

# **PEDIATRIC TRANSPLANT SYMPOSIUM**

**Building on Excellence:  
The Future of Research and  
Innovation in Pediatric Transplantation**

**DECEMBER 2, 2024  
CALGARY, AB**

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# FOREWORD

**Dr. Lorraine Hamiwka**

Dear attendees,

Welcome to the 2024 Pediatric Transplant Symposium!

This symposium on pediatric transplantation presents a valuable opportunity for our community to come together to advance research collaboration and knowledge, enhance clinical practices, and improve patient care. Our primary focus is to encourage future research, particularly clinical trials in pediatric transplantation led by Canadian researchers, while also promoting interdisciplinary projects that address the complex challenges faced by this patient population.

Research in pediatric transplantation is vital for improving the care and outcomes of young transplant patients, however it faces several significant challenges. Some of the key obstacles include a smaller patient population, limited funding, ethical hurdles, and a lack of public attention when compared to adult transplantation. Addressing these challenges is crucial for advancing the field and improving outcomes for children in need of organ transplants.

We hope you enjoy the day and thank you for your participation!

Best wishes,

Dr. Lorraine Hamiwka  
Chair, Pediatric Transplant Symposium Planning Committee



# PLANNING COMMITTEE

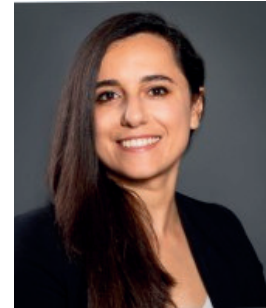
The program for the Pediatric Transplant Symposium was developed by a Planning Committee chaired by Dr. Lorraine Hamiwka. The committee was supported by Marie-Claire Kapesa, Kamalpreet Sandhu, and Diana Tertzakian.



**Dr. Lorraine Hamiwka**  
Alberta Children's Hospital  
University of Calgary



**Dr. Tom Blydt-Hansen**  
BC Children's Hospital  
University of British Columbia



**Dr. Saeideh Davoodi**  
Alberta Transplant Institution  
University of Alberta



**Sean Delaney**  
Alberta Transplant Institution  
University of Alberta



**Dr. Patricia Gongal**  
CDTRP  
University of Alberta



**Dr. Aviva Goldberg**  
HSC-Winnipeg Children's Hospital  
University of Manitoba



**Dr. Simon Urschel**  
Stollery Children's Hospital  
University of Alberta



**Dr. Lori West**  
CDTRP  
Stollery Children's Hospital  
University of Alberta

# AGENDA

TIME (MT)	Topic	Speaker	Moderator
7:30 - 8:00	Registration & Breakfast		
8:00 - 8:15	Welcome Remarks	Dr. Lorraine Hamiwka	
8:15-8:30	Introduction and Overview	Dr. Rulan Parekh	
8:30 - 9:05	Keynote Speaker Clinical Trials in Pediatric Transplantation	Dr. David Briscoe	Dr. Rulan Parekh
9:05 - 9:15	Q&A		
9:15 - 9:30	Break		
9:30 - 10:25	Session 1: Equity in Care for Pediatric Transplant Patients and Families		
9:30 - 9:50	Social Disparities in Transplantation	Dr. Caroline Tait	Dr. Aviva Goldberg
9:50 - 10:10	Sex and Gender in Pediatric Transplantation	Dr. Sofia Ahmed	
10:10 - 10:25	Q&A		
10:25 - 10:40	Break		
10:40 - 12:00	Session 2: Into the 21st century: Updates on Novel Diagnostics		
10:40 - 11:00	Refining Pathology Using Genetic Transcript Analysis	Dr. Phil Halloran	Dr. Steven Greenway
11:00 - 11:20	Precision Medicine in Transplantation Care	Dr. Seema Mital	
11:20 - 11:40	Non-invasive Monitoring Graft Rejection	Dr. Tom Blydt-Hansen	
11:40 - 12:00	Q&A		
12:00 - 1:00 PM	Lunch (Conference room 4 & 5)		

