

**2008 OSMT Conference  
Speaker Bios**

**Dr. Jeffrey Turnbull**

***Health Services for Vulnerable Populations: Nationally and Internationally***

Dr. Turnbull is a General Internist and has been with The Ottawa Hospital for 17 years. He has held several leadership positions including, most recently, Department Head of Medicine and Chair, Department of Medicine at the University of Ottawa. Dr. Turnbull brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in physician leadership and assumed his new position as Chief of Staff on July 1, 2008.

In addition to his contributions to The Ottawa Hospital, Dr. Turnbull has made great contributions to understanding poverty and its effect on health nationally and internationally. He is one of the founders, and currently the Medical Director, of the Inner City Health Project for the homeless in Ottawa. As well, he has been involved in education and health services initiatives to enhance community and institutional capacity and sustainable development in Bangladesh, Africa, and the Balkans. He is the recipient of several national and international grants and awards, including the Order of Canada.

**Ms. Libby Contestabile**

***Menopause: The Power of Knowing***

Elizabeth is the Nurse Educator for the Shirley E. Greenberg Women's Health Centre at the Ottawa Hospital (TOH). Her responsibilities include staff orientation, continuing education and professional development. She also presents Menopause Information Session at TOH and in the community on a regular basis. She is passionate about the education of patients and the general public to increase awareness and participation in health-related decisions.

Elizabeth is a member of local, regional, national and international committees:

- Founding Board member of the Ottawa Chapter of Osteoporosis Canada (1999)
- Member of the North American Menopause Society since 1996
- Consumer Education Committee since 2001, Chair 2003
- Menopause Practitioner Exam Committee since 2002, Chair 2005
- Co-Editor of NAMS Menopause Flashes (monthly electronic newsletter for the public) since July 2003
- member Board of Trustees, elected 2007
- Associate Member of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada since 1996,
- Menopause and Osteoporosis Consensus Committee 1996, 1998
- Gynecology Clinical Practice Committee 2007

She was one of the first nurses to be credentialed in North America as a Menopause Educator in 2000 and as a Menopause Practitioner in 2002. She has given over 200 presentations about menopause, osteoporosis and related topics to the public and to health care providers.

She has been recognized for her contributions to women's health with the 2001 North American Menopause Society/ Organon Education Excellence Award, and for her contributions to the nursing profession at The Ottawa Hospital with the Professional Image of Nursing Award in November 2002. She was also nominated for the National Capital Region YMCA-YWCA Women of Distinction Awards in 2005 and that same year was recognized for her volunteer work in osteoporosis with Osteoporosis Canada's Backbone Awards.

### **Dr. Harry Atkins, MD, FRCPC**

#### ***Viewing Stem Cells in a New Light: Autoimmunity, Regeneration and Cancer***

Dr. Atkins is a hematologist and stem cell transplant physician at The Ottawa Hospital. He is also the Medical Director of Regenerative Medicine at the Ottawa Health Research Institute. He has varied research interests including the role of stem cells in treating autoimmune diseases, organ repair, and their role in cancer.

### **Dr. Erin Keely**

#### ***Update on Diabetes – Screening, Diagnosis, Surveillance and Treatment***

Dr. Keely is the Chief of the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism at The Ottawa Hospital. Her interest is in strategies for screening high-risk individuals, especially women with previous gestational diabetes.

### **Ms. Doris Neurath**

#### ***Transplantation : Reuse – Recycle***

Ms. Neurath is the Manager of Transfusion Medicine and Tissue Typing/DNA Laboratory at The Ottawa Hospital, three site tertiary care facility, since 2001. In this position she also provides technical consultation to an additional 16 regional hospital blood banks.

Doris has devoted 40 years of her professional life to Transfusion Medicine science starting at the Canadian Red Cross for 13 years, followed by managing large tertiary care hospital Transfusion Services.

She has published 18 peer reviewed publications for scientific journals and 45 abstract/poster presentations for national and international scientific meetings and 1 book chapter. Doris is a member of several provincial committees including the Ontario Blood Advisory Committee, the Ontario Tissue Banking and the Ontario HLA working group and the CBS Regional Liaison Committee. She participates actively in local educational activities and is an assessor for the AABB and Ontario Laboratory Accreditation.

Doris Neurath has a Pharmacy background, Advanced Certification in Immunohematology (ART) and more recently obtained her Master in Business administration (MBA).

