In a joint effort between the University of Toronto and University of Ottawa Heart Institute, the 17th International Toronto Ottawa Heart Summit is hosted for the first time in Ottawa. The 2014 conference brings together the most exciting advances in cardiovascular disease and related cardiometabolic medicine, from treatment to prevention, and innovation to application. In addition, a major focus this year will be on cardiovascular approaches for the primary care physician. 2014 represents an exceptional program that features key leaders in cardiovascular care and research areas.
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>07:00</td>
<td>Breakfast and registration in the Rideau Canal Atrium South</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Changing Face of Cardiovascular Disease</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>— Drs. Michael Farkouh and Peter Liu, Presiding</em></td>
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<td>08:00</td>
<td>The Role of the Medical Professional in the Changing Landscape of Medicine</td>
<td>Dr. Chris Simpson</td>
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<td>08:25</td>
<td>Strategies for Cardiovascular Care in Ontario</td>
<td>Ms. Kori Kingsbury</td>
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<td>08:50</td>
<td>Environmental and Social Factors Leading to Cardiovascular Disease</td>
<td>Dr. Carolyn Pullen</td>
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<td>09:15</td>
<td>The Influence of Ethnicity on the Profile and Outcomes of Cardiovascular Disease - CANHEART Study</td>
<td>Dr. Jack Tu</td>
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<td>10:00</td>
<td>Break in the Rideau Canal Atrium South</td>
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<td><strong>Joint Plenary: Atherosclerotic Plaque - A view from the Outside</strong></td>
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<td><em>— Dr. Robert Beanlands, Presiding</em></td>
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<td>10:30</td>
<td>The Role of Inflammation in Atherosclerosis and Its Complications</td>
<td>Dr. Ruth McPherson</td>
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<td>10:55</td>
<td>Imaging the Atherosclerotic Plaque</td>
<td>Dr. Ahmed Tawakol</td>
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<td>11:20</td>
<td>PET Imaging of Cardiac Inflammation Radionuclide Imaging of Myocardial Inflammation</td>
<td>Dr. Sharmila Dorhala</td>
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<td>12:00</td>
<td>Lunch in the Rideau Canal Atrium South</td>
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<td><strong>Valvular Disease</strong></td>
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<td><em>— Dr. Thierry Mesana, Presiding</em></td>
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<td>13:00</td>
<td>Mitral Regurgitation: Medical Treatment vs. Timing of Valve Surgery</td>
<td>Dr. Eric Cohen</td>
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<td>13:20</td>
<td>Mitral Regurgitation: Replacement, Repair or MitraClip?</td>
<td>Dr. Thierry Mesana</td>
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<td>13:40</td>
<td>Aortic Stenosis - How to Assess True Severity?</td>
<td>Dr. Jean Dumesnil</td>
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<td>14:00</td>
<td>TAVI - Who When How: CHOICE After PARTNER?</td>
<td>Dr. Marino Labinaz</td>
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<td><strong>Update on Recent Clinical Trials</strong></td>
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<td><em>— Dr. Thierry Mesana, Presiding</em></td>
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<td>15:00</td>
<td>SAVOR - Saxagliptin in Type 2 Diabetes and CV Outcomes</td>
<td>Dr. Michael Farkouh</td>
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<td>15:25</td>
<td>TOPCAT - Spironolactone in Diastolic Heart Failure</td>
<td>Dr. Akshay Desai</td>
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<td>15:50</td>
<td>RELAXin in HF and Colchicine in Pericarditis?</td>
<td>Dr. Peter Liu</td>
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<td>16:15</td>
<td>Is There Still A Role for Coronary Revascularization in Improving Outcomes in CAD in the Era of New Medical Therapies for ISCHEMIA?</td>
<td>Dr. Shaun Goodman</td>
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<td>16:40</td>
<td>SIMPLICITY Trial</td>
<td>Dr. Harindra Wijeysundera</td>
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<td>17:00</td>
<td>Evaluation and Adjournment</td>
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FRIDAY
JUNE 20

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<td><strong>Joint Plenary: Innovation and Imaging</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Peter Liu</td>
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<td>08:00</td>
<td>Stem Cell Biology, Imaging Guided and Regenerative Therapies</td>
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<td>Dr. Joseph Wu</td>
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<td>08:20</td>
<td>Mesenchymal Stem Cell Therapy in the Clinic</td>
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<td>Dr. Josh Hare</td>
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<td>08:40</td>
<td>Combining Gene and Cell Based Therapies: Strategies for Translation</td>
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<td>Dr. Duncan Stewart</td>
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<td>09:00</td>
<td>Nanotechnology as Applied to Cardiovascular Medicine</td>
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<td>Dr. Zahi Fayad</td>
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<td><strong>Acute Coronary Syndrome</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Michel Le May</td>
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<td>10:00</td>
<td>High Sensitivity Troponins and Other Biomarkers – Greater Accuracy or More Confusion?</td>
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<td>Dr. Kirkwood Adams</td>
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<td>10:25</td>
<td>N-STEMI Management Options</td>
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<td>Dr. Michel Le May</td>
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<td>10:50</td>
<td>Current Choices of Antiplatelet and Anticoagulation Post Non-STEMI ACS</td>
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<td>Dr. Jean-François Tanguay</td>
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<td>11:15</td>
<td>Does Flu Vaccination Influence Cardiovascular Complications? For Better or For Worse?</td>
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<td>Dr. Jacob Udell</td>
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<td><strong>Joint Plenary: Right Heart Function Symposium</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Ross Davies</td>
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<td>13:00</td>
<td>CT and MR Imaging</td>
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<td>Dr. Jonathon Leipsic</td>
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<td>Functional and Molecular Imaging</td>
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<td>Dr. Stephen Archer</td>
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<td><strong>Heart Failure Management</strong></td>
<td>Dr. Peter Liu</td>
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<td>14:45</td>
<td>CCS 2014 National Workshop Initiative: Heart Failure &amp; Exercise and Rehab Guidelines Update</td>
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<td>Dr. Haissam Haddad</td>
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<td>16:15</td>
<td>State of Art of Gene Therapy For Heart Failure</td>
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<td>Dr. Roger Hajjar</td>
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<td>Re-examining Cardiorenal Syndrome After the ROSE AHF Trial</td>
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<td>Dr. Horng Chen</td>
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07:00  Breakfast and registration in the Rideau Canal Atrium South

**Dr. George Fodor Symposium**
— Dr. Mark Fraser, Presiding

8:00  Hypertension as a Global Challenge and Reflections on Opportunities for Control  
     Dr. George Fodor
8:20  Hypertension Management According to CHEP, Reflecting on JNC 8  
     Dr. Sheldon Tobe
8:40  Heart Failure Strategy Roll Out in Ontario  
     Dr. Robert McKelvie
9:00  Smoking Cessation Strategies That Work  
     Dr. Robert Reid

09:45  Break in the Rideau Canal Atrium South

**Diabetes**
— Dr. Peter Lin, Presiding

10:00  Lipids and Lipoprotein Treatment in Type 2 Diabetes  
       Dr. Robert Rosenson
10:30  The Latest Diabetes Management Guidelines in Action  
       Dr. Catherine Yu
11:00  Diabetes: Do We Have the FREEDOM Now to Recommend Revasculariation  
       with CABG over PCI in Diabetes  
       Dr. Michael Farkouh

12:00  Lunch in the Rideau Canal Atrium South

**Atrial Arrhythmias**
— Dr. Peter Lin, Presiding

13:00  Ablation Vs. Medical Rx for Atrial Arrhythmias - How to choose?  
       Dr. David Birnie
13:20  Drug Interactions: What you need to know  
       Dr. Peter Lin
13:40  Canadian Atrial Fibrillation Guidelines Update  
       Dr. Allan Skanes
14:00  Atrial Appendage Closure Device - Is the WATCH(man) On?  
       Dr. Allan Skanes

14:45  Break in the Rideau Canal Atrium South

**Coronary Disease**
— Dr. Mark Fraser, Presiding

15:00  Women and Heart Disease: Myth Vs. Reality  
       Dr. Lisa Mielniczuk
15:20  Men's Heart Health: Erectile Dysfunction  
       Dr. Anthony Bella
15:40  Applying the Canadian Lipid Guidelines - Clarifying Confusion from South of the Border  
       Dr. Ruth McPherson

16:00  Evaluation and Adjournment
**Eric Cohen, MD**  
Cardiologist, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre  
Associate Professor, Faculty of Medicine  
University of Toronto

Dr. Cohen received his MD degree from the University of Calgary and undertook further training at McGill University. After a short period of general practice in Northern Ontario, he trained in general and interventional cardiology at the University of Toronto. After serving as the Director of Interventional Cardiology and Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory at Sunnybrook for 14 years, he transitioned to Deputy Head of the Division of Cardiology in 2010. He has been actively involved with the Cardiac Care Network of Ontario (CCN) for several years. Dr. Cohen previously held the position of Medical Officer, and is currently Chair of the Trans-catheter Technology and Therapeutics Working Group. In 2013 he became President of the Canadian Association for Interventional Cardiology, an organization is dedicated to the advancement of the specialty in Canada and beyond.

