



FIELDS INSTITUTE
FOR RESEARCH IN MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

Inside the PH EOC During Covid-19 Pandemic: Challenges, Lessons and Opportunities Symposium & Next Generation Pandemic Exercise

<https://www.yorku.ca/cifal/pheoc/>

Thursday & Friday, September 28-29, 2023

9:00AM-4:00PM EDT

York University and Hybrid Webinar

Day 1 (Room 109 Atkinson Building)

Day 2 (ADERSIM EOC, Basement Level, Schulich School of Business)

Online:

<https://yorku.zoom.us/j/95432491625?pwd=Y0VBSHR5NG1kUG41ZUo2azRFU081QT09>

(Passcode: 979015)

Symposium

**Inside Public Health Emergency Operations Centers During Covid-19
Challenges, Lessons and Opportunities**

<p>Laurie Hunter Director General Centre of Emergency Preparedness, Public Health Agency of Canada</p>			<p>Heather Jeffrey President Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)</p>
Dr. Kieran Moore Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health of Ontario			
<p>Dr. Syed Shah Director Public Health Haldimand Norfolk Health Unit</p>	<p>Dr. Ian Arra Medical Officer of Health and CEO Grey Bruce Public Health</p>	<p>Dr. Parminder Thiara Deputy Minister of Health Indigenous Services Canada, Alberta Region</p>	<p>Dr. Grace Akinjobi Manager of Public Health Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority</p>
<p>Dr. Nnamdi Ndubuka Medical Health Officer, Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority</p>			
<p>Tricia Corrin Epidemiologist Public Health Agency of Canada</p>	<p>Dr. Lisa Waddell Epidemiologist Public Health Agency of Canada</p>	<p>Dr. Barry Pakes Medical Officer of Health at York Region Public Health</p>	 SEPTEMBER 28-29
In Person & Online YORK UNIVERSITY			

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Program

Thursday – September 28th

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 28 (DAY 1) - HYBRID	
8:15am-9:00am	Registration and name tag collection
9:00am-9:15am	<p>Welcome Notes <u>Dr. Lisa Philipps</u>- Provost and VP Academic, York University</p> <p><u>Dr. Kumar Murty</u>- Director, The Fields Institute for Research in Mathematical Sciences, University of Toronto</p> <p><u>Dr. Jianhong Wu</u>- Director, York Emergency Mitigation, Engagement, Response and Governance Institute(Y-EMERGE), York University</p>
9:15am-10:30am	<p>Keynote Speakers Session Chair: <u>Sonia Singh</u>- Program Manager, Emergency Management and Business Continuity, Markham Fire and Emergency Services, City of Markham</p> <p>Speakers: <u>Heather Jeffrey</u>- President, Public Health Agency of Canada</p> <p><u>Dr. Kieran Moore</u>- Chief Medical Officer of Health and Assistant Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health of Ontario</p>
10:30am-11:00am	Break
11:00am-12:30pm	<p>Presentations by Public Health Agencies Part1 Chair: <u>Dr. Eric Kennedy</u>- Associate professor of Disaster & Emergency Management, York University</p> <p>Speakers: <u>Dr. Syed Shah</u>- Director, Public Health Haldimand- Norfolk Health Unit, Health and Social Services Division Topic: <i>COVID-19 After Action Review/Lessons Learnt</i></p> <p><u>Dr. Parminder Thiara</u>- Medical Officer of Health, Indigenous Services Canada, Alberta Region Topic: <i>Reflections from ISC Alberta Region</i></p> <p><u>Dr. Ian Arra (virtual)</u>- Medical Officer of Health and CEO, Grey Bruce Public Health Topic: <i>COVID-19 Emergency Management- Striking the Right Balance</i></p>
12:30pm-2:00pm	Lunch (will be provided on site)

