or other neurological insults. This session will describe the latest evidence on the interplay between substance use and psychiatric symptoms post-ABI, as well as practical approaches to their management. The session will cover pharmacologic treatments tailored to this unique population and behavioral strategies that account for the complexities of substance use. By the end of the session, participants will be equipped with insights on aligning their clinical practice with current best practices, ultimately improving the care and outcomes for patients with ABI who use substances.

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Describe acquired brain injury as a common sequela of substance use disorder and opioid overdoses.
- Identify common psychiatric presentations following acquired brain injury in individuals who use substances and understand key considerations in their assessment.
- Review the evidence and evaluate the practical considerations around the pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic management of agitation and other psychiatric symptoms in the context of both ABI and substance use.

1430h - 1445h Moderated Question and Answer

1445h - 1515h Refreshment Break

Grand Foyer. Exhibitor Booths are open.

1515h - 1600h Keynote Panel: Pain and Addiction

The Differential Diagnosis of Opioid Use Disorder in a Person with Pain

Dr. Joel Bordman

Dr. Bordman has obtained credentials from Canadian and international organizations in Addiction and Chronic Pain. He is the medical director of the complex pain program at First Step and Sunrise Medical clinics. He has had a focus practice in Pain / Addiction since 1997. He has developed this talk to help other health care providers improve their skills in the complex patient with pain and addiction. The goal is to help patients obtain the best therapy to meet their needs and improve outcomes while limiting harms.

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Review a differential diagnosis of opioid dependence.

- Formulate possible treatments for problematic opioid use.
- Assist primary care doctors in their management of problematic opioid use patients.

The Interface of Pain and Substance Use

Dr. Launette Rieb

The interplay between pain and substance use is complex and nuanced. This session will provide an overview of key aspects of this interaction so that practitioners can better explain the neurochemistry and the need for cotreatment to patients. Participants will learn the essential skill of doing dose calculations for alcohol, cannabis, and nicotine in order to begin an informed conversation. Research and a case on opioid induced hyperalgesia, and withdrawal-associated injury site pain will be provided along with language to share with patients.

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Grasp key concepts related to the emergence of pain and addiction.
- Explain how certain substances alter pain perception.
- Outline concurrent disorder co-management strategies needed to effectively treat pain in those with or at risk for addiction.

1600h- 1615h Moderated Question and Answer

1615h - 1635h Neurobiology of the Orexin System: Implications for Sleep and Addiction

Dr. Shaohua Lu

DORA (dual orexin antagonist) has been approved for treatment of insomnia. This is a review the orexin system and its role in addiction and a specific focus on the clinical use of DORA for those with comorbid insomnia and addiction.

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Review the Orexin System and Its Role in Sleep and Addiction.
- Explore Findings on Dual Orexin Receptor Antagonists (DORAs) Examine the latest research on DORAs, focusing on their use in treating sleep disorders and potential applications in addiction.
- Understand the Safety of Orexin Antagonists in Addiction Treatment Assess the safety of orexin antagonists, particularly their impact on reducing cravings and preventing relapse in addiction treatment.

1635h - 1645h Moderated Question and Answer

1645h - 1705h Keynote Panel: The Family Perspective

The Changing Perspectives and Ability to Cope of Family Caregivers Over Time

Angie Hamilton

Angie will discuss how her journey of recovery from her son's addiction involved all five emotions in the Kubler-Ross Model of the stages of grief. With increased understanding of addiction and concurrent conditions comes acceptance, improved ability to cope and hope. All of this contributes to more effective caregiving. Considering where family caregivers are in their journey will help healthcare providers better understand their needs. Helping the family caregiver helps their loved one struggling with addiction.

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Identify the ways in which a family caregiver's understanding, perspective and ability to cope can change over time.
- Explain the importance of meeting family caregivers where they are at.
- Increase understanding of the importance of family caregivers to the person struggling with addiction.

Recovery is a Family Journey

Lerena Greig

Lerena Greig will be providing a bit of her own journey as a person of lived recovery and the impact on the family who support a loved one who struggles with addiction.

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Understand the definition of family recovery.
- Learn that there is power in knowledge and community.
- Understand that wellbeing can be a catalyst for change.

1705h - 1715h Moderated Question and Answer

1715h - 1730h Closing Remarks

1730h Conclusion of Day One

1930h Networking and Welcome Reception

Western Canada Addiction Forum

Saturday, May 31st | Forum Day Two

0715h - 0800h Breakfast and Registration
Okanagan Room and Grand Foyer

0800h - 0830h Announcements and Innovation Awards

0830h - 0845h Opening Remarks
Dr. Daniel Vigo

0845h - 0930h Keynote Panel: Alcohol Use Disorder

Alcohol Home Detox: Calgary RAAM perspective
Dr. Mohamed Moseli

Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) is a significant public health concern in Canada, with various studies indicating its prevalence across different demographics and contexts. The prevalence of AUD in Canada is estimated to be around 12% among adults aged 15 and older, with variations based on factors such as gender, age, and socioeconomic status. Moreover, the prevalence of heavy episodic drinking has been a growing concern, particularly among specific populations such as frontline workers during the pandemic, where no significant differences in increased alcohol consumption were observed compared to non-frontline essential workers. Outpatient treatment for AUD involves a multifaceted approach that combines pharmacotherapy, psychosocial interventions, and integrated care for co-occurring disorders. This comprehensive strategy aims to

provide individuals with the necessary tools and support to manage their alcohol use effectively while addressing the broader psychosocial factors that contribute to their condition. Outpatient treatment options for Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD) encompass a variety of pharmacological and psychosocial interventions designed to support individuals in managing their condition effectively. These treatments are crucial as they allow patients to maintain their daily routines while receiving care, which can enhance treatment adherence and overall outcomes. The Rapid Access Addictions Medicine (RAAM) outpatient model of care in Alberta represents a significant evolution in the approach to treating substance use disorders (SUDs). This model is designed to provide immediate access to addiction treatment services, thereby addressing the urgent needs of individuals struggling with substance use. The RAAM model emphasizes the importance of timely intervention, which is crucial given the high rates of morbidity and mortality associated with substance use disorders .