# AGENDA

TIME (MT)	Topic	Speaker	Moderator
13:00 - 14:15	Session 3: Patient Self-Empowerment: Pre and Post-Transplant Care		
13:00 - 13:15	Strategies for Patient Empowerment	Dr. Samantha Anthony	Ms. Jenny Wichart Dr. Simon Lam Dr. David Nicholas
13:15 - 13:45	<b>Round Table:</b> "Challenges into Action: How did I take on the challenges of transplantation."	Ms. Tanis Mitchell Ms. Lindsey Kemp Ms. Grecia Galindo Mr. Sean Delaney	
13:45 - 14:00	Empowerment Through Physical Exercise	Dr. Michael Khoury	
14:00 - 14:15	Q&A / Panel Discussion		
14:15 - 14:30	Break		
14:30 - 15:40	Session 4: ABO-incompatible Heart Transplant in Infants: From Urgent Band-aid to Clinical Standard		
14:30 - 14:50	ABO-incompatible Transplantation: Then, Now, and Tomorrow	Dr. Lori West	Dr. Tom Blydt-Hansen Dr. Ngan Lam
14:50 - 15:10	Expanding Clinical Experience and Immunological Considerations	Dr. Simon Urschel	
15:10 - 15:30	Inequities in Transplant Access: ABO Offers Opportunities	Dr. Anne Halpin	
15:30 - 15:40	Q&A		
15:40 - 15:50	Closing Remarks	Dr. Lorraine Hamiwka	
15:50 - 17:00	Reception & Networking		

# INTRODUCTION

## **Dr. Lorraine Hamiwka, Chair**

University of Calgary/Alberta Children's Hospital

Dr. Lorraine Hamiwka is the Interim Section Head in Pediatric Nephrology at the Alberta Children's Hospital and an Associate Professor at the University of Calgary, Cumming School of Medicine. She is the Past-Chair of the Pediatric Group of the Canadian Society of Transplantation and a current theme co-lead for the CDTRP. She is the Director of the Pediatric Kidney Transplant Program at the Alberta Children's Hospital and leads the "Young Adult Kidney Transplant Clinic" in Calgary designed to improve young adult kidney transplant recipients' healthcare experience. Dr. Hamiwka research interests include clinical outcomes and quality of life in pediatric kidney transplant recipients. She is also involved in several national multicenter transplant research collaborations as well as many national transplant initiatives.



## **Dr. Rulan Parekh, Speaker & Moderator**

University of Toronto

Dr. Rulan S. Parekh is Vice President, Academics, Women's College Hospital, Staff Nephrologist at Women's College Hospital and Hospital for Sick Children and Professor of Pediatrics and Medicine in the Departments of Medicine, Paediatrics, Epidemiology and Health Policy and Management Evaluation at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Rulan Parekh is a clinician-scientist, and an international leader in clinical epidemiology and translational research in kidney disease. Her work has revealed novel genetic risk factors leading to kidney disease and increased risk of cardiovascular morbidity and mortality for children and adults with kidney disease. At the University of Michigan, Dr. Parekh was uniquely trained in Pediatrics and Internal Medicine with subspecialty training in both Pediatric and Adult Nephrology and research training, completing her Master's in Biostatistics and Study Design. She subsequently went on to post-doctoral training at Johns Hopkins University and joined the faculty in 2000. She successfully competed for an NIH Career Development Research Award and the American Society of Nephrology Carl W. Gottschalk Award for young investigators, establishing successful research programs in the genetics and cardiovascular complications of kidney disease.



In 2008, she returned to her native Canada and accepted a faculty position at the University of Toronto (UofT) and a Scientist position within the SickKids Research Institute and now Women's College Hospital. Since 2000, Dr. Parekh has maintained a record of sustained NIH and CIHR funding. She has significant productivity with more than 218 published manuscripts, over 15, 208 citations, and a stellar track record of training and mentoring 80 students and post-doctoral trainees. She has received several awards, and most recently was selected as the Barbara T. Murphy Award recipient, an American Society of Nephrology (ASN) Lifetime Achievement Award. Other awards include the National Kidney Foundation of Maryland Award, and the Advising Mentoring, and Teaching Research Award, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. She was elected into academic honor societies such as the American Society of Clinical Investigation, the Association of American Physicians, the Pediatric Academic Society, and the American Pediatric Society. Dr. Parekh previously held a Canada Research Chair in Chronic Kidney Disease Epidemiology and now holds the F.M. Hill Chair in Health System Solutions.