2:00pm-4:00pm	<p>Presentations by Public Health Agencies Part 2</p> <p>Chair: <u>Dr. Brian Schwartz</u>- Professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine and Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto</p> <p>Speakers: <u>Dr. Nnamdi Ndubuka</u>- Medical Health Officer, Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority <u>Dr. Grace Akinjobi</u>- Manager of Public Health, Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority Topic: COVID-19 Pandemic EOC – The Northern Saskatchewan First Nations on-reserve perspective</p> <p><u>Dr. Lisa Waddell</u>- Epidemiologist, Public Health Agency of Canada <u>Tricia Corrin</u>- Epidemiologist, Public Health Agency of Canada Topic: Rapid Evidence Synthesis in Support of Public Health Decision-Making During a Pandemic</p> <p><u>Dr. Barry Pakes</u>- Medical Officer of Health at York Region Public Health Topic: The Complex, Dynamic, Layer Cake of the Local EOC</p>
4:00pm-4:30pm	<p>Tour of ADERSIM EOC(Basement Level, Schulich School of Business)</p>

Friday – September 29th

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 29 (DAY2) – IN PERSON	
9:00am-9:30am	<p>Keynote Speaker</p> <p>Chair: <u>Mesha Richard</u>- Emergency Preparedness Lead, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre</p> <p>Speaker: <u>Laurie Hunter</u>- Director General of the Centre of Emergency Preparedness in the Emergency Management Branch at Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)</p>
9:30am-12:30pm	<p>Next Generation Pandemic Exercise</p>
9:30am-12:30pm	<p>Pandemic management Serious Game Test Play</p>
12:30pm-1:30pm	<p>Lunch (will be provided on site)</p>
1:30pm-3:00pm	<p>Exercise and Pandemic Serious Game Evaluation and Feedback</p> <p>Moderator: <u>Nada Barqawi</u>- Program Manager, Strategy, Performance and Research at York Region Public Health</p>

September 28

Keynote Speakers

Heather Jeffrey



Heather Jeffrey was appointed as the new President of the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), in February 2023. From October 2021 until her appointment at PHAC, she served as Associate Deputy Minister at Health Canada. Prior to this, she served as Health Canada's Assistant Deputy Minister (Strategy and Integration) within the COVID-19 Task Force. She also served as Assistant Deputy Minister for Consular, Security and Emergency Management from 2017 to 2020 and as Director General for International Humanitarian Assistance from 2015 to 2017 at Global Affairs Canada.

Heather joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in 1996, serving at a variety of positions in Ottawa and abroad.

Heather has an MA in International Affairs from Carleton University, a Graduate Diploma in International Relations from Johns Hopkins University (Bologna) and a

BA (Honours) in Political Science from Carleton University.

Dr. Kieran Moore

Dr. Moore served as the Medical Officer of Health for Kingston, Frontenac, Lennox and Addington from 2011 to 2021. Dr. Moore is also the Medical Officer of Health of the Department of Emergency and Family Medicine of Queen's University and the Program Director of Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Queen's University.

Dr. Moore received his Medical degree from the University of Ottawa and subsequently received his specialty certification in Family Medicine and Emergency Medicine from the College of Family Physicians of Canada. He has a Master's degrees in Disaster Medicine (DM) and Public Health (PH) as well as a Physician Leadership and Diplomas in Sports Medicine, Tropical Medicine & Hygiene, and Humanitarian Assistance. He has completed a Canadian Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons Fellowship in Public Health and Preventive Medicine at Queen's University.



Chair

Sonia Singh



Sonia is an emergency management and public health professional with over 27 years of experience working in the public sector at the municipal, regional, provincial and federal levels. She has a Masters in Public Safety from Wilfrid Laurier University and Bachelors degrees in Toxicology and Environment Health from the University of Toronto and Ryerson University, respectively.

Currently, Sonia is works for Markham Fire and Emergency Services managing the emergency management and business continuity programs for the City of Markham. She has held this position for over the past 12 years and in her spare

time she is an online instructor for the Disaster and Emergency Management Program at the Northern Alberta Institute for Technology.

Session 1:11:00am-12:30pm

Speakers

Dr. Syed Shah



Syed Shah has more than 15 years of international and national experience working for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and United Nations in Asia and Africa in program development and disaster response.

Currently, Syed is working as Director, Public Health with Haldimand Norfolk Health Unit for the last 5 years.

Syed has expertise in Leadership Development, Program management, Research, Change Management and Emergency Management.

Dr. Parminder Thiara

Dr. Parminder Thiara, with training in both family medicine and public health, has been working with First Nations and Inuit Health Branch- Alberta Region since 2006. She is currently a deputy medical officer of health and the Regional Directory for Primary and Population Health. During the COVID pandemic she worked both as a MOH and a senior administrator within Indigenous Services Canada.



