



Conference Agenda

COMING TOGETHER.
BUILDING CONNECTIONS.
CHALLENGING OUR DIFFERENCES.
May 31 – June 1, 2024
Kelowna, British Columbia

wcaforum.com

Western Canada Addiction Forum Planning Committee

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

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

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

Robert De Clark, MSW
Victoria, British Columbia

Joan Hollihan, B. Comm
Calgary, Alberta

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

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

The Western Canada Addiction Forum would like to acknowledge the land on which we gather is the unceded territory of the Syilx (Okanagan) Peoples. The Syilx Okanagan Nation and their peoples have taken care of their homelands for thousands of years.

The Western Canada Addiction Forum is respectful of the Syilx Okanagan Nation and their peoples, their knowledge, language, and history, as well as their ongoing relationship to the land and natural world.

Accreditation

The Canadian Addiction Counsellors Certification Federation has approved this conference for 12.75 continuing education hours (CEU's) that is valid for two years until April 7, 2026.

Session Number: 2024-4-001

This Group Learning program has been reviewed by the College of Family Physicians of Canada and is awaiting final certification by the College's British Columbia Chapter.



Overarching Event Learning Objectives

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

Friday May 31

0715h **Breakfast and Registration**
 Okanagan Room and Grand Foyer

0800h **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

0830h **Approach to Treating People with Psychosis and Concurrent Substance Use Disorders**
 Dr. Bill MacEwan

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

- Better understand the interface of mental illness and addiction
- Discuss the presentation of addiction, serious mental and physical illnesses using data from the DTES of Vancouver
- Learn more about the need for continuing integration of mental health and addictions.

0910h **Moderated Question and Answer**

0920h **Approach to Complex Conversations in Addiction Treatment**
 Dr. Wiplove Lamba

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

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

- Describe the key approaches that overlap in Rogerian Therapy and Motivational interviewing that can lead to building rapport.

- Explore the balance of acceptance and change as it relates to their ability to effectively communicate direct recommendations to people with cluster B personality traits.
- List the key components of non-violent communication and delineate how it may apply to the clinical encounter.

0950h **Moderated Question and Answer**

1000h **Refreshment Break**
 Grand Foyer. Exhibit Booths are open.

1030h **Transforming Addiction Care: Lessons from a Safer Supply Clinic Through the Eyes of a Professional with Lived Experience.**
 JP Michael

This talk provides an intimate glimpse into the world of addiction care from the perspective of an individual with personal and extensive experience in a Safer Supply clinic. It is a humble account that weaves through the personal trials and professional experiences of someone who has both lived through addiction and worked on the front lines of its treatment. The speaker shares stories from their journey, illuminating the challenges and triumphs encountered in a setting that strives to balance the principles of harm reduction with practical care. The narrative is an exploration of the delicate interplay between empathy, patient autonomy, and the necessary structure that clinical settings provide. With an approach that is more narrative than academic, the talk invites reflection on how we can all contribute to a more compassionate and effective approach to addiction recovery.

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

- **Uncover the Realities of Safer Supply Through First-Hand Narratives:** Gain an in-depth understanding of Safer Supply through the first-hand accounts of a professional with lived experience working within a Safer Supply clinic, highlighting the practical and emotional complexities encountered.
- **Explore the Impact of Safer Supply from Inside the Clinic:** Delve into the daily challenges and successes of a Safer Supply clinic, as narrated by a professional with lived experience, to understand the nuanced impact of these programs on patients and healthcare practices.
- **Observe Ethical and Clinical Reflections from the Heart of Safer Supply:** Reflect on the ethical dilemmas and clinical decisions faced in a Safer Supply clinic, informed by stories and experiences that bridge personal recovery with professional advocacy.

1050h Moderated Question and Answer

1100h The Complexity of Untreated ADHD and SUD: A Patient's Story
Dr. Sara Binder

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

- Discuss the underlying neurobiology of ADHD.
- Recognize the prevalence of comorbidities in untreated ADHD.
- Understand the impact of ADHD and SUD on a patient's life.
- Review the result of treating a patient's ADHD in the context of debilitating comorbidity.

1200h Moderated Question and Answer

1215h Lunch
Okanagan Room and Grand Foyer. Exhibit Booths are open.

1240h Sponsored Lunch Presentation *non accredited activity

1325h Free time

1345h Welcome Back

1345h Treatment of Depression and Alcohol Use Disorder
Dr. Wiplove Lamba and Dr. Nick Mathew

There has been significant discord in Canada and the United States on the role of antidepressants in people who drink alcohol. This has created a significant divide between addiction medicine practitioners and psychiatrists. While Dr. Matthew will cover the hard data and evidence, Dr. Lamba will share a pragmatic approach that allows for assessment and engagement of a patient that has mood symptoms and alcohol use. This will incorporate approaches that apply to the primary care or rapid access addiction medicine assessment as well as what would be involved in a comprehensive concurrent disorder assessment. The attendee will also be aware of which scales may help clarify the diagnosis and ideal treatment plan.