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Identify current outpatient approaches for the treatment of AUD.
- Become familiar with the RAAM alcohol Home Detox protocol and its utility, including indications and contraindications of using the protocol.
- Compare the RAAM alcohol Home Detox protocol to alternative outpatient approaches of managing AUD.

Medications Treating Depression in Alcohol Use Disorder

Dr. Nick Mathew

This presentation will provide an evidence based guidance in the treatment of major depressive disorder in the context of concurrent alcohol use disorder.

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Provide a brief overview of the evidence regarding the use of antidepressant medication in those with concurrent alcohol use disorder and major depressive disorder.

- Discuss how different points of view may emerge by looking at the same evidence.
- Provide practical guidance on how to treat those with concurrent alcohol use disorder and major depressive disorder.

Psychiatric Co-morbidities of Alcohol Use Disorder

Dr. Marlon Danilewitz

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Outline an approach to distinguishing between substance induced vs primary psychiatric comorbidities in the context of AUD.
- Review the evidence surrounding treatments for comorbid AUD and MDD.
- Discuss the importance of integrated treatment to comorbid AUD and MDD.

0930h - 0945h Moderated Question and Answer

0945h - 1015h Refreshment Break

Grand Foyer. Exhibitor Booths are open.

1015h - 1100h Breakout 1

Okanagan Room

Recovery vs. Addiction: A Shift to Building Strengths Rather than Managing Deficits

Dr. Paul Farnan

This presentation will explore the paradigm shift from a deficit-based approach to addiction treatment to a recovery-oriented model, emphasizing the importance of recovery journeys as experienced by individuals in recovery. The session will provide a background on the emergence of the term 'recovery,' which is often misunderstood by health professionals, the power of connection and introduce the concepts of recovery capital and

recovery-oriented systems of care (ROSC). Attendees will gain insights into how a holistic approach that focuses on building strengths and long-term well-being can transform outcomes for those dealing with addiction.

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Define recovery as it relates to addiction, especially as understood by individuals in recovery, contrasting it with traditional abstinence-based treatments.
- Differentiate between an addiction-focused approach that centers on deficits and a recovery-focused approach that builds on strengths and resilience.
- Identify the components of recovery capital, and explain their critical role in sustaining long-term recovery outcomes.
- Describe recovery-oriented systems of care (ROSC), understanding how they integrate services across healthcare, social, and community sectors to support sustainable recovery.
- Incorporate recovery-focused strategies into clinical practice, creating supportive, recovery-friendly environments that prioritize well-being, personal empowerment, and resilience over merely managing symptoms of addiction.

Public Health and Recovery

Dr. Mohamed Moseli

Public Health and Recovery: Addiction is recognized by the scientific community as a multifaceted psycho-socio-biological-spiritual disease that is relapsing and remitting. While most scientific bodies agree on this definition, policy on addressing addictions and substance use disorder vary considerably. Approaches on treatment of substance use disorder range from supporting complete abstinence from substances as the most suitable treatment option, to harm reduction. While these approaches are largely seen as non-overlapping, both are components of the public health approach to substance use.

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Identify current policies for managing substance use disorder.
- Recognize the big picture approach of Public Health to substance use disorder management, and Identify potential areas of collaborations and partnerships when addressing substance use disorder.
- Discuss different controversies and misconception that have clouded current efforts in addressing the ongoing substance use disorder crisis in Canada.

1015h - 1100h Breakout 2
South Room

Psychosis on the Streets: What can we do? What should we do?

Dr. Dave Tano

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Outline the need to consider concurrent treatment with People suffering from Addictions, especially those on the streets.
- Discuss some approaches that people have tried to help this marginalized population.
- Discuss potential approach to help this difficult population.

**Toxic drugs and the impact on concurrent disorders:
transforming the BC system of care to address the new clinical triad**

Dr. Daniel Vigo

Dr. Vigo will describe the emergence of the new clinical triad in people in BC who have a substance use disorder, severe mental illness and acquired brain injury. The needs of this population represent an unprecedented health emergency and the care options for these individuals requires new solutions. My recommendations for health care system transformation to care for these people will be presented and discussed.

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Understand the importance and limitations of data and evidence in designing and implementing health systems transformation
- Familiarizing the audience with the transformation of the system for MHSU care in BC
- Navigating the societal shifts in emphasis of the role of involuntary care for people with severe mental illness: from a focus on its potential misuse and impingement on freedoms, to its role ensuring access to care and restituting the conditions for autonomy.

1100h - 1115h Moderated Question and Answer

1115h - 1145h Lunch

Okanagan Room and Grand Foyer. Exhibitor Booths are open.

1145h - 1230h Sponsored Lunch Presentation

**non accredited activity*

1230h - 1245h Refreshment Break

1245h - 1330h Breakout 3

South Room

Virtual Care in Western Canada

Virtual Supervised Consumption with NORS and DORS

Dr. Monty Ghosh

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Learn about virtual addictions management and treatment options including rural and urban initiatives.
- Learn about virtual harm reduction initiatives.

- Discuss how to create seamless care in transitional care using virtual platforms.

Update from British Columbia

Dr. Jessica Hann

Dr. Jessica Hann will be providing an update of virtual substance use care in BC.

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Overview of virtual substance use services available in BC (including the Lighthouse Virtual Substance Use Clinic).
- Overview of Access Central virtual detox triage.
- Discuss future plans for expansion.

Current Innovations in Virtual Addiction Care - Alberta Update

Dr. Nathaniel Day

This session will describe the current state of VODP, VRAAM and Asynchronous Telehealth innovation for Alberta provincial corrections.

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Describe the structure and function of Alberta's virtual opioid dependency program and its role in expanding access to opioid use disorder treatments across diverse populations.
- Analyze the implementation and early outcomes of the Virtual Rapid Access Addiction Medicine service.
- Explore the concept of Asynchronous telehealth and its power to effectively support assessment and treatment for opioid use disorder in the correctional health setting.