Dr. Ian Arra



Dr. Arra is the Medical Officer of Health for the Grey Bruce Health Unit. He holds a Master's Degree in Epidemiology Biostatistics, and medical specialty qualifications in Public Health and Preventive Medicine (PHPM) by both the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, and the American Board of Preventative Medicine. He also currently holds two adjunct faculty positions at the PHPM Residency training program, Northern Ontario School of Medicine, and the Master of Public Health program, Western University.

During residency training and practice, he worked on a variety of public health initiatives including - emergency management, road safety, health effects of wind farms, and resource prioritization. He has participated in a number of accreditation reviews of postgraduate medical education as part of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of

Canada accreditation team, and served on a number of postgraduate committees.

Dr. Arra strongly believes that knowledge through research empowers both the individual and the community.

Chair

Dr. Eric Kennedy

Kennedy's research focuses on knowledge production and mobilization in emergency management contexts. His work has explored the use of models/technical advice in forest fire management, as well as disaster research methods and data collection practices in COVID and natural disaster contexts. His current research explores the structure and institutional design of knowledge synthesis mechanisms in emergency advisory contexts, as well as sector planning mechanisms that influence research funding and practice in the wildfire context. Kennedy also works on these issues in practical ways, such as serving in emergency advisory roles like the Ontario Public Health Emergencies Science Advisory Committee.



Session 2:2:00pm-4:00pm

Speakers

Dr. Nnamdi Ndubuka



Dr. Nnamdi Ndubuka, is a public health physician working as a Medical Health Officer with the Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority in northern Saskatchewan. He is an Associate Professor at the College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan with a cross appointment at School of Public Health.

As a researcher and public health expert, Dr. Ndubuka is particularly interested in the contribution of social determinants of health to infectious disease epidemiology including TB, HIV- and HCV-related risk behaviors and public health practices. Over the past decade, Dr. Ndubuka has worked collaboratively with policy makers, academia, Indigenous communities, and people with lived experience on several community-based studies concentrating on the social construct of communicable disease-related risks.

Dr. Ndubuka is an advocate of social determinants of health, anti-Black racism, quality improvement, equity, diversity and inclusivity. He has a passion for leadership, good governance and research. He has published several peer-reviewed articles and presented at various conferences both locally and internationally.

Dr. Grace Akinjobi

Grace Akinjobi is a Manager of Public Health at the Northern Inter-Tribal Health Authority, where she oversees public health programs including COVID 19 which is part of the communicable disease program; sexually transmitted and blood borne infections such as HIV and Hepatitis C, gonorrhoea, chlamydia, and syphilis; TB; Immunization and Maternal Health; Infection Prevention and Control; Health Promotion; Environmental Health; Epidemiology and various researches.

Grace has over 15 years' experience in public and population health. She is passionate about improving the health of the population through the development of relevant public health programs using best



practices, health promotion/education and putting in place healthy public policy. Grace participates in the development of several strategies aimed at the care and prevention of infectious diseases, COVID 19 inclusive. Her research interest focuses on improving the health outcomes of Indigenous community members, health system, equality and equity. As a result, she has collaborated with First Nations communities, Saskatchewan Health authority, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), University of Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Ministry of Health, Saskatchewan Cancer Agency and Public Health Agency of Canada amongst others to work on public health programs and researches. Research participated in include but not limited to Sexually Transmitted and Blood Borne Infections, Tuberculosis (TB) Infection, Immunization, and COVID infection.

Dr. Lisa Waddell



Lisa has a PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Guelph and currently manages the Knowledge Synthesis Unit in the Public Health Risk Sciences Division of the National Microbiology Laboratory within the Public Health Agency of Canada. She has been with the agency for over 15 years and specializes in knowledge synthesis and translation on zoonotic public health issues.

Tricia Corrin

Tricia has a Masters in Public Health and is currently completing a Masters in Disaster and Emergency Management at York University. She works as an epidemiologist also specializing in knowledge synthesis and translation on zoonotic public health issues and has worked on Lisa's team for the past 7 years.