# KEYNOTE

## **Dr. David Briscoe, Keynote**

Harvard Medical School/Boston Children's Hospital

David Briscoe is Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School, the Casey Lee Ball Chair in Transplantation, and Director of the Transplant Research Program at Boston Children's Hospital.

Dr. Briscoe graduated from the Royal College of Surgeons Medical School in Ireland and completed his initial residency training in General Medicine and Pediatrics in Dublin, Ireland. He subsequently trained at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver, Colorado, and at Boston Children's Hospital.



Dr. Briscoe has held several leadership positions, both national and international. He has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the American Society of Transplantation, Councilor for the International Pediatric Transplant Association, the Executive Committee Chair for the American Transplant Congress and Chair of the Public Policy Committee for the American Society of Transplantation. He currently serves on the NIAID Steering Committee to support the Clinical Trials in Organ Transplantation initiative, and he serves on NIH study sections to provide transplant expertise. In these positions, Dr. Briscoe has been a strong advocate for discovery-based research and translational studies in the field to impact long-term care.

In 2013, he was appointed Director of the Transplant Research Program, and in 2015, he became the first incumbent Casey Lee Ball Chair in Transplantation. He is an elected member of the National Physician-Scientist Honors Society, the American Society of Clinical Investigation (ASCI).



# SESSION 1

## **Dr. Caroline Tait, Speaker**

University of Calgary

Dr. Caroline Tait is a medical anthropologist with particular research interests in Indigenous health and social justice. She earned her MA at the University of California (Berkeley), and her PhD at McGill University. Dr. Tait is a member of the Métis Nation-Saskatchewan and grew up in a small Métis community in central Saskatchewan. With Dr. Michael Moser, Dr. Tait established the Saskatchewan First Nation and Métis Organ Donation and Transplantation Network. Dr. Tait has joined the Faculty of Social Work and the Cumming School of Medicine (Department of Community Health Sciences) at the University of Calgary in January 2023. Dr. Tait is Canada's Research Chair in Indigenous Health Equity and Inclusion and CDTRP's Indigenous Platform Lead.



## **Dr. Sofia Ahmed, Speaker**

University of Alberta

Dr. Sofia Ahmed is a Professor in the Cumming School of Medicine at the University of Calgary. The recipient of the 2022 Hypertension Canada Senior Investigator Award, she is a nephrologist and clinician-scientist with a focus on sex and gender differences in human cardiovascular/ kidney physiology and clinical outcomes. Dr. Ahmed is the Vice Chair (Research) for the Department of Medicine, Lead of the Libin Institute Women's Cardiovascular Health Research Initiative at the University of Calgary and Lead of the Alberta Strategy for Patient Oriented Research Capacity Development Platform. Dr. Ahmed is an Advisory Board member for the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Institute of Gender and Health, a member of the Canadian Medical Association Journal Governing Council and the President-Elect for the Organization for the Study of Sex Differences.



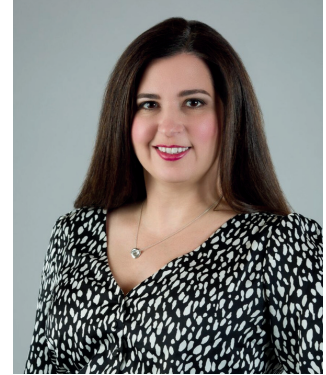
Dr. Ahmed completed her MD and internal medicine residency at the University of Toronto and a nephrology fellowship at Brigham and Women's and Massachusetts General Hospitals in Boston. She completed her Master's in Medical Sciences at Harvard University. The recipient of the 2021 Canadian Medical Association May Cohen Award for Women Mentors and the 2020 American Society of Nephrology Distinguished Mentor Award, Dr. Ahmed is strong proponent of the importance of mentorship and fostering excellence in the next generation of researchers.