Academically, Dr. Cohen remains actively involved in teaching and clinical research related to interventional cardiology, and has authored or co-authored more than 95 peer reviewed publications. In recent years he has served on safety monitoring committees for several large international clinical trials.

**Sharmila Dorbala, MD, MPH**  
Director of Nuclear Cardiology, Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School

Dr. Dorbala is board certified in Cardiology, Nuclear Cardiology and Echocardiography. She is an imaging expert focused on nuclear cardiology and PET. Dr. Dorbala received research grants from the Nuclear Cardiology Foundation, the Amyloid foundation and the National Institutes of Health and Astellas. Dr. Dorbala is an Associate Editor of Circulation Cardiovascular Imaging. She serves on the Editorial Boards of the Journal of Nuclear Cardiology and the Journal of Nuclear Medicine. She is the current President of the Cardiovascular Council of the Society of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging.

**Akshay Desai, MD, MPH**  
Associate Physician, Advanced Heart Disease Section  
Cardiovascular Division,  
Brigham and Women’s Hospital  
Instructor of Medicine  
Harvard Medical School

Dr. Desai received his undergraduate education at Princeton University, where he graduated *Summa Cum Laude* in 1992 with an A.B. in Public and International Affairs. He was subsequently awarded a Rhodes Scholarship for study at Oxford University, where he completed an M. Phil. in European Politics and Society at Balliol College in 1994. Following on this, he began his medical training at Harvard Medical School where he was awarded the M.D. degree in 1998. He completed his internship and residency in Internal Medicine at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in 2001 and subsequently elected to pursue fellowship training in Cardiovascular Medicine at the same institution. During the final years of subspecialty training in cardiology, he completed additional fellowship training in Heart Failure and Transplantation under the direction of Dr. Lynne Stevenson. Concurrently, he conducted translational research in vascular medicine and diastolic heart failure under the supervision of Dr. Mark Creager. He was awarded an M.PH. in 2004 from the Harvard School of Public Health.
He currently divides his time between clinical care of patients with advanced heart disease and clinical research in cardiovascular clinical trials, with an emphasis on the pathophysiology, pharmacologic treatment, and ambulatory management of patients with heart failure. Particular areas of research interest include the pathophysiology and management of heart failure with preserved ejection fraction and the design of disease management strategies to reduce heart failure readmission in high risk groups.

Jean G. Dumesnil CQ, MD, FRCPC, FACC, FASE(Hon)
Cardiologist,
Quebec Heart and Lung Institute
Emeritus Professor of Medicine
Laval University

Dr. Dumesnil received his MD degree from the Université de Montréal in 1968 followed by residencies in Medicine and Cardiology at Hôtel-Dieu de Montréal and Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

His past appointments have included Director of the Cardiology Training Program, Head of the Service of Cardiology, Director of the Echocardiography Laboratory and Director of the Catheterization Laboratory. Past positions also include Board Member of the American Society of Echocardiography, the Canadian Society of Echocardiography, Governor of the American College of Cardiology, Council Member of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society, President of the Quebec Echocardiography Society and Vice-President of the Quebec Association of Cardiologists.

He is the author of more than 250 publications in peer-reviewed journals and has given more than 300 invited lectures at prestigious institutions at home or abroad.

Recognitions of his career achievements include Annual Lecturer of the Canadian Society of Echocardiography in 1999, the National Order of Québec in 2004, the Annual Achievement Award of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society in 2006 and Honorary Fellow of the American Society of Echocardiography in 2011, a distinction until then awarded to only seven other individuals in the world.

Michael Farkouh, MD
Peter Munk Chair in Multinational Clinical Trials,
University Health Network

Director, Heart and Stroke Richard Lewar Centre of Excellence,
Associate Professor, University of Toronto

After obtaining his medical degree from the University of Western Ontario in 1988, Dr. Farkouh interned at the Toronto General Hospital. In 1992, he completed his residency at the Mayo Clinic followed by a fellowship in Academic General Internal Medicine from McMaster University where he studied for the Master of Science in Epidemiology under Professor David Sackett. Under the mentorship of Professor Salim Yusuf, Dr. Farkouh studied cardiovascular clinical trials. He completed his cardiovascular fellowship at Mount Sinai in 1998.

Dr. Farkouh has designed and conducted numerous pivotal clinical trials including: CHEER (Chest Pain Evaluation in the Emergency Room), TARGET, STATUS and FREEDOM (enrolling). His areas of research include: evaluation of chest pain syndromes, diabetes and heart diseases and the relationship of anti-inflammatory agents and heart disease. Dr. Farkouh is the PI for the BARI 2D and TRIUMPH trials at Mount Sinai.
His past appointments include director of the telemetry unit at Mount Sinai, director of the cardiac care unit at New York University and director of the Electrocardiography Core Laboratory at the Cardiovascular Research Foundation. He has been awarded Teacher of the Year in the Department of Medicine at the Mayo Clinic. Dr. Farkouh has been an invited speaker internationally and served on numerous data safety monitoring boards.

The Clinical Trials Unit at Mount Sinai Heart serves as the clinical coordinating center for the NHLBI-sponsored FREEDOM trial and registry and for the REDEEM trial. The unit oversees clinical trial research throughout Mount Sinai Heart and interacts with various departments across the institution and beyond.

Shaun Goodman, MD, MSc, FRCPC, FACC, FESC, FAHA
Staff Cardiologist and Associate Head,
Division of Cardiology, Department of Medicine,
St. Michael’s Hospital

Professor and Heart & Stroke Foundation of Ontario (Polo) Chair,
Department of Medicine,
University of Toronto

Dr. Goodman is also a Consultant to the Canadian Heart Research Centre (CHRC) and an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of Alberta and a Faculty Member of the Canadian VIGOUR Centre (CVC). He completed his Doctor of Medicine (1987) at McMaster University (Hamilton, Ontario) and a Masters of Science in Clinical Epidemiology in the Faculty of Medicine and Graduate Department of Community Health at the University of Toronto (1998). He completed his training in Internal Medicine and Cardiology at the University of Toronto. He pursued a three year Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada-funded research fellowship before joining the Division of Cardiology at St. Michael’s Hospital in 1995.

Kori Kingsbury, MSN, MPA
Chief Executive Office
Cardiac Care Network of Ontario (CCN)

The Cardiac Care Network of Ontario (CCN) serves as a system support and is dedicated to improving quality, efficiency, access and equity in the delivery of adult cardiovascular services in Ontario. As Chief Executive Officer for CCN, Kori Kingsbury is responsible for all operations and activities of the organization.

Prior to joining CCN, Kori was in the role of Provincial Executive Director, Cardiac Services and responsible for the coordination, evaluation and funding of all cardiac services in British Columbia. With over 25 years in the field of cardiovascular service delivery, Kori has also held key clinical leadership positions in acute care and cardiac rehabilitation/prevention programs. Kori has also worked extensively as a cardiovascular/health services consultant, providing advice and leadership on quality, key performance indicators, strategic planning, and program re-design for public and private sector initiatives.