1245h - 1330h Breakout 4
Okanagan Room

Pumping up your Communication Skills: Difficult Conversations

Dr. Wiplove Lamba

In substance use healthcare, we regularly have to have difficult conversations, with patients, with colleagues and sometimes ourselves. Here we will cover basic approaches pulled from principles of motivational interviewing (Bill Miller and Steven Rollnick), dialectical behaviour therapy (Marsha Linehan), and non-violent communication (Marshall Rosenberg). This will give the attendee a framework for dialogue depending on the situation, as well a roadmap for further skill development.

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Describe the key approaches that overlap in Rogerian Therapy and Motivational interviewing that can lead to building rapport.
- Explore the balance of acceptance and change as it relates to their ability to effectively communicate direct recommendations to people with cluster B personality traits.
- List the key components of non-violent communication, and delineate how it may apply to the clinical encounter.

1330h - 1345h Moderated Question and Answer

1345h - 1400h Breakout 5
Okanagan Room

Promising Practices of Substance Use Services within Foundry's Integrated Stepped Care Model

Amelia Birch

Foundry is a network of integrated youth services across British Columbia that offers accessible, wrap-around services for young people between the ages of 12-24, as well as their families and/ or caregivers. Our panel presentation will provide an overview of Foundry's clinical context within in BC's substance use service continuum, as well as the service model that supports clients to navigate substance use more safely and effectively while promoting

personal and community well-being. Examples of Foundry Substance Use programs, pilot projects, and research initiatives will be provided to highlight the importance of meaningful relationships and engagement, community specific interventions and culturally relevant programs, when considering adolescents and young adults who use substances. We will conclude by asking “Where do we go from here? What is next?”

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Understand the importance of Foundry’s Substance Use Service Model within BC’s system of care.
- Review promising practices and research outcomes from operating Foundry centres across BC.
- Provide an overview of the future direction of Foundry’s integrated youth-orientated Substance Use Services.

1345h - 1400h Breakout 6
South Room

A Three Year Follow up Study on Recidivism Rates Among Offenders Admitted to VisionQuest Recovery Society’s Substance Use Treatment Program at Logan Lake

Megan Worley

VisionQuest Recovery Society is a non-profit 80-bed supportive recovery organization specifically focusing on substance use disorders. For the purposes of this study, the focus is strictly on the primary facility, a 60-bed 1st stage facility for men located in Logan Lake operating a minimum 6-month program. 38% of admissions identify as indigenous and 84% of total residents enter from the corrections system with prolific criminal histories.

Impact measurements to determine efficacy in the substance treatment and recovery sector are limited simply because long term abstinence is difficult to measure accurately. However, impacts on the justice system as a result of substance use and abuse are quantifiable. 55% of Canadian inmates attribute their offence

directly or indirectly to the use of substances. The focus that VisionQuest places on working with individuals entrenched in the justice system allows for a unique impact measurement based on recidivism rates. This report explores the efficacy of VisionQuest's Logan Lake program in fostering abstinence and crime-free behaviour among clients with criminal backgrounds.

This analysis confirms the clients who entered the program with a criminal history are a highly recidivistic group, generally having a history of committing crimes at a rate of more than three (i.e., 3.4) per year - with virtually no differences between Indigenous and non-Indigenous clients. Previous research indicates that we should not only expect individuals with such recidivist criminal histories to continue offending at a prolific rate, but we should also expect that to be even more the case when those individuals use drugs and/or alcohol and when they have histories of crimes involving violence (as is the case with 70% of VisionQuest clients). However, this was not the case for the VisionQuest clients who became substantial stayers. 44% of indigenous and 52% of non-indigenous clients who stayed longer than 3 months remained crime free for the duration of the 36 months covered in the study. VisionQuest reduced the annual crime volume of its clients overall by 55% over the three-year study period.

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Quantify the impact of substance use treatment and recovery on the criminal justice system.
- Recognize the similarities in recovery success between indigenous and non-indigenous residents in spite of research indicating otherwise.
- Perceive the correlation between length of time spent in recovery and long term sustained success.

1400h - 1415h Moderated Question and Answer

1415h - 1430h Refreshment Break

Grand Foyer. Exhibitor Booths are open.

1430h - 1450h Healing with Community Members

Dr. Sheila Peters

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- To value the truth in the experiences of Indigenous peoples in Emergency Medicine as a vital step towards reconciliation.
- To illustrate the work of the environmental scan of Indigenous Health curriculum.
- To provide care providers with a “toolkit” to feel personally and professionally strengthened to be allies in safely caring for Indigenous community members in emergency medicine.

1450h - 1500h Moderated Question and Answer

1500h - 1510h 10 Pearls of Treating Addiction Medicine - A Survival Guide for the Practitioner

Dr. Joel Bordman

Dr. Bordman has obtained credentials from Canadian and international organizations in Addiction and Chronic Pain. He is the medical director of the complex pain program at First Step and Sunrise Medical clinics. He has had a focus practice in Pain / Addiction since 1997. He has developed this seminar after seeing many colleagues “burn out” for several different reasons in these fields of medicine. It is hoped that this seminar will increase the ability for health care providers to have a long and fruitful career in this challenging area of medicine.

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Analyze their practice for potential issues of future ‘burn out’. Integrate different skills and knowledge into their practice to ultimately improve outcomes.
- Design a plan for teaching addiction / pain skills to other health care providers.

1510h - 1520h Moderated Question and Answer

1520h - 1530h What We Carry with Us

Dr. Sharon Vipler

This session invites participants to engage in introspective reflection. We will explore how our ideas and lived experiences are carried into clinical spaces with us and invariably impact how we show up and how we experience the work that we do. We will explore how this impacts our experience and ultimately our resilience as health care providers.

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Identify and reflect on personal biases.
- Equipped to identify and examine rigidity in one's identity.
- Reflect on how this (learning obj 2) may impact how health care providers experience wellness in their jobs.

1530h - 1540h Moderated Question and Answer

1540h - 1630h Keynote Panel: Perspectives of Long Acting Buprenorphine

Innovative Initiation

Dr. Pouya Azar

This talk will explore the challenges of buprenorphine induction in patients using unregulated fentanyl, including the impact of opioid tolerance and the neurobiological factors contributing to induction difficulties. Dr. Azar will also review emerging evidence on rapid and extended-release buprenorphine protocols being used across North America.