# SESSION 1

## **Dr. Aviva Goldberg, Moderator**

University of Manitoba/HSC-Winnipeg Children's Hospital

Dr. Aviva Goldberg is Section Head of Nephrology in the Department of Pediatrics and Child Health, the Associate Dean for UGME Student Affairs and co directs the UGME Professionalism Program at the Max Rady College of Medicine, University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, Canada. She completed a clinical fellowship in Bioethics and Medical Humanities and Northwestern University and a Masters of Arts in Bioethics and Health Policy from Loyola University Chicago. Dr. Goldberg is the Secretary of the Canadian Society of Transplantation and Vice Chair of the AFMC Student Affairs Section. She has published and lectured nationally and internationally on ethics, health policy and medical humanities subjects in transplantation, ethics and pediatrics. She co-edited the book Ethical Issues in Pediatric Organ Transplantation, the first book solely on pediatric transplant ethics. She is a recipient of the Canadian Association of Medical Education's 2018 Certificate of Merit a 2022 Martha Donovan Women's Leadership Award and multiple other teaching awards.



Fun Fact: I was an extra in a movie with Jennifer Lopez and Richard Gere that filmed during my fellowship - my program gave me three days off to chase my movie star dreams!

# SESSION 2

## **Dr. Phil Halloran, Speaker**

University of Alberta

Dr. Philip F. Halloran earned his MD from the University of Toronto and a PhD in immunogenetics from the University of London. He began his career at the University of Toronto's Toronto General Hospital and later became Director of Nephrology at the University of Alberta. Dr. Halloran is a founding editor of the American Journal of Transplantation and chaired the board of the Roche Organ Transplantation Research Foundation in Switzerland. Now a Distinguished Professor of Medicine at the University of Alberta, his research focuses on the molecular mechanisms of organ rejection and injury, developing diagnostic tools to improve transplant care. He has published 411 original peer-reviewed papers and has trained many fellows now on university faculties around the world.



His Molecular Microscope® Diagnostic System (MMDx) uses microarrays to assess organ transplant biopsies. Dr. Halloran's program integrates gene-wide measurements with machine learning to link molecular changes to disease states, fostering collaborations across 80 research centers worldwide. A fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and an officer of the Order of Canada, Dr. Halloran has received numerous awards, including the J. Gordin Kaplan Award for Excellence in Research and the Prix Galien Canada Research Award. His achievements also include lifetime honors from the American Society of Transplantation and international recognition from institutions in France and the Czech Republic.

## **Dr. Seema Mital, Speaker**

University of Toronto/Hospital for Sick Children

Dr. Seema Mital is a Staff Cardiologist & the Head of Cardiovascular Research at the Hospital for Sick Children (SickKids), Professor of Paediatrics at the University of Toronto, and a Senior Scientist at the SickKids Research Institute. She is also the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada Chair of Cardiovascular Science, and the Scientific Co-Lead of the Ted Rogers Centre for Heart Research. She leads the Cardiac Precision Medicine program at SickKids that leverages genomics, stem cells, AI and digital technology to model disease, test therapies, and implement precision-focused decision support tools. Dr. Mital established the SickKids Heart Centre Biobank, a multi-centre biorepository for childhood onset heart disease as well as a pan-Canadian Transplant Biobank Registry. She leads the ERAPerMed/CIHR funded PROCEED network for Personalized Genomics in congenital heart disease, the multi-centre international Precision Medicine in Cardiomyopathy (PRIMaCY) network, the CIHR-funded multi-centre INSERT-HCM study, and co-leads the CIHR-funded Precision Medicine for Heart Failure in the Young (PRIORITY) project of the Canadian Heart Function Alliance. She led the CDTRP funded pan-Canadian Pediatric Outcomes in Transplant: PersOnaliSIng Immunosuppression to ImproVe Efficacy (POSITIVE Study).



