



## **CAHR Board Nominees 2023**

**This document contains the nomination packages for each of the CAHR Board nominees.**

**Please note that:**

- **All nominations are posted in the language in which they were received and are listed in alphabetical order (last name) for each position**
- **All nominations have been vetted to verify that all nominees/nominators are active CAHR members**
- **In situations where a nominee was uncontested for a Board position, that nominee will be “considered elected by acclamation”**

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**Vous trouverez au présent document les trousse de mise en candidature de chacun des candidats au Conseil d'administration de l'ACRV.**

**À remarquer :**

- **Les candidatures sont dans la langue dans laquelle elles ont été présentées et figurent en ordre alphabétique (nom de famille) pour chaque poste.**
- **Toutes les candidatures ont été contrôlées pour s'assurer que les candidats et les proposants sont membres en règle de l'ACRV;**
- **Si la candidature d'une personne à un poste du Conseil est incontestée, cette personne sera considérée « élue par acclamation ».**



## CAHR Board Nominees 2023

### ROLE: BASIC SCIENCE

#### NOMINEE #1

##### **Nominee**

Mark Brockman  
Professor, Simon Fraser University

##### **Primary Nominator**

Helene Cote  
Professor, University of British Columbia

##### **Endorsing Nominator**

Angela Kaida  
Professor, Simon Fraser University

##### **Bio of nominee**

The nominee is a tenured Professor at SFU, and Associate Scientist at the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS. He has extensive experience in the fields of virology, immunology and global health, supported by long-standing research and capacity-building collaborations with partners in South Africa. As Director of the SFU Interdisciplinary Research Centre for HIV (SIRCH), he facilitates research, training and community engagement activities by a diverse array of faculty, students and local partners. His group has demonstrated that T cell escape mutations in HIV Gag, Pol and Nef can reduce viral fitness and protein function. The ultimate objective of his research is to inform the development of vaccines and therapeutics that target vulnerable features of HIV and other viral pathogens.

##### **Supporting information**

- <https://www.sfu.ca/fhs/about/people/profiles/mark-brockman.html>
- <https://www.cahr-acrv.ca/featured-researchers/mark-brockman/>
- [CV](#)

##### **Leadership experience and engagement with CAHR** (*How has this candidate demonstrated their interest and ability to serve on the Board?*)

The nominee has been a regular participant and contributor to CAHR conferences since 2009. During this time, he has interacted with many members of the CAHR Board. He has served as an abstract reviewer for most CAHR conferences over the past 10 years. He has also encouraged his trainees to submit abstracts and to attend the conference. Finally, he has supervised two CAHR Masters Award recipients (Eric Martin, CAHR/Abbott Virology Scholarship, 2010; Tallie Kuang, CAHR/BMS Master's Scholarship in Basic Science, 2014). He feels ready to serve and give back to CAHR.



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### **Leadership and engagement with Canadian HIV research** *(for discipline reps, focus on experience bringing views from and back to the specific discipline community)*

The nominee has been active in the HIV biomedical research community since arriving at SFU in 2009. During this time, he has collaborated with investigators across the country, including as a member of the Canadian HIV cure consortium, CanCURE, from 2014 to 2018. In his role as Director of the SFU Interdisciplinary Research Centre for HIV (SIRCH), he has facilitated interactions among HIV researchers and trainees from biomedical and non-biomedical fields at his university.

### **Key skills, expertise, and contributions candidate would make to the CAHR Board**

The nominee has broad expertise in HIV biomedical research spanning highly technical in vitro studies to population-based cohort studies that are highly relevant to discussions of biomedical and clinical topics. He has also made important contributions to interdisciplinary research, training and capacity-building projects in Canada and globally that have strengthened his ability to communicate effectively with researchers and stakeholders from diverse backgrounds. Furthermore, he is committed to ensuring that new research observations are accessible to the community through the use of lay language summaries, online news articles and educational workshops. We believe that these experiences will be useful to bridge the diverse activities and interests represented by the CAHR Board.



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### ROLE: BASIC SCIENCE

#### NOMINEE #2

##### **Nominee**

Andrés Finzi

Associate Professor, Université de Montréal / CRCHUM

##### **Primary Nominator**

Keith Fowke

Professor, University of Manitoba

##### **Endorsing Nominator**

Jimmy Dikeakos

Associate Professor, Western University

##### **Bio of nominee**

Dr. Finzi is Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair on Retroviral Entry at Université de Montréal. Dr Finzi is a leader in HIV-1 envelope glycoprotein conformational changes, accessory proteins and Fc-mediated effector functions. His work has important implications for the development of new therapeutic strategies to fight HIV-1. The excellence of Dr Finzi's research program has been recognized by several distinctions and awards. Since November 2020 he is a Member of The College of the Royal Society of Canada.