Kori holds a Masters of Public Administration (Queens), a Masters of Nursing-Research (University of British Columbia), and several clinical designations, including certification as an Exercise Specialist by the American College of Sports Medicine. Kori is a member of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society, a past Board Member of Hypertension Canada and is active on a number of national and provincial committees.
Marino Labinaz MD, FRCP, FACC
Cardiologist, Director, Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory
Director, Cardiac Fellowship Program
University of Ottawa Heart Institute

Professor of Medicine (Cardiology)
University of Ottawa

Dr. Labinaz earned his undergraduate degree and did his medical training at Queen’s University in Kingston, Ontario, followed by a three-year residency in Internal Medicine at the University of Western Ontario in London. Following training in Cardiology, he completed a two-year interventional fellowship at Duke University Medical Center, after which, in 1994, he returned to the Heart Institute as a full-time member of the Division of Cardiology.

Dr. Labinaz is involved in all aspects of interventional cardiology, including establishing and maintaining programs in intravascular ultrasound, percutaneous closure of atrial septal defects, patent foramen ovaes and perivalvular leaks. He established a stand-alone interventional program in Thunder Bay, Ontario, and served as its Medical Director for two years. He and Dr. Marc Ruel created a new program for percutaneous aortic valve implantation at the Heart Institute. Dr. Labinaz was involved in developing STEMI. He has chaired a Cardiac Care Network panel on the Utility of Primary Angioplasty for Acute Myocardial Infarction for Ontario.

He has served as the site principal investigator in over 30 clinical trials and has been a contributing co-investigator in another 30 clinical trials. Dr. Labinaz has also served on the Steering Committee of several international multicentre trials. He has received peer-reviewed funding from the Heart and Stroke Foundation and has served as co-principal investigator on a number of grants from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

Dr. Labinaz has published over 185 research publications, presentations, book chapters and reviews.

Peter Liu, MD, FRCP
Chief Scientific Officer / VP Research, Director, Cardiac Function Laboratory, University of Ottawa Heart Institute

Professor, Faculty of Medicine, University of Ottawa

Dr. Liu joined the Heart Institute as the Scientific Director in 2012. He received his MD and completed his postgraduate training in Internal Medicine and Cardiology at Toronto General Hospital and Harvard Medical School.

Formerly, as the inaugural Director of the Heart & Stroke/Richard Lewar Centre of Excellence at the University of Toronto, Dr. Liu successfully fostered collaboration amongst researchers from various institutions, while increasing the impact of publications. Subsequently as Scientific Director of the Institute of Circulatory and Respiratory Health at the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Dr. Liu launched national networks in imaging, clinical trials and knowledge translation. Dr. Liu currently sits on the Science and Policy Council for the World Heart Federation and is the director of several large-scale international research programs.

Dr. Liu has been recognized with numerous awards, including both the Research Achievement Award and the Life Time Achievement Award of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society, the Rick Gallop Award of the Heart & Stroke Foundation, and the Institute of Circulatory & Respiratory Health Distinguished Lecture Award of CIHR, and the Margolese Award from UBC.
Ruth McPherson, PhD, MD, FRCPC
Director, Ruddy Canadian Cardiovascular Genetics Centre,
Director, Atherogenomics Laboratory and Lipid Clinic,
Director of Research, Division of Cardiology,
University of Ottawa Heart Institute
Professor, Departments of Medicine and Biochemistry,
University of Ottawa

Dr. McPherson received her PhD from the University of London (UK) and MD from the University of Toronto, where she graduated magna cum laude in 1984. She completed subspecialty training in internal medicine and in endocrinology and metabolism at the University of Toronto. Dr. McPherson held academic positions at the University of Toronto and McGill University before coming to the University of Ottawa Heart Institute in 1992.

Dr. McPherson is funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research and the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada. She has published over 175 manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals. She currently holds the Merck Frosst Canada Chair in Atherosclerosis and is associate editor of Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology.

Dr. McPherson's laboratory research is centered on developing a comprehensive and integrated understanding of the genetic and molecular etiology of two complex phenotypes obesity and coronary artery disease. Dr. McPherson directs the Lipid Clinic, Ruddy Cardiovascular Genetics Centre and Atherogenomics Laboratory at the Ottawa Heart Institute.

Thierry G. Mesana, MD, PhD, FRCS, FECTS
President and CEO,
Valve Surgery Research Chair,
University of Ottawa Heart Institute

Professor of Cardiac Surgery,
Gordon Henderson Leadership Chair,
University of Ottawa

Recognized as one of the leading heart valve surgeons in the world, Dr. Mesana received his medical degree in 1985 at the Université de la Méditerranée, Marseille, France, where he trained in thoracic and cardiovascular surgery. He also received in 1990 his PhD in biophysics and biomechanics from the Université de la Méditerranée after extensive experimental work and design development on artificial hearts and ventricular assist devices.

In 1991, Dr. Mesana was, at the time, the youngest cardiac surgeon in France to receive a full professorship. He then became the Chair of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery at La Timone University Hospital, the largest hospital in Marseilles, where he introduced a number of advanced techniques in valve surgery, thoracic aorta surgery and ventricular assist devices and greatly expanded their cardiac surgery program, doubling its size in a 10-year period.

Dr. Mesana was appointed Chief of Cardiac Surgery at the University of Ottawa Heart Institute in 2001. Under his leadership, the Institute’s surgical program became a leading Canadian and International program and his valve repair program has become recognized as one of the best in the world. His emphasis on repairing failing heart valves helped to establish this approach as a gold standard for treatment. In addition, he has encouraged the development of minimally invasive surgical procedures for coronary bypass grafting and complex cardiac arrhythmias, and utilization of miniaturized rotary blood pumps as bridge to transplantation. During his tenure at the Institute, he marked the milestone of its 500th heart transplant. He has received several National and International awards. Has given over 100 lectures as Guest Visiting Professor in Canada, US, Europe, Japan and China. Dr. Mesana has authored or co-authored over 300 scientific publications, publishing his clinical results and basic science work in most prestigious peer-reviewed journals.
Carolyn Pullen PhD  
Director of Research, Canada  
Heart and Stroke Foundation  

From her base in Ottawa, Dr. Pullen oversees the Foundation’s three national research programs: Strategic Research initiatives, National Personnel Awards, and Grants-in-Aid. She is a registered nurse and has a PhD in Education from the University of Ottawa. Her research interests lie in the systems that support translation of research knowledge into practice. She has served as Director, Knowledge Translation for the Canadian Cardiovascular Society, Assistant Director, Health Policy for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, and program lead for the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI). Carolyn is passionate about the Foundation mission to prevent disease, save lives and promote recovery, and actively seeks to build relationships and foster partnerships to increase the impact of the Foundation’s research.

Christopher S. Simpson, MD FRCPC FACC FHRS  
Medical Director, Cardiac Program,  
Kingston General Hospital / Hotel Dieu Hospital  

Chief of Cardiology,  
Professor of Medicine,  
Queen’s University  

Dr. Simpson is President-elect of the Canadian Medical Association (CMA). A New Brunswick native, Dr. Simpson obtained his MD in 1992 from Dalhousie University, and completed Internal Medicine and Cardiology training at Queen’s. He subsequently completed a Heart and Stroke Foundation Research Fellowship in Cardiac Electrophysiology (heart rhythm disorders) at the University of Western Ontario under the supervision of Dr. George Klein.

Dr. Simpson’s primary professional interest is health policy – particularly access to care. He serves as the Chair of the Wait Time Alliance (WTA) and as Past Chair of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society’s (CCS) Standing Committee on Health Policy and Advocacy. He is the Lead for the Southeast (Ontario) Local Health Integration Network (LHI/N) Cardiovascular Roadmap Project. He serves on the executive of the CCS (Member-at-Large), on the Cardiovascular Care Network (CCN) Board of Directors, and is an American College of Cardiology (ACC) Governor.