# SESSION 2

## **Dr. Tom Blydt-Hansen, Speaker**

University of British Columbia/BCCH Research Institute

Dr. Tom Blydt-Hansen completed his MD at McGill University, and his Pediatric and Nephrology specialization at the Montreal Children's Hospital, followed by further specialization in transplantation at the University of California, Los Angeles. He began his Nephrology career at the University of Manitoba in 2001, where he was Division Head of Nephrology from 2005-2014. He then moved to BC Children's Hospital in 2014, where he is Director of the Multi Organ Transplant Program and Senior Scientist at the BCCH Research Institute. He is a past-President of the Canadian Society of Transplantation, a Board member of the NAPRTCS Registry, and collaborating with Canadian Blood Services to establish national Class II matching for pediatric transplant recipients. His research program is focused on identification and development of relevant non-invasive urine biomarkers of allograft injury in pediatric kidney transplant recipients using metabolomic and proteomic methods. He is also engaged in several collaborations to identify urinary biomarkers (metabolomics) associated with chronic kidney disease, acute kidney injury, cisplatin toxicity, type 2 diabetes and cisplatin nephrotoxicity.



## **Dr. Steven Greenway, Moderator**

University of Calgary/Alberta Children's Hospital

Dr. Steven Greenway is a Pediatric Cardiologist at the Alberta Children's Hospital and the Providence Pediatric Cardiology Clinic in Calgary and a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Calgary Cumming School of Medicine. After completing medical school at the University of Manitoba, Dr. Greenway completed residencies and fellowships at The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto and Harvard Medical School. He specializes in heart function, cardiomyopathy, cardiac genetics and heart transplantation.

Dr Greenway's research, which focuses on genomics, has been published in multiple journals. He is the lead of the Greenway Lab for Translational Research where he studies the application of next-generation sequencing to important clinical problems in pediatric cardiology.



# SESSION 3

## **Dr. Samantha Anthony, Speaker**

University of Toronto/Hospital for Sick Children

Dr. Samantha J. Anthony is a Health Clinician Scientist in the Child Health Evaluative Sciences Program of the Research Institute at the Hospital for Sick Children. She has over 20 years of experience in the SickKids Transplant and Regenerative Medicine Centre as a Social Worker and is an Assistant Professor in the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto. Dr. Anthony is also an Investigator with the Canadian Donation and Transplantation Research Program. Dr. Anthony has been recognized for her dedication to clinical practice and the application of research for improved patient outcomes. Her program of research centres on establishing an evidence-based foundation for successful psychosocial adaptation and enhanced quality of life for individuals with chronic disease, with a specific focus on pediatric solid-organ transplantation. Dr. Anthony has received national academic scholarships and has obtained competitive grants and research awards, including funding from Health Canada, CIHR, Canadian Child Health Clinician Scientist Program, Enduring Hearts, Kidney Foundation of Canada and The International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation.



## **Grecia Galindo, Speaker**

Grecia Galindo is a 5-year post-transplant patient who received a kidney transplant in 2019, with her father as the donor. This experience has inspired her to advocate for young transplant patients, particularly those without adequate support. Currently studying fashion design, she also dedicates her time to supporting children and families facing health challenges, emphasizing community and shared experiences. Her mission is to help ease the transplant process and transition to adult healthcare, using her story to provide guidance and reassurance.



## **Tanis Mitchell, Speaker**

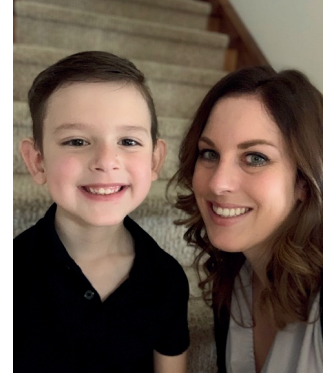
Tanis Mitchell is a proud medical mom to her daughter, Lukah, who underwent a multi-organ transplant six years ago. Their journey has involved navigating the complexities of pre- and post-transplant care, transforming Tanis into an advocate for patient and parent empowerment. Through numerous medical challenges and moments of triumph, she has learned the importance of building a strong support system and fostering collaboration between families and healthcare providers. Tanis is passionate about sharing their story of physical and emotional healing, emphasizing resilience, and is committed to helping other families find their voice and strength in their own medical journeys through connection, education, and advocacy.