### **Dr. Sherry Perkins**

#### ***Roles and Responsibilities of Laboratory Staff and the Impact of e-Health***

Dr. Sherry L. Perkins is currently the Head of the Division of Biochemistry of The Ottawa Hospital and is an Associate Professor in the Departments of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine and Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Ottawa. Dr. Perkins' career path at the University of Ottawa is that of a Clinician Administrator. She has held many leadership roles in Clinical Biochemistry and Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at the local, regional, provincial and national levels. From 1998 to 2004 she served as the Eastern Ontario Regional Laboratory (EORLA) Project Director and chair of the East 1 Regional Coordinating Committee from 2001 to 2006. She is a member of the EORLA Board and Regional Medical Scientific Advisory Committee. She is a past president of the Ontario Society of Clinical Chemists and of the Canadian Society of Clinical Chemists. She is a founding director and President of the Clinical Doctoral Laboratory Scientists of Ontario and sits on many Provincial and National Committees.

In her roles as Head of the Division of Biochemistry and Medical/Scientific Director for Pre & Post Analytical Processes, she had led a large team of medical/scientific, management and technical staff through the challenges of The Ottawa Hospital merger process and, more recently, the initial phase of the Eastern Ontario Regional Laboratory Association implementation. She provides medical/scientific leadership for e-Health related issues for Pathology and Laboratory Medicine within The Ottawa Hospital and for the Eastern Ontario Regional Laboratory Association.

In addition to her administrative roles and responsibilities, Dr. Perkins has an active research program in partnership with the Omni Research Group in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, exploring the relationship of biochemical markers to pregnancy complications and maternal/fetal outcomes.

### **Dr. Peter Magner**

#### ***How Kidneys Work and How Do We Know When They Don't***

Peter Magner is the Head of the Division of Nephrology at the Ottawa Hospital and the Faculty of Medicine, University of Ottawa. He is an associate professor in the Faculty of Medicine.

Dr. Magner received his MD from the University of Ottawa, trained in Internal Medicine in Ottawa and Christchurch, New Zealand. He did his Nephrology Fellowship in Toronto including a Research Fellowship in Electrolyte Physiology. In 1988 he was appointed Assistant Professor at the University of Calgary where he was also Undergraduate Renal Block Chair and received several teaching awards.

In 1993 he returned to Ottawa, where he continued his involvement with undergraduate and clinical education. His clinical interests include hypertension, CKD (pre-dialysis) care and hemodialysis. As division chief he has played a major role in restructuring of Nephrology services within the amalgamated Ottawa Hospital and the Champlain LHIN.

### **Dr. Karam Ramotar**

#### ***Implementation of TB and STI Laboratory Diagnostic Services in Guyana: an integral part of the Public Health Strengthening Project (PHSG)***

Dr. Ramotar is a Molecular Microbiologist at the Ottawa Hospital in the Division of Microbiology and also has an academic appointment at the University of Ottawa as an Associate Professor in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine. Dr. Ramotar's primary function at the hospital is to direct the molecular diagnostic and genotyping service offered by the Division of Microbiology. Dr. Ramotar is active in research with primary focus being in molecular epidemiology of multi-resistant hospital acquired pathogens. In 2004, he further expanded his activities into the international health field by returning to Guyana (where he was born and where he went to high school) as the microbiology consultant for the Canadian Society for International Health (CSIH) for the CIDA funded Public Health Strengthen in Guyana project. He is president of the Canadian Association of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (CACMID), a member of the boards of the Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (AMMI Canada) and Canadian Society for International Health (CSIH).

### **Dr. Donglai Ma**

#### ***Autoantibody Diagnostics – Facing the challenges***

Dr. Donglai Ma is an assistant professor at McMaster University and Scientific Director at EUROIMMUN Medical Diagnostics Canada. He was an associate professor in clinical immunology, physician-in-chief in rheumatology at both Luoyang Clinical Immunology Centre and the No. 9 Teaching Hospital of Beijing University. He graduated from medical school from the Henan University. Further training includes: Immunotherapeutics at Anhi Medical University (China), Autoimmunity at University of Sydney (Australia), and Immunology at McMaster University (Canada). He has authored five books including Autoantibodies and their Immunofluorescence Patterns, Basis of Clinical Immunology, and published more than 60 papers in the field of immunology.