He served as the first President of the Canadian Heart Rhythm Society and was a founding executive member of the International Coalition of Pacing and Electrophysiology Organizations (COPE). He sits on numerous editorial boards and advisory committees, and has chaired or been a member of several national and international consensus conferences, including serving as co-chair of the CCS Consensus Conference on Medical Fitness to Drive and Fly. He is a past recipient of the Canadian Medical Association’s Award for Young Leaders.

Dr. Simpson is an active clinician, educator and researcher. He has authored or co-authored over 350 peer-reviewed publications. His clinical and research interests include access to care, medical fitness to drive, referral pathway development, atrial fibrillation, sudden death in the young, and cardiac resynchronization therapy.
Ahmed Tawakol, MD
Co-Director of the Cardiac MR PET CT Program, Director of Integrative BioImaging trials Program, Massachusetts General Hospital, Harvard Medical School

Dr. Tawakol obtained his medical degree from Stanford Medical School after which he completed training in Medicine, Cardiology, and Nuclear Cardiology at Harvard Medical School (at Brigham and Women’s Hospital and Massachusetts General Hospital).

Dr. Tawakol is a pioneer in the field of PET/CT and PET/MR imaging of atherosclerosis. A hypothesis that is central to his research is that assessment of plaque biology and function provide an important supplement to the classical structural information. Dr. Tawakol’s group provided the initial development and validation of molecular imaging as a tool to assess atherosclerotic plaques. Additionally, Dr. Tawakol played a prominent role in disseminating the approach and built an international network of collaborators to conduct multi-center trials. Within this paradigm, Dr Tawakol has spearheaded several multi-center trials using this advanced imaging technology as a tool to learn about disease mechanisms and to identify new treatments in humans.

Jack Tu, MD, PhD, FRCPC
Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Health Services Research
Senior Scientist, Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES)
Attending Physician, Division of Cardiology, Sunnybrook Schulich Heart Centre
Professor of Medicine, University of Toronto

Dr. Tu is an internationally-recognized researcher, who has published over 330 peer-reviewed journal articles, including multiple articles in the New England Journal of Medicine, Journal of the American Medical Association, and other leading medical journals. He has held over 15 million dollars in peer-reviewed grants as a principal investigator from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Heart and Stroke Foundation, and other funding agencies.

Harindra Wijeysundera, MD, PhD, FRCPC
Interventional Cardiology, Schulich Heart Centre, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
Scientist, Sunnybrook Research Institute (SRI)

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Medicine & Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, University of Toronto
Adjunct Scientist, Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES)

Dr. Wijeysundera is a graduate of the University of British Columbia and subsequently did specialty training in Internal Medicine and Adult Cardiology at the University of Toronto. He also completed fellowship training at the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Center in Interventional Cardiology and a PhD in Clinical Epidemiology at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Wijeysundera recently received the Distinguished Clinician Scientist award from the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada. His research program focuses on health technology assessments in cardiac disease using decision analytic models, which are populated and validated using real-world administrative data for both clinical outcomes and health care costs.
Kirkwood F. Adams Jr., MD  
Associate Professor of Medicine and Radiology  
Division of Cardiology  
University of North Carolina

Dr. Adams founded and for many years directed the UNC Heart Failure Program and served as the first transplant cardiologist for two decades, helping to establish this treatment at UNC. Dr. Adams is currently involved in numerous research activities related to heart failure with particular focus on novel drug development in acute heart failure and translational research concerning the identification and clinical application of cardiovascular biomarkers and pharmacogenomics. Dr. Adams has been involved in more than 120 completed grant- and industry-funded research projects, and he is currently leading or participating in five drug development trials, several registry and database studies, and has recently been involved in three NHLBI-funded trials. He has published more than 150 manuscripts in refereed journals, a number of book chapters and monographs, and more than 150 abstracts. Dr. Adams served as chair of the Guidelines/Clinical Positions Committee of the Heart Failure Society of America from 1996 to 2006 and is a past member of the Executive Council of this society.

In addition to drug development for acute and chronic heart failure, his current research interests are heavily focused on personalized medicine with ongoing projects related to novel biomarkers for heart failure, pharmacogenomics of heart failure therapeutics, and biomarker guided therapy for improving outcomes in CHF. He is very actively involved on the Executive Committee for the NHLBI sponsored trial of NTproBNP guided therapy known as the GUIDE-IT Trial.

Stephen Archer, MD  
Head, Department of Medicine  
Queen's University

Dr. Archer is a renowned cardiologist and physician scientist, accomplished author and dedicated educator. His research focus is on mechanism of oxygen sensing, mitochondrial biology and experimental therapeutics for pulmonary hypertension and cancer.

Having spent 12 years as a Chief of Cardiology at the University of Alberta and then at the University of Chicago, Dr. Archer returned to his medical school roots in 2012 to Queen’s University. He now serves as the Head of Medicine at Queen’s University, Hotel Dieu Hospital, Kingston General Hospital, and Providence Care. Directing a NIH- and CIHR-funded research lab, Dr. Archer and his associates study basic mechanisms of oxygen sensing in the vasculature and investigates the role of mitochondria, both as oxygen sensors and regulators of cell proliferation.

Dr. Archer’s clinical interests include pulmonary hypertension, persistent ductus arteriosus, strategies for improving cardiovascular care, and training the next generation of physician-scientists. He has published 200 papers and his translational cardiovascular research has been recognized with numerous awards, including being named the Chicago American Heart Association Coeur d’Or recipient for 2013.

Horng H. Chen, MD  
Professor of Medicine,  
Mayo Medical School

Dr. Chen is a board certified adult HF cardiologist and a physician scientist with 14 years experience in translational research bridging the laboratory to the bedside. After completing the Cardiology Clinician-Investigator Fellowship at Mayo, he successfully competed for and was awarded the ACC Career Development Award and subsequently, the AHA Scientist Development Grant. Both grants supported highly-translational research in
the human, with and without heart failure (HF) using Mayo’s Center for Translational Studies Activities (CTSA). He is currently the Principal Investigator on PI on four NHLBI grants, including: R01HL84155, P20HL101439, R01HL083231 and a Project Leader in the PPG HL76611. He is a Co-Investigator on the NHLBI Heart Failure Clinical Research Network and Principal Investigator of a multicenter clinical trial within the NHLBI HFCRN entitled: “The ROSE Study”.

Dr. Chen’s research focuses on cardiorenal dysfunction, heart failure together with novel natriuretic peptide therapeutics in the syndrome of HF.

Zahi Fayad, PhD
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai
Director, Translational and Molecular Imaging Institute
Director, Sinai NIH/NHLBI Program of Excellence in Nanotechnology (PEN)
Vice-Chair for Research, Department of Radiology
Professor, Departments of Radiology and Medicine (Cardiology).

Dr. Fayad is the Director of the Translational and Molecular Imaging Institute; Vice Chair for Research, Department of Radiology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. Dr. Fayad’s interdisciplinary and discipline bridging research - from engineering to biology and from pre-clinical to clinical investigations - has been dedicated to the detection and prevention of cardiovascular disease with many seminal contributions in the field of biomedical imaging and nanomedicine. He has authored more than 300 peer-reviewed publications, 50 book chapters, and over 400 meeting presentations.

Dr. Fayad had his trainings at the Johns Hopkins University and at the University of Pennsylvania. From 1996 to 1997 he was junior faculty in the Department of Radiology at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1997 he joined the faculty at Mount Sinai School of Medicine.

Dr. Fayad is the recipient of multiple prestigious awards. In 2007 he was given the John Paul II Medal from Krakow, Poland in recognition for the potential of his work on humankind.