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

- Describe assessment and treatment considerations in the detoxification, maintenance and harm reduction phase of alcohol use.
- List key components and scales that can help with diagnostic clarification around mood

symptoms.

- Develop a pragmatic approach in how to use antidepressants in a patient who drinks and has mood symptoms.

1425h Moderated Question and Answer

1440h Buprenorphine Initiation Strategies in the Fentanyl Era
Dr. Pouya Azar, Dr. Annabel Mead, and Dr. Martha Ignaszewski

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

- Understand the challenges of initiating patients with active opioid use disorder onto buprenorphine using the classical induction approach.
- Appreciate the range of existing low-dose to high-dose buprenorphine induction strategies, demonstrating an understanding of their respective applications and clinical considerations.
- Describe a novel induction method utilizing transdermal buprenorphine patches to overcome induction strategies and to rapidly transition patients onto sublingual or extended release buprenorphine.

1525h Moderated Question and Answer

1540h Refreshment Break
Grand Foyer. Exhibit Booths are open.

1610h Welcome Back

1610h Longitudinal Course of Illness in Clients with Co-Occurring Schizophrenia Spectrum and Amphetamine-Type Substance Use Disorders: Lessons Learned from a Provincial Centre for Mental Health and Addiction Treatment and Research in British Columbia
Dr. Nick Mathew and Reza Rafizadeh

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

- Discuss current Canadian and global evidence on risk of transition to a persistent psychotic disorder in individuals with amphetamine-type substance use disorder.
- Decipher how course of illness, cross sectional and longitudinal symptoms, and response to therapeutic interventions are used for diagnostic clarification.
- Examine whether the effects of antipsychotic medications on outcomes associated with amphetamine-type substance use disorder vary.

1650h Moderated Question and Answer

1705h Trends on the Street: Current State of Illicit Drug Trade and Organized Crime
Conor King

Illicit drugs have never been more available, more toxic and cheaper in price. What's driving these changes? What drugs are out there and why are they more toxic? Who's profiting? This talk will explore what law enforcement officers know about the swiftly changing illicit drug environment in Canada.

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

- Identify the controlled substances that are currently dominating the illicit drug market.
- Analyze the most commonly detected cutting agents or adulterants being added to illicit substances and recognize the role of these agents in the drug trade.
- Explain the role of Organized Crime Groups importing, producing and distributing illicit substances.

1750h Moderated Question and Answer

1800h Closing Remarks and Conclusion of Day One

1930h Welcome Reception – Grand Foyer

Saturday June 1

0715h Breakfast and Check in
Okanagan Room and Grand Foyer

0740h Sponsored Breakfast Presentation *non accredited activity.

0800h Free time

0815h Opening Remarks and Presentation of the 2024 WCAF Innovation Awards

0900h Youth Mental Health and Resilience Factors and Intersection with Addiction
Chris Primeau

Informed by rigorous and extensive research, this presentation offers a deep dive into resilience-building practices that foster mental strength. He will elucidate his methodologically sound approach to developing resilience-enhancing programs that bolster youth and caregiver well-being. Practical strategies for implementing similar evidence-based initiatives in educational institutions will be discussed. Leveraging our robust experience working with youth, he will underscore how resilience-building, underpinned by empirical findings, can significantly influence mental health and long-term outcomes for young people spanning across all socio-economic environments. Additionally, he will accentuate the pivotal role of community partnerships and alignment with the burgeoning practices of Social Emotional Learning (SEL) in nurturing mental health and well-being both for early intervention ideology and adolescent addiction recovery.

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

- identify the link between resilience factors with long term recovery outcomes.
- become empowered with tools needed to build strength-based communication habits both in early intervention and addiction recovery care.
- explore the role community partnerships play to support mental health in early intervention and addiction recovery.

0945h Moderated Question and Answer

1000h Refreshment Break
Grand Foyer. Exhibit Booths are open.

1030h Welcome Back (proceed to preferred workshop)

Concurrent Workshop One and Two

*25% of each workshop will include Question and Answer

1030h Workshop One: Therapeutic Living Units
Dr. Paul Sobey and Amanda Staller

Therapeutic Living Units (TLUs) are Therapeutic Communities (TC) adapted for correctional facilities. TCs are a highly effective and evidence-based intervention for treatment of severe SUDs with more than 60 years of therapeutic value in communities, jails and other settings. The presenters will discuss the unique approach taken in establishing and operating TLUs in Alberta, the daily program, including the rationale and philosophy and the evidence for the approach.