# SESSION 3

## Lindsey Kemp, Speaker

Lindsey Kemp was born and raised in Edmonton, AB. With a degree in Music Performance (saxophone performance) and Education, Lindsey has taught for over a decade in the Edmonton Public School system. When she is not teaching, she is very involved in the music community, performing in the Edmonton Winds, conducting her own community ensemble (The Beer League Band) and on numerous musical boards across the province. For the past 5 years, Lindsey has had to take a break from teaching after having her amazing son, George. Maternity leave did not go as expected as George was diagnosed with Dilated Cardiomyopathy at 5 months old and required 2 heart transplants before the age of 4. During this time, Lindsey has also begun to dedicate her time building and expanding her charity: Big Gifts for Little Lives, where they raise money to fund Pediatric Heart Transplant research at the Stollery.



## Sean Delaney, Speaker

University of Alberta/Alberta Transplant Institute

Sean Delaney is based in Edmonton, Alberta and has worked as a senior health policy and management professional in the Organ Donations and Transplantation system for the past 20 years. His career spans work in hospitals, health regions, provincial government and nationally with Canadian Blood Services for 16 years. Most recently, Sean has joined the Alberta Transplant Institute (ATI) as their Director of Operations, where he supports researchers and decision makers in driving innovation in Alberta to benefit the care for patients, families/caregivers, and donors. He is also a lifelong kidney patient and 2-time kidney transplant recipient, receiving his most recent transplant from a generous living donor in October 2020.



## Dr. Michael Koury, Speaker

University of Alberta/Stollery Children's Hospital

Michael Khoury is a pediatric cardiologist and Assistant Professor at the Stollery Children's Hospital, University of Alberta. He completed his pediatric residency at the University of Toronto and pediatric cardiology fellowship at the University of Toronto and Alberta. He underwent subspecialty fellowships in Pediatric Preventive Cardiology at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC) and Advanced Heart Failure and Transplantation at CCHMC and University of Alberta. He is a co-lead of the Kawasaki Disease/MIS-C clinic at the University of Alberta and his research interests focus in cardiac rehabilitation, cardiac Allograft Vasculopathy, lipid disorders, and hypertension.



# SESSION 3

## **Dr. Simon Lam, Moderator**

Alberta Children's Hospital

Dr. Simon Lam is a pediatric transplant hepatologist at the Alberta Children's Hospital. His clinical expertise includes caring for children chronic liver disease and the care of children post liver transplantation. He is he is the current director of the Southern Alberta pediatric liver transplant program.



## **Dr. David Nicholas, Moderator**

University of Calgary

Dr. David Nicholas is a Professor and Associate Dean, Research and Partnerships in the Faculty of Social Work at the University of Calgary. He is the author of over 200 peer-reviewed research publications addressing topics such as wellbeing and transition to adulthood in chronic health conditions, including kidney disease. Dr. Nicholas' research further focuses on capacity development in service delivery as well as navigation support for individuals with chronic health issues and disability, and their families. Dr. Nicholas has been the principal investigator on multiple grants from provincial, federal and international sources. He also brings clinical experience as a former nephrology social worker.



## **Ms. Jenny Wichart, Moderator**

Alberta Health Services

Jenny Wichart graduated from the University of Alberta with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy and then completed a Hospital Pharmacy Residency in Calgary. Jenny soon moved to the Alberta Children's Hospital in Calgary to become a Clinical Pharmacist in nephrology and transplantation and then eventually transitioned to a Pharmacy Clinical Practice Leader for solid organ transplant, nephrology and specialty ambulatory clinics.

Jenny is an active member of both the Canadian Society of Transplantation and International Pediatric Transplant Association, having participated in both committee and council positions. She has also chaired the Canadian Society of Hospital Pharmacists Transplant Specialty Network. Jenny is passionate about the role that the entire healthcare team provides in the care of patients and their families and believes that the patient voice is essential to provide a foundation for research, collaboration, and interdisciplinary learning to optimize all aspects of care.