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Understand objective opioid tolerance in patients who use unregulated fentanyl.
- Explore the neural biological basis of buprenorphine induction challenge.

- Examine the evidence and gain an understanding of rapid and extended-release buprenorphine induction protocols currently being used widely in North America.

Perspectives of LA BUP: Transitioning from methadone

Dr. Annabel Mead

Many patients are keen to explore the possibility of switching their OAT to long-acting injectable buprenorphine (LAIB), often provoking anxiety for their prescribers to develop a safe treatment plan.

At the conclusion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Explore the potential methods for transitioning patients from methadone to long-acting buprenorphine.
- Identify patients characteristics and setting that impact choice of method.

1630h - 1640h Moderated Question and Answer

1640h - 1700h Closing Remarks and Passport Draw

1700h Conference Concludes

Meet our Workshop Presenters and Moderators



Dr. Martha Ignaszewski

MD, FRCPC

Dr. Ignaszewski is a Harvard and UCSF trained psychiatrist with board certification in Adult, Addiction, and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in Canada and the USA. She is the Senior Medical Director of Substance Use and Concurrent Disorders and the Clinical Lead of the Substance Use Response and Facilitation (SURF) Service at BC Children's and Women's Hospital, and works as the Education Lead and Consulting Psychiatrist with the Complex Pain and Addiction Service (CPAS) at Vancouver General Hospital. She is also an early career researcher and a Research Scientist Co-Lead of the Substance Use Disorder Clinical Research Unit at the Hope to Health Research & Innovation Complex with the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Ignaszewski is passionate about medical education and working with learners across the educational spectrum. Reducing the stigma of addiction and psychiatric conditions, and providing an understanding about the developmental perspective and impacts of social determinants of health on substance use disorders, and the intersection between addiction and concurrent disorders are areas of focus with learners and clinically. Dr. Ignaszewski possesses a background in clinical excellence and research and has held many leadership positions including past roles with the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry (AAAP) and American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP).

She has received many awards in recognition of her work including the inaugural WCAF Early Career Leadership Award in Opioid Use Disorder and is thrilled to be joining the WCAF Planning Committee, and previously has been awarded the ASAM Ruth Fox Scholarship Award, the AACAP Educational Outreach Program Award for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Residents and the Stuart J. Goldman Psychiatry Education Award, among others. Dr. Ignaszewski has been a speaker at national conferences including the American Psychiatric Association Annual Meeting, the

California Society of Addiction Medicine, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Meeting, and the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry, and served on the Scientific Program Committee for the 2020 Virtual Annual Conference. She has authored 33 peer reviewed publications and abstracts in notable journals.



Dr. Wiplove Lamba

MD, FRCPC

Wiplove Lamba, MD, FRCPC, is an addiction psychiatrist trained in several therapy modalities including motivational interviewing, dialectical behaviour therapy, and pain reprocessing therapy. He believes working with people who use drugs should be a general medical skills, and led several education initiatives over the last decade including Project ECHO Addiction Medicine and Psychosocial Interventions at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, as well as workshops at the local, provincial and national level. His current clinical work involves concurrent disorders, hospital based addiction care, addiction medicine and psychotherapy.



Dr. Valerie Primeau

MD, FRCPC

Valerie Primeau, MD, FRCPC, is a bilingual psychiatrist practicing in North Bay, Ontario. Passionate about quality improvement, leadership, and advocacy, she currently serves as the Medical Director of the Department of Psychiatry and Head of Service for Community Mental Health and Addictions at North Bay Regional Health Centre (NBRHC). Dr. Primeau has played a key role in the treatment of concurrent disorders, including leading NBRHC's implementation of medically-supervised withdrawal management. She also led the rural implementation of the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) Integrated Care Pathway for treating alcohol use disorder and depression.

Dedicated to serving vulnerable populations, Dr. Primeau is the physician lead for the Rapid Access Addiction Medicine (RAAM) clinic and the Early Psychosis Intervention (EPI) program. She contributed to the Ontario Health EPI Task Group and participated in the EPI-SET research project with CAMH, which aimed to expand the NAVIGATE evidence-based treatment model for EPI across Ontario. She

was the recipient of the NOAMA Clinical Innovation Opportunities Funding for a research project on Substance use stigma among first responders and emergency department staff.

A committed advocate for medical education, Dr. Primeau has presented at numerous provincial and national conferences. She has served on the Ontario Health Alcohol Use Disorder Quality Standard Advisory Committee and was the Clinical Lead for the Withdrawal Management Standards with Addictions and Mental Health Ontario (AMHO). She is an active member of the Executive Committee of the Ontario Psychiatric Association (OPA), the Policy Committee of the Canadian Society of Addiction Medicine (CSAM), and the Section of Addiction Psychiatry at the Canadian Psychiatric Association (CPA). Recently, she became a founding board member and treasurer of the Canadian Academy for Addiction Psychiatry (CAAP).

Meet our Forum Presenters and Moderators



Dr. Pouya Azar
MD, FRCPC, DABAM

More information coming soon



Lisa Baroldi
President and CEO, BOMA Edmonton and North

Lisa Baroldi is an award-winning business and community leader. She is currently President and CEO of Building Owners and Managers Association of Edmonton and North (BOMA Edmonton and North). Prior to joining BOMA, Lisa was a senior advisor to the Canada-UAE Business Council in Toronto and Dubai, and executive director of an economic development authority in Northern Alberta. Other previous roles include associate editor of *Diplomat & International*

Magazine in Ottawa and CEO of Progress Unlimited, a global consulting firm that has been involved in many ground-breaking initiatives such as Canada's first New in Town Indigenous Welcome Service and Kahkiyaw, which is the first collaborative service delivery for urban Indigenous children, youth and families in Alberta. Through Progress, Lisa has provided economic, community, and business development services since 2007 in Canada, France, Sierra Leone, and the United Arab Emirates. She has obtained \$100 million dollars for projects since 2011 and has brought attention to and action on various issues.