Haissam Haddad, MD, FRCPC, FACC
Director, Heart Failure Program,
Medical Director, Heart Transplantation,
University of Ottawa Heart Institute
Professor, Department of Medicine
University of Ottawa

Dr. Haddad received his B.Sc. from Tichreen University in Syria in 1980 and graduated from Medical School at Tichreen University in 1983. Following a family medicine practice in Syria, Dr. Haddad immigrated to Canada and trained in Internal Medicine at Dalhousie University and successfully completed his Cardiology training at the University of Alberta. In July 1997, Dr. Haddad joined the Division of Cardiology, Queen Elizabeth II Health Sciences Centre, Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia and was Medical Director of the Heart Transplant Program and Director of the Cardiac Rehabilitation Program. In September 2001, Dr. Haddad joined the University of Ottawa Heart Institute; he is professor of Medicine, Division of Cardiology, Director of the Heart Failure Program, and Medical Director of Heart Transplant Program (2001-2013). He is also the Vice President of Medical Staff, The Ottawa Hospital and member of The Board of Directors.
Dr. Haddad was a member of the Primary Panel of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society’s consensus conferences on the management of heart failure (2001-2010), on heart transplantation in adults (2003) and on heart transplantation in pediatrics (2005). He also chaired the Society’s consensus conference for heart transplant in 2008-2009. Dr. Haddad was the chair of The Canadian Cardiac Transplant Group, 2006-08. He is the vice president, Canadian Heart Failure Association. He is the founder of the annual educational meeting for The Canadian Cardiac Transplant programs (Ottawa 2008, Calgary 2009, Quebec City 2010).

Dr. Haddad has earned numerous prestigious awards, namely the Anemia Institute for Research and Education Award in 2005, and the 1st Award Prize in the International Competition of the American College of Physicians in 2000.

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Roger J. Hajjar, MD  
Director, Cardiovascular Research Center  
Arthur & Janet C. Ross Professor of Medicine,  
Icahn School of Medicine,  
Mount Sinai

Dr. Hajjar received his BS in Biomedical Engineering from Johns Hopkins University, and his MD from Harvard Medical School and the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences & Technology. He completed his training in internal medicine, cardiology and research fellowships at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

Dr. Hajjar is an internationally renowned scientific leader in the field of cardiac gene therapy for heart failure. His laboratory focuses on molecular mechanisms of heart failure and has validated the cardiac sarcoplasmic reticulum calcium ATPase pump, SERCA2a, as a target in heart failure, developed methodologies for cardiac directed gene transfer that are currently used by investigators throughout the world, and examined the functional consequences of SERCA2a gene transfer in failing hearts. His basic science laboratory remains one of the preeminent laboratories for the investigation of calcium cycling in failing hearts and targeted gene transfer in various animal models. The significance of Dr. Hajjar’s research has been recognized with the initiation and recent successful completion of Phase 1 and Phase 2 First-in-Man clinical trials of SERCA2a gene transfer in patients with advanced heart failure under his guidance and the start of an international Phase 3 trial.

Prior to joining Mount Sinai, Dr. Hajjar served as Director of the Cardiovascular Laboratory of Integrative Physiology and Imaging at Massachusetts General Hospital, and Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. Dr. Hajjar has also been a staff cardiologist in the Heart Failure & Cardiac Transplantation Center at Massachusetts General Hospital.

Dr. Hajjar has won numerous awards and distinctions, including the Young Investigator Award of the American Heart Association. He was awarded a Doris Duke Clinical Scientist award, and has won first prize at the Astra Zeneca Young Investigator Forum.

In 2012, he was recently awarded the Distinguished Alumnus Award from Johns Hopkins University and the Mount Sinai Dean’s award for Excellence in Translational Science. Additionally, he was awarded the 2013 BCVS Distinguished Achievement Award from the American Heart Association, and the American College of Cardiology Paul Dudley White lecture at the 2013 NYCVS Symposium.

He has authored over 300 peer-reviewed publications.
Joshua Hare, MD
Chief Sciences Officer, Senior Associate Dean, Experimental and Cellular Therapeutics, Director of the Interdisciplinary Stem Cell Institute (ISCI), Louis Lemberg Professor of Medicine University of Miami Miller School of Medicine

Dr. Hare is an expert in cardiovascular medicine and specializes in heart failure, myocardial infarction, inflammatory diseases of the heart, and heart transplantation. He is an internationally acknowledged pioneer in the field of stem cell therapeutics for human heart disease, currently seeing and evaluating patients from all over the world for this new experimental therapy.

Dr. Hare is the founding director of the Interdisciplinary Stem Cell Institute, an Institute devoted to basic scientific and translational work in the field of stem cell therapy and regenerative medicine. Dr. Hare led the first randomized allogeneic mesenchymal stem cell (MSC) clinical trial for patients with myocardial infarction and is principal investigator of multiple other trials for heart failure and cardiovascular disease.

Dr. Hare has published more than 250 original research articles, editorials, and review articles, and is the recipient of seven grants from the National Institutes of Health. He holds 6 FDA Investigational New Drug applications for cell-based therapy in patients with heart disease, including the first in the United States for Idiopathic Pulmonary Fibrosis and the first for Aging Frailty. He is the recipient of four active NIH RO1’s and is the PI of the UM National Heart Lung and Blood Institute Cardiac Cell Therapy Trial Network (CCTRN) center; together these awards fund ~$2M in basic and translational research annually. Under his leadership, ISCI has been awarded $10M from the Cornelius Starr Foundation. Dr. Hare recently completed a term as chair of the Cardiac Contractility and Heart Failure study section of the National Institute of Health (NIH), chairs the Stem Cell Working Group of the American Heart Association (AHA), and is the incoming Chair of the AHA Basic Cardiovascular Science Council.

Educated at the University of Pennsylvania (1984), Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine (1988), The Brigham and Women’s Hospital (1994), and Harvard Medical School, Dr. Hare spent 12 years on the faculty at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine where he rose to the rank of Professor of Medicine and Biomedical Engineering, and Director of the Cardiac Transplant and Heart Failure program in 2004 before joining the faculty at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine in 2007. Dr. Hare is an elected member of the American Association of Physicians (2011) and the Association of University Cardiologists (2007). Dr. Hare is inventor of 10 (three issued) United States patents, and his research discoveries have led to the founding of three biotechnology companies.

Jonathon A. Leipsic, MD, FRCPC, FSCCT
Chairman, Department of Radiology, Providence Health Care
Vice Chairman of Research, Department of Radiology, Assistant Professor of Radiology, Division of Cardiology, University of British Columbia.

Dr. Leipsic acts as the co-director of Advanced Cardiac Imaging for the Providence Health Care Heart Center at St. Paul’s Hospital. He is actively involved in cardiac CT and MR research with prior involvement in a multi-center trial evaluating coronary CT angiography vs. QCA, CT for structural heart disease, prognostic value of cardiac CT.

Dr. Leipsic has over 155 peer reviewed manuscripts in press or in print and over 125 scientific abstracts. These include, but are not limited to, diagnostic performance of cardiac CT and radiation reduction as well as CT to guide minimally invasive valve intervention, FFRCT and CCTA for prognosis. Research interests also include dual energy CT for pulmonary imaging. He speaks internationally on a number of cardiopulmonary imaging topics with over 100 invited lectures in the last 4 years. He currently serves on the executive for the SCCT (Vice President) and he also chairs the Canadian International Regional Committee for the society.
Michel Le May, MD
Director, Coronary Care Unit,
Director, Regional STEMI Program,
Interventional Cardiologist,
University of Ottawa Heart Institute
Professor of Medicine,
University of Ottawa

Dr. Le May received his Medical Degree in 1978 from the University of Ottawa. He completed his training in Internal Medicine at the University of Southern California Medical Centre and a fellowship in Cardiology at Emory University.

Dr. Le May pioneered the concept of a dedicated STEMI room which has enabled paramedics to triage STEMI heart attack patients directly to the Heart Institute for primary PCI. As a champion for a regional STEMI program in Ottawa, his protocol has resulted in a 50 percent reduction in mortality in STEMI patients in the region.

As a recognized clinical researcher, Dr. Le May has over 50 peer-reviewed manuscripts and over 100 presentations at national and international scientific meetings. He received the Clinical Science Investigator of the Year Award from the University of Ottawa in 2008 and in 2009 he received the Top Achievement CIHR Award.