# SESSION 4

## **Dr. Lori West, Speaker**

University of Alberta/Stollery Children's Hospital/CDTRP



Dr. Lori West is a Professor of Pediatrics, Surgery, Medical Microbiology/Immunology and Laboratory Medicine/Pathology at the University of Alberta and Director of the Alberta Transplant Institute. A clinician-scientist, she has longstanding interest and expertise in pediatric heart transplantation and transplant immunology, particularly related to ABO glycoimmunology. Her pioneering work on crossing ABO-barriers led to global impact on infant heart transplantation. Dr. West is also the founding Director of the Canadian Donation and Transplantation Research Program, a national research coalition funded since 2013 by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Together with founding co-Director Dr. Marie-Josée Hébert, the CDTRP framework has grown to encompass collaborations in all streams of research with hundreds of investigators at 37 sites across Canada. Dr. West previously held the Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Heart Transplantation. She is past-president of the International Society of Heart and Lung Transplantation and the Canadian Society of Transplantation, immediate past-chair of the Women in Transplantation international initiative of The Transplantation Society, and served as a member of the Board of Directors of the American Society of Transplantation. She is also an honorary lifetime member of the British Society of Transplantation. A Fellow of both the Royal Society of Canada and the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences, Dr. West was inducted as an Officer of the Order of Canada in 2022.

## **Dr. Simon Urschel, Speaker**

University of Alberta/Stollery Children's Hospital



Dr. Simon Urschel is a Pediatric Cardiologist and Immunologist and Director of the Pediatric Heart Transplant program at the Stollery Children's Hospital, providing heart transplantation for all western Canadian Provinces and Territories and Professor of Pediatrics, Medical Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Alberta. He received his training in Pediatrics, congenital and acquired immunodeficiencies and Pediatric Cardiology at the Ludwig Maximilians University in Munich, Germany. He worked as a specialist for pediatric heart transplantation in Munich before coming to Edmonton in 2008 for a research term in Transplant Immunology followed by a faculty position in the Department of Pediatrics. Dr. Urschel's research focuses on the immature immune system of early childhood and how natural weaknesses of the immune response can improve outcomes of organ transplantation. His work on blood group incompatible heart transplantation and desensitization therapies has contributed to establish these techniques as a standard option in many parts of the world resulting in shorter wait times, better utilization of donor organs and improved survival after heart transplantation. His second research focus is on quality of life, neurocognitive outcomes and mental health after pediatric transplantation. This includes studies and interventions on social disparities, improved patient integration into care, and communication strategies to reach teenagers to contribute in their medical management.

Dr Urschel serves in many leadership roles on international, national, provincial and local organizations including the Board of Directors of the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation (ISHLT), leadership roles in the Pediatric Heart Transplant Society (PHTS), the Canadian Donation and Transplant Research Program (CDTRP), the Alberta Transplant Institute (ATI) and Transplant Services Alberta.



# SESSION 4

## **Dr. Anne Halpin, Speaker**

University of Alberta

Anne Halpin is Clinical Fellow at the University of Alberta Hospital (Alberta Precision Laboratories). She is also an Assistant Clinical Professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine & Pathology at the University of Alberta. She completed a BSc in Medical Laboratory Science at the University of Alberta as well as received an MSc in Public Health from Trinity College, Dublin. She recently completed a PhD in the laboratory of Dr. Lori West, also at the University of Alberta, where her research focused on immune risk assessment in pediatric heart transplantation related to HLA, non-HLA, and ABO antibodies.



## **Dr. Ngan Lam, Moderator**

University of Calgary

Dr. Ngan Lam is a Professor and Clinician-Scientist at the Cumming School of Medicine in the Divisions of Transplant Medicine and Nephrology and a Transplant Nephrologist with the Southern Alberta Transplant Program at the University of Calgary. Her program of research focuses on using integrated healthcare administrative databases to improve processes of care, patient experiences, and clinical outcomes for kidney transplant recipients and living kidney donors.



## **Dr. Tom Blydt-Hansen, Moderator**

University of British Columbia/BCCH Research Institute

Full biography on page 11.



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# POST-EVENT SURVEY

We kindly ask that you fill out this post-event survey!