##### **Supporting information**

- <https://www.chumontreal.qc.ca/en/crchum/chercheurs/andres-finzi>
- [CV](#)

**Leadership experience and engagement with CAHR** (*How has this candidate demonstrated their interest and ability to serve on the Board?*)

**Leadership and engagement with Canadian HIV research** (*for discipline reps, focus on experience bringing views from and back to the specific discipline community*)

Dr. Finzi is an internationally renowned HIV researcher and is actively involved in cure research. He is an expert on HIV-1 Envelope (Env) conformation, HIV-1 viral accessory proteins and Fc-effector functions. Dr Finzi has secured highly competitive funding (CIHR, NIH, FRQS, CFI, amfAR, Gates Foundation) and is a member of the ERASE Martin Delaney Collaboratory. Dr. Finzi's contributions were recognized on multiple occasions. Notably, he is the Canada Research Chair on Retroviral Entry (tier 2, renewed in 2019) and he received the CRCHUM Prix du Jeune Chercheur, the CHAVI-ID Young Faculty Award, the Joe Doupe Young Investigator Award, Prix du Jeune Chercheur André Dupont, Étoile Effervescence, and notably, he is a member of the



Canadian Association for  
**HIV Research**  
L'association canadienne de  
recherche sur le VIH

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College of New Scholars of the Royal Society of Canada since 2020. He currently sits on CIHR's HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee and serves on provincial, national and international peer review committees. Dr Finzi has been a tireless advocate for young investigators and continuously promotes excellence in basic and translational HIV research.

### **Key skills, expertise, and contributions candidate would make to the CAHR Board**

Dr Finzi is a basic HIV researcher with a research program on vaccine development and eradication. Within the CAHR Board Dr Finzi will push for excellence in basic HIV research with a particular focus on translational research. He will continue to advocate for the importance of basic science research to ensure HIV eradication, prevention, and treatment.



## CAHR Board Nominees 2023

### ROLE: COMMUNITY

#### NOMINEE #1

##### **Nominee**

Breklyn Bertozzi  
Senior Peer Community Coordinator, Womens Hands

##### **Primary Nominator**

Stephanie Smith  
Community Research Consultant, Womens College Hospital

##### **Endorsing Nominator**

Jill Koebel  
Research Coordinator, Womens College Hospital

##### **Bio of nominee**

Breklyn Bertozzi is a woman living with HIV from Hamilton Ontario. She is a proud mother of two children ages 18 and 4. Breklyn became involved in community based research as a Peer Research Associate (PRA) for the Canadian HIV Women's Sexual Reproductive Health Cohort Study or CHIWOS 10 years ago. She is still involved in work with CHIWOS, contributing to KTE projects; including the national dissemination of the Women's Centred HIV Model and Toolkit (<https://cep.health/clinical-products/hiv/>) and has led several webinars, trainings, and media interviews on the topic (<https://www.positiveeffect.org/pozcast/se2-ep11-the-chiwos-movement-a-decade-of-ground-breaking-change-for-women-living-with-hiv>, [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jo\\_7MV9blgY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jo_7MV9blgY)).

She is a Lead Community Based Research Consultant for a study on trauma and violence aware care (TVAC) with Women's Health in Women's Hands Community Health Centre, Women's College Hospital and The University of British Columbia. The TVAC study aims to envision holistic programs, services and support to women who are living with HIV to help them heal from experiences of trauma and violence. In this role, she supervises and mentors 7 other women living with HIV who will be administering the survey.

Breklyn is also a Peer Engagement Coordinator at the University of Victoria for a study called HEADSUP2! The study's focus is on cognitive Impairments of people living with HIV. This role has given her the opportunity to expand her network to include both men and women living with HIV. Breklyn has been a leader in the HIV and women space in Canada. She was involved in the Can't Pass it On campaign with CATIE (<https://www.catie.ca/cant-pass-it-on>) and the Positive News with the OHTN (<https://positivenews.ca/>), with the aim of fighting stigma and spreading the message about U=U. Breklyn is an exceptional leader and team member with an extensive network and would be an asset to the CAHR Community Board.



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### Supporting information

- Research Group: Women and HIV Research Program, Women's College Research Institute
- Dr. Mark Wainberg Lecture:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f60a2a5e9oc&list=PLlo18mkd-N5JP407F8vKjLRNMj7Ewmri-&index=2&t=61s>
- [CV](#)

### **Leadership experience and engagement with CAHR** (*How has this candidate demonstrated their interest and ability to serve on the Board?*)

Breklyn has attended 2 CAHR conferences over the years. As part of the CHIWOS Research Team, she has been acknowledged on over 50 session, abstract and posters at CAHR since 2013. In non-CHWOS work, Breklyn has been as a contributing author on: a Clinical Science Track Oral Abstract Developing Consensus Guidelines on Infant Feeding for WLWH (CAHR 2022), an Epidemiology and Public Health Track Poster Abstract Caesarean Sections Among Women Living with HIV: A Population-Based Retrospective Cohort Study (CAHR 2020), and a Clinical Science Track Poster Abstract e-wHealth Intervention: Supporting HIV-positive Women in Ways that Work (CAHR 2015).