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

- Identify the evidence base for the TLU model (TC adapted for a correctional facility).
- Explore the unique process RSG took in standing up and operating TLUs.
- Familiarize themselves with the unique program RSG developed and modifications made to achieve best possible outcomes.

1030h Workshop Two: Cannabis in Pregnancy and Postpartum: What is a Provider to do?
Dr. Lisa Graves

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

- Describe the research on cannabis in pregnancy and postpartum.
- Recognize at risk cannabis use.
- Plan conversations with patients about cannabis use.

1130h Lunch

1145h Sponsored Presentation *non accredited activity.

1245h Free Time
Exhibit Booths are open.

1315h Welcome Back
Okanagan Room

1315h Treatment as Prevention – The Key to End HIV/AIDS
Dr. Julio Montaner

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

- Employ updated information in the care of people living with HIV particularly with regards to antiretroviral therapy and pre-exposure prophylaxis
- Recognize emerging issues in the context of the management of people living with HIV and related comorbidities.
- Identify morbid conditions amenable to Treatment as Prevention strategies.

1400h Moderated Question and Answer

1410h Travel to Workshop

Concurrent Workshop Three and Four

*25% of each workshop will include Question and Answer

1415h Workshop Three: Bridging Lived Experience with Clinical Practice: Challenges and Opportunities in Addiction Medicine
JP Michael, Braeden Codd, Alexia Fast and Chris Anhorn

Embark on an insightful journey dedicated to integrating lived and living experiences into the heart of clinical addiction medicine that delves into the complexities and transformative potential of bringing personal recovery stories into clinical settings.

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

- Uncover the unique challenges faced by individuals with lived experience in clinical environments, understanding barriers to effective engagement and treatment success.
- Discover essential supports and accommodations needed to foster the well-being and productivity of peers within clinical teams, with a focus on mental health support, professional development, and establishing robust peer support systems.
- Assess the profound benefits of including lived experiences in treatment and recovery plans, spotlighting the enhancement of patient rapport, stigma reduction, and improved adherence to treatment protocols.

1415h **Workshop Four: Innovative Treatment for Individuals with Complex Needs: ‘Adapted Therapeutic Communities’ for British Columbia - A Practical Hands-on Experience for Participants**

Anando Chatterji, Professor Rex Haigh, Susan Tatoosh

Over the past two decades, the democratic model of therapeutic communities has undergone significant development in the UK. This model has been proven to be highly effective for individuals with severe personality disorders such as borderline disorder and has undergone quality assurance through formal accreditation. Experiential and immersive learning methods have been widely used internationally.

Relationships formed within Therapeutic Communities (TCs) are the main therapeutic tool. This "golden thread," also known as Relational Practice, is used in mental health, addiction, personality disorder, criminality, and homelessness services. The adaptive and innovative therapeutic community model is based on the 60-year history of Standard TCs, which are used for addictions in America, and the 80-year history of Democratic TCs, which are used for mental health treatment in the UK. It also incorporates other contemporary psychotherapeutic approaches.

The Adapted Therapeutic Community – Relational Practice program is currently being co-produced for British Columbia with the BC Addiction Recovery Association (BCARA), and International Network of Living Learning Experience (INLLE) to widely disseminate these methods.

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

- Appreciate the history, therapeutic philosophy, contemporary practice, and evidence base of modern therapeutic community programs.
- Identify the connection between approaches, methods, and target populations - based on the ‘relational practice’ framework.
- Evaluate the different contributions required to deliver ‘relational practice’ training and practice, for effective treatment of complex problems across different agencies.
- Define ‘cultural congruence’ and describe how it can be incorporated into practice to ensure safety, foster inclusive environments, and promote positive interactions among diverse individuals and groups.

1515h **Refreshment Break**

Grand Foyer. Exhibit Booths are open.

1545h Welcome Back to Okanagan Room

1550h Stuffing Our Sorries in a Sack: Strategies that Help Us Do Better and Apologize Less
Dr. Rob Fox

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

- Recognize two ways that structural violence can occur in a health care setting.
- Describe the challenge of seeking medical help when your life is constrained.
- Explain how relational practice can relieve suffering.

1630h Moderated Question and Answer

1645h Mandated Treatment – Really?
Dr. Rob Tanguay

Dr. Tanguay will discuss findings from the largest completed systematic review conducted by the CSAM policy committee of involuntary treatment of persons with substance use disorders. The findings will promote discussion about the pros and cons of the potential use of involuntary treatment for persons with substance use disorders, discussing short-term use for further evaluation and treatment planning compared to withdrawal management alone or prolonged inpatient treatment. He will also review what we do and do not know for policy along with the ethics in the use of mandated involuntary treatment.