In 2009, Lisa co-founded the national intercity exchange, Designing Downtown, which she conceived of while marketing commercial real estate in Western Canada, and continues to be passionate about city building. Lisa holds a master's degree from the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, and degrees from L'institute d'études politiques de Lyon and the University of Alberta, where she was awarded the Dr John MacDonald Medal in Arts for overall superior academic achievement in the BA Honours Program. In 2022, Lisa received an Indigenous Economic Partnership award, and, in 2024, an Edmonton CREW (women in real estate) Impact Award for fostering equity, diversity, and inclusion in the industry. In 2015, Lisa was selected for the prestigious Governor General's Canadian Leadership Conference. In 2012/13, she was named one of Edmonton's Top 40 under 40, Top 100 Women in Business, and Alberta Venture Magazine's Ten Rising Stars.

Lisa was born and raised in a remote rural community in northern Canada. She considers herself a global city builder with rural roots in Treaty 8 First Nations Territory and Métis Region 5. In everything she does, Lisa helps people and organizations reach their potential.



Amelia Birch

MSc(A), BSc, RN (C)

Amelia Birch, MSc(A), BSc, RN (C) received her Masters of Science (Applied) in Nursing from McGill University in 2012.

As a Registered Nurse with Certified Practice, she has worked in Urban low-barrier Primary Care outreach, crises response for priority populations, and offered acute and

community-based substance use education for health care providers.

She currently is the Lead for Primary Care and Substance Use at Foundry Central office, supporting centres across the Province to optimize integration both these area of care into their service models.



Dr. Joel Bordman

D.A.I.P.M., D.C.A.P.M., F.I.S.A.M.

Dr. Bordman has achieved credentials in both addiction and pain from international societies. He has lectured on these topics throughout Canada and Internationally.

Joel has mentored other Canadian health care providers on addiction and pain.

He has experience in Emergency Medicine, Palliative Care, Family Practice and Long Term Care.

Joel's main interest is in treating Opioid Addiction and assessing Chronic Pain treatment in the complex patient.



Dr. Alexander Caudarella

Chief Executive Officer of CCSA

Dr. Alexander Caudarella is a bilingual family physician with specialty training in substance use health issues.

As a leader and clinician, he brings years of collaborative substance use healthcare experience to CCSA from his work across the country. Previously, Alexander served as the medical director of substance use services (SUS) at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, and lead SUS physician with Inner City Health Associates. He has developed innovative clinical programs to decrease barriers to care and improve access to a better standard of care in hospitals, clinics and the community. In his work as a researcher and clinician he frequently advised public health officials on issues related to substance use health.

As one of the key leaders of the Toronto Opioid Overdose Action Network, Alexander coordinated the implementation of

in-hospital substance use components and developed a regional system to access rapid expert support. He has served as a substance use consultant and clinician for the Government of Nunavut. For more than a decade, Alexander worked on Indigenous-lead programs in Canada and abroad aimed at building capacity, decreasing stigma and building local workforces.

He joined CCSA as Chief Executive Officer in August 2022. Alexander believes his experiences help him understand and appreciate the diversity of substance use health services, challenges and opportunities that exist in our country. The organization's national mandate to empower people in Canada and government to focus on substance use issues, and its work to centre the voices of people who use substances and their families, drew him to CCSA.

Through CCSA's work with national and international partners, Alexander wants people in Canada to understand the scope of substance use health and the solutions they can put in place in their communities. He passionately believes that collaboration across sectors is essential in improving the health and well-being of people who use drugs and alcohol. This is a difficult time for people who use drugs and alcohol, as well as the families and health workers who care for them. Alexander is proud to work with the amazing team at CCSA to build hope, and continue to build Canada as an international leader in this area.



Dr. Marlon Danilewitz

M.D., CISAM, FRCPC

Dr. Marlon Danilewitz is an assistant professor at the University Toronto, department of psychiatry and the associate medical director of general psychiatry at Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences. He is the conference chair for the Canadian Psychiatric Association's annual meeting and co-chair of the Canadian Psychiatric Association's section on addiction psychiatry. Dr. Danilewitz completed his psychiatry residency and fellowship in addiction medicine at the University of British Columbia. His clinical and research interests include addiction psychiatry and treatment resistant schizophrenia.



Dr. Nathaniel Day
MD CCFP Dip. ABAM CHE

Dr. Nathaniel Day is the Chief Scientific Officer at the Canadian Centre of Recovery Excellence, providing expert guidance on program evaluation and development. Dr. Day is an addiction medicine specialist with a medical degree from the University of Alberta, serving as the Medical Director of Addiction with Recovery Alberta. He also served as the medical director for the Centennial Centre for Mental Health and Brain Injury, and Alberta's Virtual Opioid Dependency Program (VOPD). With his team at Alberta Health Services, he conceptualized and developed the innovative Virtual Opioid Dependency Program. Dr. Day also served on the Minister's Opioid Emergency Response Commission and co-chaired the Recovery Expert Advisory Panel. His work has been recognized by provincial and national bodies.



Dr. Julius Elefante
BSN, MD, FRCPC

Dr. Julius Elefante is a psychiatrist and Clinical Assistant Professor at the University of British Columbia. He completed his medical degree and residency in psychiatry at UBC, followed by an addiction medicine fellowship at St. Paul's Hospital and a postdoctoral research fellowship at Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions.

He works at St. Paul's Hospital as a consultant for the Addiction Medicine Consult Team and the Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry service. Additionally, he serves as the Co-Head of the Consultation-Liaison Program for the UBC Department of Psychiatry. Before pursuing medicine, Dr. Elefante worked as a registered nurse for several years.



Dr. Paul Farnan
MD, FCFPC, FASAM, dipl ABAM

Dr. Paul Farnan has over thirty years of experience in the fields of addiction medicine and occupational medicine, with a focus on shifting the narrative from managing addiction deficits to building strengths that support sustainable recovery. Board-certified in both Addiction Medicine and Family Medicine, he is a Clinical Associate Professor in the

Department of Family Practice at the University of British Columbia and an Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Simon Fraser University.

Dr. Farnan is particularly interested in advancing recovery-oriented approaches that prioritize connection, hope, meaning and empowerment rather than pathology. Over the past several years, his focus has increasingly turned to understanding and supporting natural recovery, emphasizing the critical role that workplaces can play in either facilitating or hindering an individual's recovery journey.