He has served as Chief Examiner for the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, Grant Reviewer for the Heart and Stroke Foundation, Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR) and CIHR Clinical Trials, Reviewer for Circulation and the Canadian Journal of Cardiology, and more. His professional associations include the American College of Physicians, American College of Cardiology (FACC), Canadian Medical Association, Ontario Medical Association and the Canadian Cardiovascular Society.

Dr. Le May’s clinical interests include interventional cardiology and the management of acute coronary syndromes. His primary research focus is on developing novel strategies for the management of acute myocardial infarction.

Duncan Stewart, MD, FRCPC
CEO and Scientific Director,
Ottawa Hospital Research Institute
Vice President Research,
The Ottawa Hospital
Professor, Department of Medicine
University of Ottawa

Dr. Duncan Stewart is a pioneering Canadian cardiovascular researcher who is recognized for his many important discoveries in blood vessel biology, as well as his dedication to translating these discoveries into benefits for patients and society. After beginning his career in academic cardiology at McGill University in Montreal, he moved to Toronto as Head of Cardiology at St. Michael’s Hospital and later became Director of the Division of Cardiology, and Executive Director of the McLaughlin Centre for Molecular Medicine at the University of Toronto. He was recruited to lead the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute (OHRI) in 2007.
Dr. Stewart has made a number of seminal discoveries elucidating the importance of endothelial factors in health and disease, notably the role of the nitric oxide system in angiogenesis and of endothelin-1 in pulmonary hypertension. He is a leader in developing cell and gene based therapies for cardiovascular disease. He led the first Canadian clinical trial to test an angiogenic gene therapy — using VEGF to try to stimulate heart repair in people who had suffered heart attacks.

Dr. Stewart is spearheading the world’s first clinical trial of a gene-enhanced cell therapy for pulmonary hypertension, using endothelial progenitor cells engineered to over-express the endothelial nitric oxide synthase. He has also launched the first enhanced progenitor cell therapy trial for post heart attack repair, and is leading a Canadian effort to initiate the world’s first trial of mesenchymal stem cells for the treatment of acute lung injury and acute respiratory distress syndrome. He is also involved in a clinical trial that will assess whether mesenchymal stromal stem cells can improve outcomes for patients with septic shock.

Dr. Stewart has published more than 200 peer-reviewed manuscripts and has received a number of distinctions and prizes, including the Dexter Man Chair of Cardiology and Research Achievement Award of the University of Toronto, and the Research Achievement Award of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society. Throughout his career, Dr. Stewart has demonstrated leadership in bringing diverse groups of clinicians and scientists together to put Canada on the world stage for translational cardiovascular and regenerative medicine research.

Jean-François Tanguay, MD, FRCPC, FACC, FAHA, FESC
Director of the Coronary Care Unit,
Montreal Heart Institute

Professor of Medicine,
Director, MD-PhD and Interventional Cardiology Training Programs
Faculty of Medicine, Université de Montréal, Québec, Canada

Dr. Jean-François Tanguay received his MD degree from the Université de Montréal School of Medicine, where he completed his internship, internal medicine residency and cardiology fellowship. After an interventional fellowship at the Montreal Heart Institute, he trained at Duke University Medical Center as Post-Doctoral Fellow in the Interventional Cardiology Program. He is an internationally recognized expert in the field of interventional cardiology and in translational research. His current research interests focus on improving vascular healing, stabilizing vulnerable plaque and reducing restenosis.

During his research fellowship, Dr. Tanguay studied the early prototypes of bioresorbable drug eluting stents platforms in pre-clinical and thrombosis models. He contributed to the discovery of a P-Selectin inhibitor to block platelet-leukocyte interactions and to prevent restenosis. These findings could lead to a new class of medication inhibiting pathologic interactions between platelets, leucocytes and endothelial cells. Dr. Tanguay’s more recent investigations also brought promising discoveries related to 17beta-estradiol and the specific contribution of estrogen receptors in vascular healing. Most recently, he performed the first coronary implantation of a drug-eluting bioresorbable scaffold (ABSORBTM) in North-America.

Dr. Tanguay is President of the CCS Anti Platelet Guidelines Committee and their guidelines’ recommendations were published in the Canadian Journal of Cardiology in 2011. A Focused Update has also been published in 2013 in the Canadian Journal of Cardiology. He is a Fellow of the American Heart Association (FAHA), the American College of Cardiology (FACC), the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (FRCPC) and the European Society of Cardiology (FESC). He acted as President of the Canadian Association of Interventional Cardiology (CAIC) from 2002-2005 and is co-director of the Interventional Cardiology Montreal-Live Symposium. He has been elected Governor in Quebec for the American College of Cardiology.

Author or co-author of more than 350 scientific publications, abstracts and book chapters, he acts as grant reviewer for the Fonds de Recherche en Santé du Québec, the Foundation of Heart and Stroke of Canada and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Dr. Tanguay is the Principal investigator of many clinical trials at the Montreal Heart Institute and received funding by peer-review grants (FRSQ, CIHR, HSFC). He is a reviewer for many scientific Journals including Circulation, The Canadian Journal of Cardiology, The American Journal of Cardiology, Catheterization and Cardiovascular Intervention and The European Heart Journal.
Dr. Udell’s research is focused on a) improving cardiovascular health services and b) testing innovative cardiovascular risk factor treatment strategies in randomized clinical trials.

Dr. Udell graduated with an MD from the University of Toronto in 2003, a Masters in Public Health from Harvard in 2005, and completed Internal Medicine residency in 2007 at the University of British Columbia, General Internal Medicine fellowship at University of Toronto in 2008, Cardiology fellowship at Brigham and Women’s Hospital, Harvard Medical School in 2010, a Cardiology Clinical Trials research fellowship at the TIMI Study Group in 2012 and a Clinical Epidemiology research fellowship at ICES in 2012.

Dr. Wu has received numerous awards, including the Burroughs Wellcome Foundation Career Award for Medical Scientists (2007), the NIH Director’s New Innovator Award (2008), the Baxter Foundation Faculty Award (2009), the NIH Roadmap Transformative Award (2009), the AHA National Innovative Research Award (2009), the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers given by President Obama (2010), and the AHA Established Investigator Award (2013). Dr. Wu has published >200 manuscripts. His lab uses a combination of genomics, cellular & molecular biology, physiological testing, and molecular imaging technologies to better understand molecular and pathophysiological processes. The lab works on biological mechanisms of patient-specific and disease-specific induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs). The main goals are for (i) understanding cardiovascular disease mechanism, (ii) accelerate drug discovery and screening, and (iii) develop personalized medicine platforms.
Anthony Bella, MD, FRCSC
Greta and John Hansen Chair in Men’s Health Research, Assistant Professor of Urology, Department of Surgery, Associate Scientist, Neuroscience, University of Ottawa

Dr. Bella is a urological surgeon, researcher and educator. His primary urologic clinical interests are management of post-prostate cancer treatment complications, erectile dysfunction, hypogonadism, genitourologic prosthetic surgery, and medical and surgical management of Peyronie’s disease.

Dr. Bella was accepted to medical school at McMaster University, and after completing his studies trained in General Surgery at McMaster followed by Urological Surgery at University of Western Ontario. Dr. Bella then completed a combined research and clinical fellowship under Dr. Tom F. Lue at the University of California San Francisco; he was the first American Foundation for Urologic Disease Robert J. Krane Scholar, received a California Urology Foundation Award for stem cell research, and was named the American Urologic Association Foundation Outstanding Graduate Scholar while at UCSF.

Dr. Bella has coauthored more than 90 peer-reviewed publications and book chapters in the medical literature to date and has been awarded several national and international prizes for basic and clinical research, including the prestigious Emile Tanagho Prize for Innovative Research in Brussels in 2009, and being named a Canadian Urological Association - European Association of Urology Visiting Scholar in 2011.