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

- Discuss the pros and cons of involuntary treatment for adults with substance use disorders based on the evidence to date.
- Recognize important deficits in the literature base on involuntary treatment for adults with substance use disorders.
- Analyze current clinical practices providing precedence in involuntary treatment internationally and in medicine as a whole.

1715h Moderated Question and Answer

1730h Closing Remarks
Conference Passport Draw

1745h Conference Concludes

Meet our Presenters and Moderators



Chris Anhorn
Peer Support Worker
Alberta Health Services

Chris Anhorn has been working in the mental health and addiction field since 2018. He has worked as a Housing First Coordinator, a Client Care Assistant and currently works as a Peer Support Worker for Alberta Health Services. These roles have included, advocating for clients needs, supporting complex case management, system navigation and building therapeutic rapport.

Chris has experienced trauma, addictions, homelessness and recovery. He now utilizes his experiences as a tool to help people find hope on their journey. By openly talking about his struggles and successes, Chris has found his passion to help build up trusting relationships and assist individuals to face their fear and talk freely about themselves.



Dr. Pouya Azar, MD, FRCPC, DABAM
Complex Pain and Addiction Service

Dr. Pouya Azar is the Head of the Complex Pain and Addiction Service (CPAS), a consult service under the Department of Psychiatry at Vancouver Coastal Health, which provides management of pain, mental health disorders, and substance use disorders across all clinical services at Vancouver General Hospital, UBC Hospital, and GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre. He is also the Addiction Lead at Foundry Vancouver Granville, a consulting physician for adolescent addiction medicine at BC Children's Hospital, a consulting physician for psychiatry and addiction medicine at British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, a consulting physician for the VGH Transitional Pain Clinic and a clinical instructor at the UBC Department of Psychiatry. Dr. Azar's clinical and translational research focuses on the development of novel opioid agonist therapy initiation protocols.



Dr. Sara K. Binder, MD, FRCPC
Medical Lead, Psychiatric Adult Services, Foothills Medical Centre
Assistant Professor, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary

Sara Binder is the medical lead and consulting psychiatrist at the Psychiatric Adult Service, Foothills Medical Centre in Calgary. She treats adult outpatients who struggle with mood, anxiety, ADHD and substance use disorders. As part of her practice she teaches and supervises psychiatry residents and multidisciplinary students training in mental health. She treats many health care professionals within her practice. Dr. Binder works within a collaborative model of mental health care. She developed and runs an ADHD medication group and an 8 week CBT based ADHD Skills group.

Dr Binder served on the board of CADDRA for 7 years and is now on the Advisory Board. She is passionate about caring for patients – both the clinical aspects and in educating healthcare professionals in managing adults with mental health disorders.



**Dr. George Budd, Pharm.D., FBCCSU, B.Sc. (Pharm), R. PEBC., R. Ph.
Addiction Medicine Fellowship (British Columbia Centre on Substance Use), Doctor
of Pharmacy (Idaho State University), Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Sciences (Cairo
University)**

George P. Budd, a practicing pharmacist since 1992 from Cairo University, further obtained his Doctor of Pharmacy degree in 2011 from Idaho State University. He has experience in many different practice settings within the profession such as hospital pharmacy residency, community pharmacy and as a pharmacist-manager in community settings. Former Senior Investigator for the College of Pharmacists of BC (CPBC), and formally a Professional Conduct Review Consultant/Policy Liaison with the BC College of Nursing Professionals (BCCNP). Currently a Research Associate at Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) and a member of the Complex Pain and Addiction Services Team at Vancouver General Hospital.

George is on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Society of Addiction Medicine (CSAM), a public member on the Professional Practice Standards at BCCNP, a Past-President of the Western Canada Addiction Society, and a former public representative to the Methadone Panel and the Prescription Review Program at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC.



**Anando Chatterji
Therapeutic Community Specialist & Psychotherapist
Co-founder, HNI; and Member of International Network of Living-Learning
Experiences (INLLE)**

Anando Chatterji, group and therapeutic community psychotherapist, has 24 years of experience in mental health in residential and community settings, particularly therapeutic communities. He is Co-founder and ex- CEO of Hank Nunn Institute (HNI), India and is currently a social architect at HNI. Anando sits on the Supervisor and Steering Committee, Therapeutic Environments Practitioner Training, UK, and International Network of Democratic Therapeutic Communities. He uses his extensive clinical experience to support and set up new initiatives in India and abroad to provide psychological services to the community. He works with mental health teams to develop therapeutic environments and processes empowering both service providers and receivers to co-create multi- dimensional recovery programmes. Anando believes personal change is inextricably intertwined with social change and that an individual's distress is a mirror of the larger social world they are a part of, and their healing is the healing of communities.