Dr. Monty Ghosh

MD FRCPC DM-EMDM ISAM(C) CSAM

As a Doctor of Internal Medicine and Addiction Medicine, Dr. Ghosh specializes in patient advocacy and community capacity building for vulnerable populations in Alberta. He splits his time between Calgary and Edmonton working with various groups to support marginalized populations. He is a researcher as well with both the University of Calgary and the University of Alberta.



Lerena Greig

Executive Director of Parents Empowering Parents (PEP) Society

Lerena Greig has worked in the non-profit sector for over 18 years in the field of addictions and mental health. She has presented all over Alberta with her lived experience and advocates for change. In 2019, she joined as a Director of the Board for Our House Addiction Recovery Centre. As Executive Director of Parents Empowering Parents (PEP) Society, Lerena oversees programming and development, resources, partnerships and staffing.

PEP is a registered charity that supports, educates and provides hope to families who have a loved one struggling with addiction. Lerena is passionate about empowering families and individuals to take that step into recovery and break the cycle of addiction.



Angie Hamilton

LL.B and Families for Addiction Recovery

Angie Hamilton is a retired lawyer, the Executive Director and Co-Founder of Families for Addiction Recovery (FAR) and the parent of a child who struggles with addiction. Angie is a member of the Policy Committee of the Canadian Society of Addiction Medicine and a Board Member of The Ontario Family Caregivers' Advisory Network. She was a member of the National Board of MADD Canada from 2014 to 2020 and the Chair of their Public Policy Committee.



Dr. Jessica Hann

Credentials coming soon

Dr. Jessica Hann has a split practice in Addiction Medicine and Emergency Medicine based in Vancouver. She completed the BC Centre on Substance use (BCCSU) Addiction Medicine fellowship and FRCPC training in Emergency Medicine. She is the Virtual Health Lead for Providence Health Care Substance Use Program, which oversees the Lighthouse Virtual Substance Use Clinic and Access Central virtual detox triage.



Dr. Wiplove Lamba

MD, FRCPC

Wiplove Lamba, MD, FRCPC, is an addiction psychiatrist trained in several therapy modalities including motivational interviewing, dialectical behaviour therapy, and pain reprocessing therapy. He believes working with people who use drugs should be a general medical skills, and led several education initiatives over the last decade including Project ECHO Addiction Medicine and Psychosocial Interventions at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, as well as workshops at the local, provincial and national level. His current clinical work involves concurrent disorders, hospital based addiction care, addiction medicine and psychotherapy.



Dr. Shaohua Lu

M.D. FRCPC

Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry,
University of British Columbia.

Addiction and Forensic Psychiatrist, Psychiatry Consultation
Liaison Services Vancouver General Hospital.



Dr. Nick Mathew

MD, ABPN, FRCPC

Dr. Nick Mathew completed an addiction psychiatry fellowship at Yale University and a forensic psychiatry fellowship at the University of British Columbia. He is board certified in addiction psychiatry, addiction medicine and forensic psychiatry. He is a clinical associate professor at the University of British Columbia and has won awards for teaching and research. He is currently serving as the medical director of complex mental health and substance use services at the Provincial Health Services Authority.



Katie McLellan

Deputy Chief, Calgary Police Service

Deputy Chief Katie McLellan has a unique perspective and background combining policing and security experience from both the private and public sectors. Her time spent as a security expert in the private sector highlighted to her the importance of building safe and resilient communities through partnership and collaboration with the community and she is a strong advocate for crime prevention through social development.

Having immigrated to Calgary from her home in Scotland, Deputy Chief McLellan joined the Calgary Police Service in 1987. For the next thirteen years she worked in the Communications Section and as a general duty patrol Constable and Sergeant in Districts 4 and 3. Those early years engaged in grass roots community policing taught her that the police alone cannot prevent and solve crime without support from communities and partner social agencies committed to improving the lives of all Calgarians.

Deputy Chief McLellan possesses a Bachelor of Professional

Arts degree (Criminal Justice, Athabasca University). She is a graduate of the Senior Management Institute for Police and holds a Corporate Executive Diploma from the Faculty of Business, University of Alberta as well as numerous certificates including Senior Police Management, Police Leadership Supervisory Skills and a Criminal Justice-Law Enforcement Diploma. Deputy Chief McLellan has been trained as a Hostage Negotiator, an Emergency Operation Centre Lead and an Incident Management Team Commander.

Deputy Chief McLellan is the recipient of the Police Exemplary Service Medal, Alberta Police Officer Centennial Medal, Alberta Emergency Services Medal, Calgary Police Distinguished Service Medal and the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal.



Dr. Annabel Mead

MBBS, FACHAM, DABAM

Physician (Specialist in Addiction Medicine)

Practicing addiction medicine for over 20 years with expertise in women's health, concurrent psychiatric disorders and pain management. She is a Fellow of the Australasian Chapter of Addiction Medicine, a diplomate of the American Board of Addiction Medicine and Clinical Assistant Professor, UBC. Dr. Mead has worked in many community, inpatient and outpatient treatment settings in Vancouver.

These include the Addiction Medicine Consult Service at St Paul's Hospital and New Dawn Recovery House. She holds the positions of Senior Medical Director, Mental Health and Substance Use, BC Women's Hospital; Medical Director for BC Correctional Health Services and is the medical lead for the BC Provincial Perinatal Substance Use program.



Dr. Mohammed Mosli

MD, FRCPC, IS-ART, ISAM, CSAM

Dr. Mohammed Mosli comes from a long line of physicians. Although he initially planned to become a surgeon like his father, his career path took an unexpected turn that led him to specialize in public health and preventive medicine with a special interest in addiction health. His focus has increasingly

been on caring for vulnerable populations.



Dr. Sheila Peters

CCFP-EM FCFP

Dr. Sheila Peters is a Métis woman. Her mother, Shirley Fiddler, was a Treaty woman for Cowessess Nation Treaty 4. Her father, Peter Nychuk, who is a Ukrainian settler.

She is a niece to eighteen, aunty to sixteen, great aunty to eight, a sister to five, and a mother of three (as well as a mother to three fur babies). She was born and raised in the small farming community of Shoal Lake, Manitoba.