### **Ms. Vonnie Kline**

#### ***Keys to Resilience: Ensuring Professional Performance and Personal Health When Life is Chaotic***

Vonnie is passionate about helping people navigate through the continuous challenging situations that we face in our organizations. She has worked at The Ottawa Hospital since 1986 and in the Learning & Development field since 1992. She has earned considerable experience in providing a wide variety of innovative training solutions as well as coaching and facilitating in the areas of leadership team development, communication and stress management.

Her certifications include:

Adult Education from St. Francis Xavier University

StressMap,

Interaction Management,

Advanced Facilitation,

Coaching for Resilience

Relationship Awareness Theory – Strengths Deployment Inventory

### **Dr. Janis Bormanis**

#### ***What You Thought You Knew About Iron Is Probably Wrong***

Dr. Bormanis is a Professor of Medicine and Laboratory Medicine at the University of Ottawa and the Ottawa Hospital. His interests are in all aspects of hematology but particularly in diagnosis and morphology, hemostasis and transfusion. He has had many academic positions at the University and is currently Program Director for Hematopathology. He is keenly interested in education and the use of technology in education.

### **Dr. Richmond Sy**

#### ***Emerging Therapies of Inflammatory Bowel Disease***

Dr. Richmond Sy is an Assistant Professor of the Division of Gastroenterology at the University of Ottawa, Department of Medicine. He received his MD from the University of British Columbia and completed his residency in gastroenterology at the University of Western Ontario where he has also completed a fellowship in inflammatory bowel disease. Dr. Sy has also completed courses in Clinical Epidemiology Masters program at the University of Western Ontario. He is the chair of GI research at the Ottawa Hospital. His main research interests are clinical trials in inflammatory bowel disease. Dr. Sy has published in peer-reviewed journals and has lectured in numerous conferences.

### **Dr. Baldwin Toyé**

#### ***Re-Emerging Infections Strike Back (Community MRSA and Clostridium difficile)***

Dr. Baldwin Toyé is Head of the Division of Microbiology and an Infectious Diseases consultant at The Ottawa Hospital and an Associate Professor in the Departments of Pathology & Laboratory Medicine and Medicine at the University of Ottawa.

He and his team have been very active in enhancing and delivering high quality microbiology laboratory services for physicians and infection control professionals at a large tertiary care centre. This includes the successful consolidation of two large microbiology laboratories into a single site.

He currently chairs the Microbiology Committee and the Mycology Advisory Committee of the Quality Management Program-Laboratory Services (QMP-LS). He also serves on the executive of the Association of Medical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases (AMMI) Canada and is a board member of The Canadian Foundation for Infectious Diseases. His clinical and academic interests include the diagnosis and management of antibiotic-resistant organisms and infections in the immunocompromised host.

### **Dr. Susan Robertson**

#### ***Breast Cancer: Prognostic and Predictive Markers***

Dr. Robertson graduated from Ottawa University and did her residency in Ottawa. She worked in New Brunswick before returning to Ottawa in 1989. Her subspecialties include Medical Kidney, Breast and Genitourinary. On a personal note, Dr. Robertson has 3 children and is a breast cancer survivor. Interestingly, she shares the same birthday as Frank Zappa, Kiefer Sutherland, Florence Griffith Joyner, and Jane Fonda (although not the same year).

### **Dr. Michael Geraghty**

#### ***The Ontario Newborn Screening Program***

Dr. Geraghty is the Head of the Genetics Metabolic Disease Program at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario and an Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Ottawa. He obtained his medical degree in Ireland and did his fellowship and subsequent faculty position at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. Dr. Geraghty came to Canada in 2002 to set up the Metabolic Program at CHEO. He is one of the leaders responsible for obtaining and setting up the Ontario NBS (Newborn Screening) Program at CHEO.

**Sgt. LaLena Brown** (replacing Warrant Officer Lucie Alain due to illness)

**The Role of the Laboratory Technologist in Kandahar**

Sgt. Brown graduated as a Medical Laboratory Technologist from Dawson College, Montreal in 2000. She continued working at the Montreal Children's Hospital in Haematology for 2 years, Jewish General Hospital in Transfusion Medicine and Royal Victoria Hospital in Pathology. Sgt. Brown joined the military in July 2002 and had her first posting to Halifax (2002-2008) and now her second, Greenwood (July 2008-present). She recently deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan (July 2007-March 2008) and received additional training for this mission including Parasitology (McGill University) and the Dutch Blood Banking Course in Leiden, Holland (March 2007). "Being a lab technologist in the CF is an honour and has provided me with a vast skill set with the ability to adapt in any environment".