Braeden Codd
Peer Mentor, B.C’s Childrens Hospital

Braeden Codd is a dedicated Peer Support Worker at BC Children's Hospital, serving on the Substance Use Response and Facilitation team under Coast Mental Health. With a background in community peer support at VCH and outreach downtown Vancouver with Coast Mental Health's Better Together program, Braeden is deeply committed to meeting individuals where they are and empowering them to achieve their goals.

Having navigated his own lifelong journey with mental health challenges and addiction recovery, Braeden brings a unique perspective to his work. His personal experiences, including time spent in the hospital as a teenager for mental health and substance use, have shaped his approach and allow him to effectively support youth facing similar journeys. Braeden now views his past experiences as assets that enable him to connect with and advocate for those in need.



Alexia Fast
Peer Mentor, B.C’s Childrens Hospital

Alexia Fast is a peer support worker on the Substance Use Response and Facilitation Team at BC Children’s Hospital. She completed her peer support training certificate at Coast Mental Health Resource Center in 2024. Alexia has lived experience with bipolar disorder and has received care on the psych ward and in her community through outpatient services. Alexia is also a prolific actor in film and television, having acted in over 50 productions to date in leading and supporting lead roles. Alexia is often recognized for her supporting roles opposite Tom Cruise in the film “Jack Reacher” and opposite Ryan Reynolds in the film “The Captive”. Alexia advocates to reduce stigma related to mental health on social media and in various public interviews. Alexia is a brand ambassador for Stigma Free Society, which was founded by Andrea Paquette, who also has lived experience with bipolar disorder.



Dr. Robert Fox MD CCFP FCFP (C)ISAM (C)AAMRO

Dr. Fox is a family physician and addiction medicine specialist in a rural indigenous community. He understands the challenges of integrating addictions into primary care. He enjoys learning about other’s solutions and sharing his own. He completed his MD at the University of Alberta and Family Medicine residency at Queen’s University. After thirteen years in practice, he took a sabbatical year to complete the St. Paul’s Hospital Addiction Medicine Fellowship. He is passionate about integrating addictions care into his Family Practice. He also provided addictions consultations for Fraser Health’s Riverstone outpatient addictions clinic for three years. He is now the consulting primary care and addictions specialist at A’yelexw Centre for Hope and Healing, an adult treatment centre on Seabird Island First Nation and at Traverse, a youth treatment in Chilliwack. He has also hosted the BCCSU “Addiction Medicine Podcast” and served on the working committee to develop British Columbia’s High Risk Drinking and Alcohol Use Disorder Guidelines.



Dr. Lisa Graves MD CCFP (AM) FCFP MCISc
Professor, Family and Community Medicine
WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine

Lisa Graves is a family physician and graduate of the University of Ottawa. She completed her residency in family medicine and enhanced skills training in maternal and child health at McGill University. She maintains an active practice including addictions with a special interest in women, substance use and pregnancy in Northern Ontario. She is an author of over 100 peer-reviewed papers including papers related to substance use and pregnancy/breastfeeding. Her clinical, teaching and research interests include medical education, maternal/child health and vulnerable populations. She is currently professor of Family and Community Medicine at Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine in Kalamazoo Michigan.



Professor Rex Haigh, Retired Consultant Psychiatrist, NHS;
Member, International Network of Living-Learning Experiences (INLLE)
Director, Growing Better Lives

Professor Rex Haigh is a retired psychiatrist in medical psychotherapy from the British National Health Service. He is a graduate of Cambridge and Oxford who has trained and qualified in family medicine, psychiatry, psychotherapy, group analysis and therapeutic communities. He was a Clinical Advisor to the English Personality Disorder Development Programme (2002-11) and part of the NICE guideline development group (2007-9) for Borderline Personality Disorder. At the Royal College of Psychiatrists, he was the founder of the 'Community of Communities' quality network (2002) and the 'Enabling Environments' award (2009). He holds an appointment as Honorary Professor of Therapeutic

Environments at Nottingham University's School of Education and is involved with several not-for-profit mental health organisations, in the UK and abroad. He is co-founder of the 'Relational Practice Movement', which launched its manifesto in 2023. His clinical interests are in modified therapeutic communities, ecotherapy, and the co-production of new services with people with lived experience of mental health diagnoses. Professor Rex Haigh along with Dr. Steve Pearce co-wrote The Theory and Practice of Democratic Therapeutic Community Treatment, a manual that sets out the underlying theories and describes them.