Professionally, Dr. Peters is a proud graduate of the ACCESS. Program through the University of Manitoba. She graduated from the University of Manitoba's Faculty of Medicine in 1993 and completed her Family Medicine Residency with a specialty in Emergency Medicine in 1997. She was awarded CFPC Fellowship in 2024.

Dr. Peters finished a 25-year career at the Health Sciences Centre Emergency in April 2022, where she was an Attending Trauma and Academic Emergency Room physician, very involved in all levels of teaching.

Dr. Peters practiced Family Medicine at Access Centre Downtown, 2016-2024 with a focus on maternal-fetal health and pediatric care. There, she serves her community, many of whom are unhoused, experiencing poverty, mental health issues, and addictions.

She has recently transitioned her practice to Northern Connections Medical Clinic. Additionally, she has provided emergency care at the Thompson General Emergency intermittently, for the past 25 years, Concordia Urgent Care, The Pas E.R., Kenora Emergency, and with VECTRs. On top of this, she has started her own cosmetic practice – Luminology.

In June 2022-October 2023, Dr. Peters' leadership skills flourished at Keewatinohk Inniniw Minoayawin (KIM) as a Primary Care Advisor. Her main areas of focus included working on reinventing current EMS systems and providing housing and care for Thompson's unhoused, as well as

portfolios on Cancer Care, HIV, maternal-fetal health, and mentorship. Bimaashi Migizi Mashkiki Gikinoo' Amaagewinan: Soaring Eagle Medical Teachings (SEMT) is a consultation business Dr. Peters established in 2023 with work in Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES), wellness, mentorship and Indigenous Health Curriculum (IHC). Dr. Peters assumed the role of Medical Director of Stoney Mountain Institution in September 2024.

Dr. Peters is a gifted teacher, involved in many levels of academia throughout her career. In June 2024, she accepted the role of Assistant Director of Admissions at the Max Rady College of Medicine at University of Manitoba.

Dr. Peters' love for both her personal and her work families, as well the many communities she serves, is made evident by her tireless passion, energy, innovative creative, and her ability to connect.



Dr. Launette Rieb

MD., MSc, CCFP(AM), FCFP, DABAM, FASAM

Dr. Rieb is a family physician and Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Family Practice at the University of British Columbia. She is certified in Addiction Medicine in the US and Canada. She was the co-creator and initial physician director of BC's first Addiction Medicine Fellowship. Dr. Rieb has over 35 publications in the areas of pain and addiction. She is on staff at St. Paul's Hospital and works clinically at ActumHealth where she is a consultant within an interprofessional team that treats injured workers with concurrent pain, addiction, and mental health issues. Dr. Rieb is the recipient of the BC College of Family Physicians Exceptional Teacher Honour.



Micki Ruth

Former Police Officer

A former police officer with a degree in Criminology, Micki's career transitioned from policing to human resources where she held executive HR positions at several companies. After a 20-year career, she was appointed to the Halifax Board of police Commissioners in 2011 and served as Chair 2013-2014. Following this, she joined the Edmonton Police

Commission serving for 6 years including 2 years as Vice Chair and 2 years as Chair. Since joining police boards, Micki has been involved with the Canadian Association of Police Governance (CAPG), serving as a committee member, board member, and president. She was recently reappointed to the CAPG board on July 19, 2023.

In Kelowna, Micki has served on a city action committee tasked with addressing one of the components of Kelowna's Public Safety Plan focusing on an alternative response model for police calls for service. Micki is also currently on the Mayor's Task Force for Crime Reduction.

Micki has been actively involved in public safety since 2010 through police governance and the police study and implementation of new models of response and public safety.



Dr. Vijay Seethapathy

Chief Medical Officer for BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services

Dr. Vijay Seethapathy is the chief medical officer at BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services (BCMHSUS) as part of the dyad leadership team with chief operating officer, Jennifer Duff. He provides strategic and operational oversight for medical services across BCMHSUS programs and services including the Forensic Psychiatric Hospital, Red Fish Centre for Mental Health and Addiction, Heartwood Centre for Women, Correctional Health Services, Forensic Regional Clinics and provincial specialized mental-health and substance-use programs. He is also a clinical assistant professor of psychiatry at the University of British Columbia, where he oversees the psychiatry residents' addiction program.

He is one of very few psychiatrists in B.C. who specializes in treating patients with a combination of complex mental health and substance use disorders, known in the mental health community as concurrent disorders. He has a special interest in clinical systems redesign.

Vijay has bachelor's degrees in medicine and surgery from India, and an executive master's degree in business administration from Keele University in the UK. He is a diplomat of the American Board of Addiction Medicine, a

member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in the UK, and a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada.



Dr. Anyssa Shakeri

MD, FRCPC

Dr. Anyssa Shakeri is a Consultation-Liaison Psychiatrist based out of the Royal Columbian Hospital. She completed her medical school in Calgary and her residency training in Psychiatry at UBC. She serves as the Regional Medical Lead for Consultation Liaison Psychiatry in the Fraser Health Authority since 2020. Dr. Shakeri also serves as the Associate Program Director - Fraser Track for UBC Department of Psychiatry. In addition, she is a member of the UBC Psychiatry Postgraduate Education Committee as the Co-Director of the Consultation Liaison Psychiatry Program. She is a dedicated clinical instructor and has been awarded several teaching awards over the years.



Dr. Rob Tanguay

BSc (Hons), MD, FRCPC, CISAM, CCSAM

A psychiatrist who completed two fellowships, one in Addiction Medicine and Pain Medicine. He is a clinical assistant professor with the departments of Psychiatry and Surgery at the Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary. Dr. Tanguay is the co-founder, developer, and Chief Medical Officer, at The Newly Institute, a rehabilitation and return to work program dedicated to providing medical and psychological intervention for people living with mental health disorders such as PTSD, depression, anxiety, addiction, and chronic pain with evidence-based psychotherapy and trauma-focused therapy.