Dr. Barry Pakes



Barry Pakes is a Public Health and Preventive Medicine specialist physician currently serving as Medical Officer of Health at York Region Public Health. He is an Associate Professor at the University of Toronto, and Program Director of the Public Health and Preventive Medicine Residency program at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health. He has also worked clinically in primary care and emergency medicine in a variety of urban and rural settings. Dr. Pakes has degrees from Harvard, McGill and UofT, including a PhD in Public Health Ethics. His other recent public health leadership roles include Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health in Nunavut, and Associate

Medical Officer of Health in Middlesex London Health Unit, Halton Region and in Peel Region for the first several months of the COVID pandemic.

Chair

Dr. Brian Schwartz

Brian Schwartz is Professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine and Dalla Lana School of Public Health. From 2009 to 2022 he served in various roles at Public Health Ontario, most recently as Vice-President, Science and Population Health. He earlier served as Vice-President, Health Protection and Director, Emergency Management Support. Previously Dr. Schwartz served as Scientific Advisor to the Emergency Management Branch of the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care from 2004 to 2011. He acted as Vice-Chair of the Ontario SARS Scientific Advisory Committee in 2003, was Chair of the Scientific Response Team for the 2009 H1N1 pandemic and served as Co-Chair of the Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table from 2020 to 2022.



September 29

Keynote Speaker

Laurie Hunter

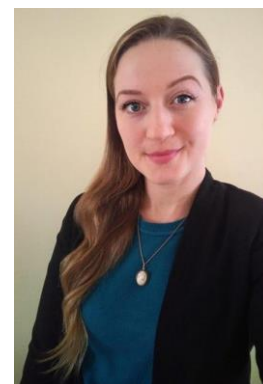


Laurie Hunter is the Director General of the Centre for Emergency Preparedness in the Emergency Management Branch at PHAC. She is an experienced senior manager in the Canada Public Service with over 25 years experience in a range of policy and program areas including immigration, trade, and foreign direct investment as well as overseeing key corporate initiatives in change management, training and leadership. She is currently responsible for developing and implementing policies and programs that prepare Canada to respond quickly and efficiently to public health emergencies. In this capacity, she supports preparedness through oversight of the development of emergency plans for the federal health portfolio in Canada, as well as various exercises to test those plans. She also provides leadership for the Canadian Public Health Service and the Canadian Field Epidemiology Program, which trains and provides field placements to medical professionals within Canada.

Chair

Mesha Richard

Mesha Richard (she/her) is the current Emergency Preparedness Lead for the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada. In this role, she acts as a subject matter expert assisting with the development and maintenance of emergency management governance, training materials, and exercises. Mesha also volunteers as an editor for the Canadian Journal of Emergency Management and is happy to be a collaborator and facilitator for this CIFAL York series. She holds a Master of Disaster and Emergency Management degree from York University and Bachelors'



degrees from Western University and Brandon University in the focus areas of political science and disaster studies.

Exercise Feedback and evaluation

Moderator

Nada Barqawi



Nada is an emergency management professional with 5 years of public health experience. Nada joined York Region Public Health in 2018 as a Health Emergency Management Specialist and has since held several roles. During the pandemic, she was a leader within the Health Emergency Operations Centre first as a member of the activation team and shortly after as the Manager of Advanced Planning, Research and Recovery where she was instrumental in the COVID-19 vaccine roll out while leading a diverse team through the pandemic. Nada has since led the Health Emergency Management team as the Program Manager and most recently transitioned to a new role as the Program Manager of Strategy, Performance and Research at York Region Public Health. In addition to public health emergency management, she has experience in both lower-tier and upper-tier emergency management. Nada holds a bachelor's degree in International Development with a Minor in Women's Studies from the University of Ottawa and a master's degree in Disaster and Emergency Management from York University.

Location and Direction Information

Day1: Thursday September28:

Room 109 Atkinson Building

96 The Pond Rd, Toronto, ON, M3J 2S5

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/z6RktFpy2ZWwUSvn9>

Day2: Friday September 29

ADERSIM EOC, Basement, Seymour Schulich Building, Schulich School of Business

111 Ian MacDonald Blvd, Toronto, ON, M3J 1P3

<https://maps.app.goo.gl/M7MiZajBNEqyypSW6>



Need more information please contact Francesco at: fdcarpio@yorku.ca or call Ali at 647 878 8364