Dr. Martha Ignaszewski
MD, FRCPC, DiplABPN, DiplISAM, DiplABPM
Psychiatrist and Education Lead, Complex Pain and Addiction Service (CPAS)

Dr. Martha J Ignaszewski is a Harvard and UCSF trained psychiatrist with board certification in Adult, Addiction, and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in Canada and the USA. She is the Clinical Lead of the Substance Use Response and Facilitation (SURF) Service at BC Children's and Women's Hospital and works on the Complex Pain and Addiction Service (CPAS) at Vancouver General Hospital. Currently, Dr. Ignaszewski is the Education Lead for the

VGH CPAS service, and Director of Fellowships & Off-Service Postgrad Education for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at BCCH relating to her interest in medical education and working with learners across the educational spectrum. Destigmatization of addiction, the intersection between addiction and concurrent disorders, and providing an understanding about the developmental perspective and impacts of social determinants of health on substance use disorders are areas of focus with learners and clinically.

Dr. Ignaszewski possesses a background in clinical excellence, research and has held many leadership positions including ongoing roles with the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry (AAAP) and American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (AACAP). She has received many awards in recognition of her clinical education including the ASAM Ruth Fox Scholarship Award, the AACAP Educational Outreach Program Award for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Residents and the Stuart J. Goldman Psychiatry Education Award, among others.



Conor King
Member of the Order of Merit
Victoria Police Department - Investigative Services Division

Inspector Conor King is a twenty-five-year veteran of law enforcement and is currently the officer-in-charge of the Victoria Police Department's Investigative Services Division. He specializes in drug investigations, addiction issues and the intersection of Public Safety and Public Health.

King has worked extensively in Major Crime policing and covert operations including criminal intelligence, surveillance and undercover operations.

In 2013 King was one of the first officers to detect fentanyl in the illicit drug supply, in what became North America's Overdose Crisis. Seeing the need for alternate solutions to stop overdose deaths he partnered his agency with experts in mental health and addiction medicine.

King has been qualified as an expert witness in the Provincial and Supreme Court of British Columbia on the trafficking of heroin, cocaine, fentanyl, oxycodone, cannabis, MDMA, Psilocybin, methamphetamine, LSD and GHB.

For 15 years King has been an educator in the police and medical community, teaching at the Justice Institute of British Columbia, Canadian Police College and for the Canada Border Services Agency and BC Coroner Service. He's been a guest lecturer for the University of British Columbia's Faculty of Pharmaceutical Science, Faculty of Medicine, and Faculty of Psychiatry, as well as the British Columbia College of Pharmacists.

In 2023 the Governor General of Canada inducted King as a member of the Order of Merit of Police Forces for exceptional service and performance of duty for his contribution to the police profession and community wellness.



Dr. Wiplove Lamba, MD, FRCP, ISAM (C)
Addiction Medicine Physician and Psychiatrist

Dr. Lamba is a US board certified Addiction Medicine Physician and Psychiatrist. He has worked in several organizations to help build, develop and maintain inpatient and outpatient concurrent disorders care. He can provide the following psychotherapies to patients including motivational interviewing, dialectical behaviour therapy, cognitive processing therapy, Community reinforcement approach (and family training), pain reprocessing therapy and emotional awareness and expression therapy.

His primary career goal for the past decade has been trying to make addiction medicine a general medical skills, and he has done that through the leading the development and delivery of ECHO AMPI <https://camh.echoontario.ca/program-ampi/> as well as leading over 100 workshops at the local, provincial and national level. Now, his biggest concern is the divide between addiction medicine and psychiatry as is reflected by the divergence in clinical care and treatment guidelines. He hopes to help bridge that gap through dialogue with colleagues and involvement with organizations like the Canadian Academy of Addiction Psychiatry.



Dr. Bill MacEwan MD, FRCP
Head, Department of Psychiatry and Medical Education Director
St. Paul's Hospital

Dr. MacEwan graduated from UBC in medicine and completed his specialty training in psychiatry at UBC in 1987. Academically Dr. MacEwan is a Clinical Professor in the Department of Psychiatry. His research interests have been in the study of novel antipsychotics in the treatment of Schizophrenia; he has also been looking at clinical correlates of Schizophrenia, Early Psychosis and Addiction.

Currently, Dr. MacEwan is a member of St. Paul's Hospital Dept of Psychiatry. He is the medical lead for the Downtown Community Court psychiatric teams. Dr. MacEwan is the former Head of Psychiatry at St. Paul's Hospital and is the clinical lead in the Hotel Study, a cohort study of the health, addiction and mental health of 500 residents of the Downtown Eastside in Vancouver. Bill has worked in the Downtown Eastside (DTES) of Vancouver for the last 25 years.