David Birnie, MD
Staff Cardiac Electrophysiologist and Director of Arrhythmia Services, Director of Clinical Research, Division of Cardiology, University of Ottawa Heart Institute

Dr. David Birnie was appointed Staff Cardiac Electrophysiologist at the University of Ottawa Heart Institute in May 2002. He was educated in Scotland and received his medical degree (MB ChB) from Glasgow University in 1990. After completion of Internal Medical training at Aberdeen University he gained his MRCP (UK) in 1993. He spent three years as a cardiology research fellow at Glasgow University from 1993 studying the immunology of atherosclerosis and was awarded his PhD equivalent (MD) in 1996. Between 1996 and 2001 he did cardiology training at Glasgow University and received his Certificate of Completion of Specialist Cardiology Training in 2001. In addition he spent a year in 1999-2000 as a Cardiac Electrophysiology Fellow at the Ottawa Heart Institute.

Dr. Birnie is the Director of the Arrhythmia Services at UOHI. His clinical focus is on all aspects of cardiac electrophysiology including arrhythmia pharmacotherapy and radiofrequency ablation of simple and complex arrhythmias including atrial fibrillation. He also has a major clinical interest in all aspects of implantation and follow-up of device therapy for arrhythmias. To date he has been involved in over 285 peer-reviewed presentations, publications, and book chapters. His major ongoing research interests are selection and optimization of CRT for heart failure patients, investigating optimal strategies for stroke reduction around device surgery and following AF ablation and cardiac sarcoidosis.
Michael Farkouh, MD  
Peter Munk Chair in Multinational Clinical Trials,  
University Health Network  

Director, Heart and Stroke Richard Lewar Centre of Excellence,  
Associate Professor, University of Toronto  

After obtaining his medical degree from the University of Western Ontario in 1988, Dr. Farkouh interned at the Toronto General Hospital. In 1992, he completed his residency at the Mayo Clinic followed by a fellowship in Academic General Internal Medicine from McMaster University where he studied for the Master of Science in Epidemiology under Professor David Sackett. Under the mentorship of Professor Salim Yusuf, Dr. Farkouh studied cardiovascular clinical trials. He completed his cardiovascular fellowship at Mount Sinai in 1998.

Dr. Farkouh has designed and conducted numerous pivotal clinical trials including: CHEER (Chest Pain Evaluation in the Emergency Room), TARGET, STATUS and FREEDOM (enrolling). His areas of research include: evaluation of chest pain syndromes, diabetes and heart diseases and the relationship of anti-inflammatory agents and heart disease. Dr. Farkouh is the PI for the BARI 2D and TRIUMPH trials at Mount Sinai.

His past appointments include director of the telemetry unit at Mount Sinai, director of the cardiac care unit at New York University and director of the Electrocardiography Core Laboratory at the Cardiovascular Research Foundation. He has been awarded Teacher of the Year in the Department of Medicine at the Mayo Clinic. Dr. Farkouh has been an invited speaker internationally and served on numerous data safety monitoring boards.

The Clinical Trials Unit at Mount Sinai Heart serves as the clinical coordinating center for the NHLBI-sponsored FREEDOM trial and registry and for the REDEEM trial. The unit oversees clinical trial research throughout Mount Sinai Heart and interacts with various departments across the institution and beyond.

George Fodor, MD, PhD, FRCPC, FAHA  
Head of Research,  
Minto Prevention and Rehabilitation Centre  

Professor Emeritus of Medicine and Clinical Epidemiology  
Memorial University of Newfoundland  

Adjunct Professor, University of Ottawa.

Dr. Fodor’s experience has made him a leading Canadian expert in the area of preventive cardiology. He graduated in Medicine from Charles University, Prague, Czechoslovakia. He obtained his PhD from the Czech Academy of Science and has been trained in cardiology at the Institute of Cardiovascular Research (Prague). As both a medical doctor and PhD graduate, Dr. Fodor’s background is in cardiology, preventive cardiology, lipid metabolism, and hypertension research.

Dr. Fodor is the Founding President of the Canadian Hypertension Society and of Blood Pressure Canada. He is an honorary member of Czech and Slovak Cardiology Society and he also holds the following appointments: Board Member of the World Hypertension League, Member of the Scientific Advisory Board at the Institute for Cardiovascular Research in Prague, Czech Republic and Member of the Canadian Hypertension Education Program. Dr. Fodor has received numerous awards and distinctions including the National Health Scientist Award from Health Canada, a Distinguished Scientist Award of the Canadian Hypertension Society, the Segal Award of Merit in Cardiovascular Disease Prevention from the Canadian Cardiovascular Society and honorary awards from the Slovak Medical Society and the Hungarian Hypertension Society. Dr. Fodor has over 200 publications to his name.
Peter Lin, MD, CCFP  
Director, Primary Care Initiatives  
Canadian Heart Research Centre

Dr. Peter Lin started his studies in the Faculty of Science and Engineering at the University of Toronto and then moved onto his medical degree at the university of Toronto as well. He continues to be a lecturer and speaker with two busy family practices in Toronto. He has given over 120 lectures in 2009 on various topics. Currently, he is the health columnist for CBC Radio which is heard across Canada. He has also been the guest editor for magazines such as Focus on Cardiology. He is a consultant for Perspectives in Cardiology, and is on of the editorial board for The Canadian Alzheimer Disease Review. Dr. Lin has been the chairman of the Dementia Congress in the United States for the last 4 years. He has also on the editorial board of Pri-Med Institute USA which provides education for physicians. He was chairman of the CV summit in Madrid 2009 and spoke at the European Society of Cardiology meeting in Barcelona in 2009.

His goal is to take the knowledge out of the research journals and put it back into the hands of the people who can then apply this knowledge on a daily basis. To this end, Dr. Lin’s strongest asset is his ability to communicate complex information in a clear and palatable way.

Robert McKelvie, MD, PhD, FRCPC  
Medical Director, Cardiac Health and Rehabilitation Centre,  
Medical Director, Heart Failure Program,  
Hamilton Health Sciences Centre

Professor of Medicine, McMaster University

Dr. McKelvie is the Chair of the Cardiac Care Network Heart Failure Working Group; Chair and Steering Committee Member of the Quality Indicators Working Group for Heart Failure, Member of the Steering Committee of the Quality Indicators Data Definitions Working Group, and Member of the Steering Committee, Quality Indicators Field Testing National Protocol Working Group - of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society/Public Health Agency of Canada. He is a member of the Hamilton Integrated Research Ethics Board, Hamilton Health Sciences, Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University; member of the Health Quality Ontario Expert Advisory Panel on Post-Acute, Community Based Care for CHF Patients; and Member of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society Consensus on Use of Cardiac Resynchronization Therapy Guidelines. Dr. McKelvie is a Primary Panel Member of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society Heart Failure Management Guidelines. He has over 200 peer reviewed articles, 180 abstracts and he has given more than 400 lectures and presentations.

Ruth McPherson, PhD, MD, FRCPC  
Director, Ruddy Canadian Cardiovascular Genetics Centre,  
Director, Atherogenomics Laboratory and Lipid Clinic,  
Director of Research, Division of Cardiology,  
University of Ottawa Heart Institute

Professor, Departments of Medicine and Biochemistry,  
University of Ottawa

Dr. McPherson received her PhD from the University of London (UK) and MD from the University of Toronto, where she graduated magna cum laude in 1984. She completed subspecialty training in internal medicine and in endocrinology and metabolism at the University of Toronto. Dr. McPherson held academic positions at the University of Toronto and McGill University before coming to the University of Ottawa Heart Institute in 1992.
Dr. McPherson is funded by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research and the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada. She has published over 175 manuscripts in peer-reviewed journals. She currently holds the Merck Frosst Canada Chair in Atherosclerosis and is associate editor of Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis, and Vascular Biology.

Dr. McPherson's laboratory research is centered on developing a comprehensive and integrated understanding of the genetic and molecular etiology of two complex phenotypes obesity and coronary artery disease. Dr. McPherson directs the Lipid Clinic, Ruddy Cardiovascular Genetics Centre and Atherogenomics Laboratory at the Ottawa Heart Institute.