He is the co-chair of the internationally recognized Alberta Pain Strategy and helps lead the Alberta Virtual Pain Program implementation. He is the founder of the Opioid Deprescribing Program with AHS, the Rapid Access Addiction Medicine (RAAM) Community Clinic with AHS, and the Transitional Outpatient Pain Program for Spine (TOPPS) clinics with the University of Calgary and is renowned for his innovation in creating clinical programs for complex chronic medical and psychiatric illnesses. He was also the Provincial Medical Lead for Addiction Education for Alberta Health Services (AHS) where he helped develop award winning CME programs for

physicians and health care practitioners.

Dr. Tanguay has been recognized for his work and is the 2021 Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada recipient of the Early Career Leadership Award, was inducted into the University of Lethbridge Alumni Honour Society, and is a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal.

Dr. Tanguay is member of the Calgary Police Commission, recently appointed for a 3-year term. He is the Co-Chair of the Western Canadian Addiction Forum and director of the Canadian Addiction Counsel. Dr. Tanguay has been heavily involved in health policy including helping to lead the Alberta Psychedelic Legislative Committee and the Alberta Safe Supply Legislative Committee. He is a member of the Alberta Recovery Expert Advisory Panel leading the implementation of the Recovery Orientated System of Care. He is a member of the Public Health Emergencies Governance Review Panel for the Government of Alberta and was a member of the Supervised Consumption Review Committee. He also sits on the Policy Committee for the Canadian Society of Addiction medicine (CSAM).

Academically, he is involved in research in trauma, addiction, chronic pain, opioids, cannabis, and psychedelics and is a member of the Hotchkiss Brain Institute and the Mathison Centre for Mental Health Research & Education at the University of Calgary.



Dr. David Tano

MD, FRCPC

Dr. David Tano is currently working as the Clinical Department Head for Addictions and Mental Health for the Calgary Zone of Recovery Alberta and as a forensic psychiatrist at the Southern Alberta Forensic Psychiatry Centre. He is also working as the Clinical Medical Director for the Community Extension Team, the Police Community Treatment Order Team and the Police and Crisis Team. He consults regularly to the Provincial Courts of Alberta. He has historically also consulted to a non-profit organization known as Keys to Recovery, which was a housing first program aimed at housing people with addiction issues and classified as “hard to house”. For 6 years he worked as the Clinical Medical

Director of a general inpatient psychiatric unit and also consulted for 8 years to the federal halfway houses and federal institutions for Corrections Services Canada. He has been teaching residents and medical students for over 20 years and is currently a Royal College Examiner for the specialty of Psychiatry, Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Calgary and has recently moved on from the position of Resident Program Director for the subspecialty of Forensic Psychiatry. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Calgary and his Doctor of Medicine at the University of Alberta. He has a special interest in the vulnerable marginalized chronically and persistently ill populations.



Superintendent Howard Tran

Superintendent of the Vancouver Police Department

Vancouver Police Department Superintendent Howard Tran has 27 years of police service. He currently oversees Investigative Support Services which encompasses the General Investigation Section, Tactical Support Section, Forensic Services Section and Youth Services Section. He is the VPD's executive lead on its Body-Worn Camera implementation and the Artificial Intelligence Committee. He is regarded as the VPD's subject matter expert on mental health issues impacting public safety. In this role, he established the Mental Health Unit, improved the department's ability to collect and analyze mental health data and secured an important Information Sharing Agreement with Vancouver Coastal Health and Providence Health Care. He currently chairs the BC Association of Chiefs of Police (BCACP) Mental Health and Addictions Committee and serves on the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CACP) Crime Prevention, Community Safety & Well Being Committee, as well as the Information, Communication and Technology Committee.

He is a member of the Douglas College Youth Justice Program Advisory Committee, the Vancouver Restorative Justice Collective and the Steering Committee for Vancouver Downtown Community Court. He volunteers as a director on the boards of the Boys and Girls Club of South Coast British Columbia and the Pulling Together Canoe Society.



Dr. Daniel Vigo
MD, Lic. Psych, DrPH

Dr. Vigo is a psychiatrist, clinical psychologist, and public health specialist, originally from Argentina. He is an Associate Professor at UBC and the Chair of the Services and Policy Workgroup of the WHO-World Mental Health Surveys Initiative. He has worked in a variety of clinical, research, teaching, and leadership positions across both the public and private sector. In these roles, he has published peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, and reports on public health, health systems, global mental health, psychiatric epidemiology, psychopharmacology, psychotherapy, and e-mental health. Dr. Vigo also leads several projects in BC and globally, including on E-Mental Health for University Students, and Needs-Based Planning for Mental and Substance Use Disorder Services. Dr. Vigo serves as Provincial Medical Lead for the Advanced Practice of Assertive Community Treatment in BC, providing leadership and support to 34 ACT teams across the province, as Medical Lead for Tertiary Care in the Regional Mental Health and Substance Use Program at Vancouver Coastal Health, and as a psychiatrist at the Richmond ACT team, at UBC Hospital, and at Vancouver General Hospital. In June 2024 he became the inaugural Chief Scientific Advisor for Psychiatry for the Province of British Columbia, with a focus on improving services for people with concurrent disorders in the context of the toxic drug crisis.



Dr. Sharon Vipler
MD, CCFP (AM), dipl.ABAM, DRCPSC

Dr. Sharon Vipler completed her medical degree at the University of British Columbia and her family medicine residency at the University of Alberta. She is a diplomat in the American Board of Addiction Medicine and a diplomat with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. She is currently the Program Medical Director and Regional Department Head of Addiction Medicine and Substance Use Services at Fraser Health Authority in British Columbia. She is an Clinical Associate Professor at University of British Columbia. Clinically, she works in a wide spectrum of addiction medicine settings in BC's lower mainland.



Megan Worley
MBA

Megan Worley is the Executive Director of VisionQuest Recovery Society, a non-profit supportive recovery society. She earned her MBA with a specialty stream in Social Enterprise. Megan was a member of the action committee tasked with liaising with the Assisted Living Registry in developing new regulations and provincial standards. She is a member of the BC Addictions Recovery Association and the Kamloops Community Action Committee. Megan is also a parent of a child who has struggled with opiate addiction.

The Western Canada Addiction Forum has received an educational grant or in-kind support from the following exhibitors:

Platinum



Silver





Not for Profit