Dr. Nick Mathew MD, ABPN (Addiction Psychiatry), FRCP (Forensic Psychiatry),
ABPM (Addiction Medicine)
Clinical Associate Professor, UBC

Dr. Mathew completed an addiction psychiatry fellowship at Yale University and a forensic psychiatry fellowship at the University of British Columbia. He is board certified in addiction psychiatry, addiction medicine and forensic psychiatry. He is a clinical associate professor at the University of British Columbia. All opinions expressed are his own and not affiliated to any organization.



**Dr. Annabel Mead, MBBS FACHAM DABAM
Physician (Specialist in Addiction Medicine)
WCAF Conference Co-Chair**

Dr. Mead has been practicing addiction medicine for over 20 years with expertise in women’s health, concurrent psychiatric disorders and pain management. She is a Fellow of the Australasian Chapter of Addiction Medicine, a diplomate of the American Board of Addiction Medicine and Clinical Assistant Professor, UBC.

Dr. Mead has worked in many community, inpatient and outpatient treatment settings in Vancouver. These include the Addiction Medicine Consult Service at St Paul’s Hospital and New Dawn Recovery House. She holds the positions of Senior Medical Director, Mental Health and Substance Use, BC Women’s Hospital; Medical Director for BC Correctional Health Services and is the medical lead for the BC Provincial Perinatal Substance Use program.



**Jean-Paul Michael -- Addiction Case Manager
Emergency Room, St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto**

Jean-Paul Michael serves as an Addiction Case Manager in the Emergency Department at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, applying a harm reduction philosophy to his practice. Before dedicating himself to addiction medicine, Jean-Paul experienced two decades in the depths of his own addiction, primarily as an intravenous drug user. These experiences deeply inform both his professional role and advocacy efforts today. As a Policy Consultant, he advises various national organizations on healthcare reform and social welfare. He also co-hosts 'Captain Hooked: The Addiction Project,' a podcast aimed at dismantling the stigma associated with addiction. With a unique combination of professional expertise and personal history, Jean-Paul passionately advocates for reducing stigma and empowering individuals on their paths to recovery. He is also proud to serve on the Board of Directors for Fife House, actively contributing to the creation of more inclusive and supportive communities.



**Dr. Julio S. G. Montaner
OC, OBC, MD, DSc (Hon), FRCPC, FCCP, FACP, FCAHS, FRCP, FRSC
Killam Professor of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia
UBC and St. Paul’s Foundation Chair in AIDS Research
Executive Director and Physician-in-Chief, BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS,
Providence Health Care;
Head, HIV/AIDS Program, St. Paul’s Hospital, Providence Health Care**

Dr. Julio Montaner is a Killam Professor, of Medicine, at the University of British Columbia, the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS’ Executive Director and Physician-in-Chief, and the Head of HIV/AIDS, at St. Paul's Hospital, Providence Health Care. Julio is widely recognized as one of the fathers of highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART), which has proven to be exquisitely effective to prevent AIDS and premature death. For his work in this area, The Lancet named him the “King of HAART”. In 2006, he went

on to pioneer the notion that HAART also stops HIV transmission. He coined the term “Treatment as Prevention” (TasP), to convey the triple benefit of HAART to stop; 1) progression to AIDS, 2) AIDS deaths, and 3) HIV transmission. In 2015, his TasP-inspired 90-90-90 by 2020 Target was formally endorsed by the UN in 2015, and subsequently his 95-95-95 by 2025 Target was endorsed by the UN in 2021 as the global strategy to “End AIDS as a Pandemic”.

Currently, Julio has expanded his efforts to adapt TasP to optimize and accelerate the control of other impactful contagious diseases (including infectious diseases [i.e.: HCV], as well as socially contagious diseases [i.e.: type II Diabetes, COPD, opioid use]), with the ultimate goal to enhance Health Care Sustainability.



Chris Primeau
CEO of Impact Society

Christopher Primeau, CEO of Impact Society, is a distinguished leader in program development and organizational leadership, specializing in the charity and education sectors. With extensive domestic and international experience, Christopher excels in creating and implementing evidence-based youth programs. His work, significantly contributing to the field of resilience, mental health, and well-

being education, has been published in renowned academic journals. Currently, Christopher is working with Dr David Nordstokke at the Werklund School of Education on a longitudinal study investigating the long-term increase in resilience among youth participating in the Impact Society's Heroes program. This pivotal research is anticipated to be published soon. And the results of the 4th data point are discussed in this presentation.

As a renowned public speaker and thought leader, Christopher offers valuable insights drawn from his extensive research and expertise in youth development and long-term mental health. His profound understanding of addiction and long-term recovery outcomes uniquely positions him to address the challenges faced by our medical professionals and addiction support programs.