Lisa Mielniczuk, MD, FRCPC
Staff Cardiologist, Division of Cardiology,
Medical Director, Pulmonary Hypertension Clinic,
Medical Director, Telehealth Home Monitoring Program,
University of Ottawa Heart Institute

Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine
University of Ottawa

Dr. Lisa Mielniczuk graduated medical school from McMaster University in 1998 and then completed internal medicine training at Queen's University in Kingston and a cardiology residency at the University of Ottawa Heart Institute. Following her cardiology training, Dr. Mielniczuk pursued a fellowship in heart failure and cardiac transplantation at the Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston and a Masters of Science Degree in Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics from the Harvard School of Public Health. Currently Dr. Mielniczuk is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Ottawa and a cardiologist at the Ottawa Heart Institute. In addition, Dr. Mielniczuk is the Director of the Heart Failure Program and Medical Director of Cardiac Transplantation Program as well as Medical Director of the Pulmonary Hypertension Clinic.

Dr. Mielniczuk's research interests include clinical outcomes related to heart failure and pulmonary hypertension and the evaluation of myocardial energetics in right heart failure. She currently holds clinical and basic science grants from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada as well as the American Society of Nuclear Cardiology evaluating right ventricular metabolism in pulmonary hypertension. She is also co-investigator of the Canadian Institute of Health Research IMAGE HEART FAILURE TEAM GRANT and co-investigator on studies evaluating cardiac energetics using C-11-acetate in patients with heart failure and sleep apnea being randomized to CPAP vs. standar

Robert Reid, PhD, MBA
Deputy Chief, Division of Prevention & Rehabilitation
University of Ottawa Heart Institute

Professor, Faculty of Medicine
University of Ottawa

Dr. Reid is one of Canada’s leading health behavior change experts, particularly concerning smoking cessation, physical activity promotion, dietary change and cardiovascular rehabilitation. He is one of main inventors of the Ottawa Model for Smoking Cessation, a systematic approach to identifying and assisting smokers in clinical practice settings. His research is funded by the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, the National Cancer Institute of Canada, the Canadian Tobacco Control Research Initiative, the Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion, the Change Foundation, and Health Canada.

Dr. Reid is a past recipient of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada’s New Investigator Award. In 2006, he was awarded the James Hogg Award from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Institute for Circulatory and Respiratory Health for his contributions to clinical and population health research. In 2011, he was named the University of Ottawa Heart Institute’s Researcher of the Year. He is President of the Canadian Association of Cardiac Rehabilitation.
Robert S. Rosenson, MD
Director, Cardiometabolic Disorders,
Professor of Medicine,
Icahn School of Medicine
Mount Sinai

Dr. Rosenson is a Fellow of the American Heart Association Council on Epidemiology and Prevention, Fellow of the American Heart Association Council on Arteriosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology, Fellow of the National Lipid Association and a past Fellow of the American College of Chest Physicians (inactive). He has been the recipient of a number of awards and honors, including the Ground-Breaking Doctors Award from Chicago magazine.

Dr. Rosenson earned his medical degree from Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana where he conducted research on prostaglandin metabolism in coronary arteries. This work was recognized when he was awarded the Querens-Rives-Shore Award for best thesis in Cardiology. He then served his residency in medicine at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. He later completed a fellowship in cardiovascular medicine at the University of Chicago that was followed by an additional year of training as a Research Associate in lipoprotein metabolism.

Dr. Rosenson is a Diplomate of the American Board of Internal Medicine, with a subspecialty in cardiovascular disease, the National Board of Medical Examiners, and National Lipid Association. He currently serves on a number of committees for professional societies. He has served on nine committees for the American College of Cardiology, and he served as a member of the Expert Document Committee for the American College of Cardiology and ACCF Representative to the ADA Aspirin Therapy in Diabetes Position Statement. He has been extensively involved with the National Lipid Association where he serves a National Board Member and Northeast Lipid Association Board Member. Dr. Rosenson served as Co-Chair for the task force on HDL biology, and he is the current Chair of the Statin Safety Expert Muscle Document Committee. Dr. Rosenson led three international working groups on HDL that resulted in seminal articles on HDL nomenclature, HDL and macrophage cholesterol, and HDL functionality.

Dr. Rosenson has been involved in numerous grant-supported research investigations studying the effects of lipid-lowering therapy, hypoglycemic therapy, and antihypertensive agents in inflammation, thrombogenesis, and rheology. His laboratory was the first to demonstrate that statins reduce pro-inflammatory cytokine production. He has continued this work through mechanistic studies on inflammatory markers with studies on fenofibrate. Most recently, he has conducted research with selective inhibitors of inflammatory pathways such as lipoprotein-associated phospholipase A₂, and secretory phospholipase A₂. He has made important contributions concerning the prognostic significance of lipoprotein subclasses in coronary atherosclerosis, cardiovascular events and prediction of type 2 diabetes. He has served as Principal Investigator on a number of NIH-funded research studies, pharmaceutical-sponsored drug trials, and multicenter studies. He has authored 230 peer-review journal articles, and more than 600 book chapters, abstracts, and electronic publications for Up To Date Medicine.

Allan C. Skanes, MD
Director, Electrophysiology Laboratory,
London Health Sciences Centre
Professor of Medicine, University of Western Ontario

Dr. Skanes received his medical degree in 1990 from the University of Toronto where he also completed his Internal Medicine training. He completed his Cardiology and Electrophysiology training at the University of Ottawa Heart Institute before a research fellowship in Syracuse New York investigating the underlying mechanisms of arrhythmia, especially atrial fibrillation.
The Electrophysiology Laboratory, a busy interventional program with an active and productive research program, is a current clinical user of state of the art imaging and navigation technologies. Dr. Skanes, Director, is an experienced electrophysiologist and clinician scientist with a specific interest in non-pharmacologic therapy for arrhythmia, remote and non-fluoroscopic catheter navigation and catheter ablation of cardiac arrhythmia. He is uniquely skilled to evaluate clinical utility of imaging and tracking technologies, image-modality compatible tools as well as fusion of device representations with maps of anatomy and function.

Most recently, he co-chaired the 2010 Canadian Cardiovascular Society management guidelines for atrial fibrillation as well as the 2012 Focused Update. He is actively researching novel non-fluoroscopic catheter navigation technologies in animal models as well as human studies. His research contributes clinical relevance and applicability to development of navigation and guiding technologies. It also provides unique experience and skill set as well as an environment for further translational development to human studies.

He has published 144 peer-reviewed papers and 10 book chapters.

Sheldon Tobe, MD, FRCPC, MScCH (HPTE), FACP, FASH
Nephrologist and Hypertension Specialist, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

Dr. Tobe received his MD degree from the University of Calgary, and his Master of Science, Community Health, Health Professions Teacher Education degree from the University of Toronto. His research in the 1990’s focused on dialysis research, but by the end of 1990’s the focus shifted to blood pressure management to help keep patients off dialysis.

He joined the Canadian Hypertension Education Program (CHEP) in 1999. He became the Chair of the guidelines process from 2007 to 2012. He is now a member of the Board of Directors for Hypertension Canada. Dr. Tobe is Co-chair of the CIHR initiated C-CHANGE process to harmonize a core set of recommendations for vascular risk reduction from eight clinical practice guidelines group.

Dr. Tobe was appointed on July 1st, 2013 as the HSF/NOSM Chair in Aboriginal and Rural Health

Catherine Yu, MD, FRCPC, MHSc
Staff, Division of Endocrinology & Metabolism, St. Michael's Hospital
Assistant Professor, Faculty of Medicine and Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto
Associate Scientist, Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute, St. Michael's Hospital

After completing her undergraduate and postgraduate training in Internal Medicine and Endocrinology at the University of Toronto, Dr. Yu then completed an MHSc in Public Health, focusing on the role of education and behavior change in knowledge translation. Specifically, her research focus is on the care of the patient with diabetes in the context of a health care team, revolving around the role of integrative health informatics tools, patient and clinician education and behaviour change in improving quality of care. In this regard, she is Principal Investigator and Co-Investigator on several CIHR-funded projects. In addition, she is the Chair of the Clinical Practice Guidelines Dissemination and Implementation Committee of the Canadian Diabetes Association, in which role she has developed evidence-based and innovative strategies to put guidelines into practice across Canada.