Reza Rafizadeh BScPharm, ACPR, BCPP, PhDCan, RPh
Clinical Pharmacy Specialist
BC Mental Health & Substance Use Services

Reza is a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist for BC Mental Health and Substance Use Services. He performs translational research and offers clinical pharmacy services, training, and consultation at Red Fish Healing Centre for Mental Health and Addiction, and BC Psychosis Program. He co-chairs the Annual BC Pacific

Psychopharmacology Conference and is an organizing committee member at the monthly BC Psychosis Program Educational Rounds.

Reza received his pharmacy degree at UBC Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences in 2012. In 2013, he finished his residency in clinical pharmacy practice with Lower Mainland Pharmacy Services and completed a Psychiatry Pharmacy Specialty Certification in 2016. He is currently a PhD candidate in the

UBC Department of Experimental Medicine, Faculty of medicine. The use of clozapine in people with co-occurring substance use disorders and schizophrenia spectrum disorders is the topic of his thesis.



Dr. Paul Sobey MD CCFP(AM)
Chief Program Officer
ROSC Solutions Group

My background is in Family Practice. I completed fellowship training in Addiction Medicine at University Hospitals of Cleveland and Case Western Reserve University in 1999. Since this time, I have focused my practice on the treatment of patients with addictions. I have had the honour and opportunity to work extensively in educational, residential treatment, hospital and correctional facility settings, as well as medical-legal, occupational, hospital and administrative roles. I am a past President of the Canadian Society of Addiction Medicine, the nationally representative organization for physicians and allied healthcare professionals providing healthcare services for people with addictions. Given I am a person in long term recovery, my practice has always had a recovery medicine focus, assisting people in finding pathways of recovery. In December 2022, two colleagues and I formed ROSC Solutions Group. After a competitive bid process, we were awarded several healthcare contracts by the Government of Alberta. The contract's scope of work is focused on supporting Alberta's Recovery Oriented System of Care in addressing addiction and mental health challenges.



Amanda Staller
TLU Counsellor

Amanda Staller recently joined ROSC as a TLU counselor. Ms. Staller is Certified by the Canadian Addiction Counselors Certification (CACCF) as an Addiction Counselor. She received her Addictions and Community Support Worker diploma from Vancouver Career College. Ms Staller is also a two -timed published author of Mothers Mothering and Sex Trade and Releasing Hope. Amanda has over a decade of experience working with men and women in addiction from the frontlines to facilitating groups and in community events through a trauma informed lens. Amanda Staller was the recipient of the Courage to Come Back Award 2020 in the addiction category. She is a passionate advocate that recovery is possible for anyone and should be the expected outcome.



Dr. Rob Tanguay BSc (Hons), MD, FRCPC, CISAM, CCSAM
Chief Medical Officer, The Newly Institute
Clinical Assistant Professor, University of Calgary
Departments of Psychiatry and Surgery
WCAF Conference Co-Chair

Dr. Tanguay is a psychiatrist who completed two fellowships, one in Addiction Medicine and Pain Medicine. He is a clinical assistant professor with the departments of Psychiatry and Surgery at the Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary.

Dr. Tanguay is the co-founder, developer, and Chief Medical Officer, at The Newly Institute, a rehabilitation and return to work program dedicated to providing medical and psychological intervention for people living with mental health disorders such as PTSD, depression, anxiety, addiction, and chronic pain with evidence-based psychotherapy and trauma-focused therapy.

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

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

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

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



**Susan Tatoosh, Executive Director, Vancouver Aboriginal Friendship Centre
Member of the BC Adapted Therapeutic Community Expert Committee
2023 Living Learning Experience - Adapted Therapeutic Community Facilitator
Training participant**

Susan is of Shuswap Ancestry and is a member of the Hupacaseth First Nation of the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Territory.

She has been actively involved in community volunteer work for the past 45 years both in the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities. Her volunteer work has been at the community, municipal, provincial, and national level, serving on boards, communities, task forces, panels and at “round table” discussions. She has worked with the federal government in the Canada Employment Insurance Commission (CEIC) and the Public Service Commission. She was a founding partner in the Northern Native Development Corporation, which worked on the Coquihalla Pipeline, owner/operator of the K’ensu Development Corporation.

She developed the Aboriginal Personnel Services and created an inventory of qualified Indigenous people to work with civic, provincial, federal, and public companies.

As well she has represented numerous Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal civic organizations including Urban Native Indian Education Society, Urban Native Youth Association, Aboriginal Community Careers Employment Services Society (ACCESS), the United Way of the Lower Mainland and the YWCA, among many others.

Susan was recognized for her voluntary contributions to the community for over 30 years by receiving the Queen’s Golden Jubilee Medal. She received the Order of Citizen’s Award from the City of Vancouver and the Order of B.C. Award.

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

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