In 2019, Breklyn was one of the 33 CHIWOS PRAs honored with the CAHR-CANFAR Excellence in Research Award. Breklyn's most significant contribution to CAHR was her co-presentation of the Dr. Mark Wainberg keynote lecture with Dr. Mona Loutfy at CAHR 2022. To our knowledge, this represented the first time a community member co-presented the Dr. Mark Wainberg Lecture. In all of her work, Breklyn has shown leadership in challenging the status quo and above all else prioritizing bringing knowledge back to the community. As a Board member, she would continue to center women's voices in CAHR's work.

### **Leadership and engagement with Canadian HIV research** (*for discipline reps, focus on experience bringing views from and back to the specific discipline community*)

Breklyn has over 10 years in the Canadian community-based research field specifically related to HIV. Beginning with her involvement with the Canadian HIV Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health Cohort Study (CHIWOS) in 2013, Breklyn has been involved with all stages of research from project conceptualization, study implementation, data collection and analysis, and knowledge dissemination within several research teams.

Through her work in various research positions, most recently as the Senior Peer Community Coordinator for a CIHR Funded study related to trauma and violence aware care, Breklyn has successfully engaged her peers both through recruiting them as study participants and mentoring them as they move into community researcher positions. She has been a named author on seven publications in leading journals like the Journal of the International AIDS Society, AIDS and Behaviour, and BMC Medical Research Methodology. Breklyn was an integral team member for the first ever HIV-specific virtual training using Project ECHO in Canada, which has paved the way for other HIV ECHOs in Canada. Additionally, she has made a



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significant impact in research related to clinical care, having been part of the Canadian HIV Pregnancy Planning Guideline development team in 2018.

### **Key skills, expertise, and contributions candidate would make to the CAHR Board**

Breklyn is an incredibly compassionate leader ideally suited for the CAHR Board. She is highly skilled at engaging her peers and sharing knowledge to diverse audiences. With her experience in both academic research and community-based organization settings, Breklyn understands the research landscape in Canada, while also possessing the community-based values that drive her work. Breklyn is respected and admired by researchers and community members alike. She has extensive experience in planning unique events and programs that engage community and translate knowledge.

She is dedicated to doing everything in a way that will maximize benefit to her community, and her passion for team building would be a strong asset to the CAHR Board. She is continuously looking for opportunities to build her peers up and would offer mentorship to future CAHR Board members. Breklyn has worked alongside diverse women and men living with HIV, has a strong understanding of EDI considerations and continuously works to practice allyship alongside her BIPOC peers. She is constantly reflective of her privilege and works to create safer spaces for those who experience intersectional stigma. Overall, Breklyn is a vibrant, caring, thoughtful, and extremely experienced community member who is the ideal candidate for the CAHR Board.





## CAHR Board Nominees 2023

### ROLE: COMMUNITY

#### NOMINEE #2

##### **Nominee**

Ryan Kerr

Communications and Events Specialist, Ceremonials Office, Toronto Metropolitan University

##### **Primary Nominator**

Kelly O'Brien

Associate Professor, University of Toronto

##### **Endorsing Nominator**

Abigail Kroch

Senior Director (Science), Ontario HIV Treatment Network

##### **Bio of nominee**

For over a decade, Ryan has been an active community member, employee in the HIV sector and volunteer.

He has recently transitioned out of full-time employment in the HIV sector as a former employee of the OHTN and OAN, and now works full-time at Toronto Metropolitan University as a Communications and Events Specialist in the Ceremonials Office. Additionally, Ryan continues to work as a media consultant with various HIV sector agencies, most recently completing a bilingual series of podcast episodes for the HIV Legal Network, as well as a video interview series for HIV in Motion (his voice over was also used for the HIV in Motion study promotion video!). Currently, Ryan is working on a module series for CAHR with Francisco Ibanez-Carrasco exploring the topic of Community Based Research, completing in fall 2023.

As a volunteer, Ryan plays a significant role in the planning and execution of the annual Red Dress Ball event, as well as continuing to run his own annual charity drag pageant "Lady 5", raising funds for Rainbow Railroad (heading into its sixth year!).

Between 2016 - 2018, Ryan served as Vice-President, Communications Director, and Media Spokesperson for his condominium board of directors, famously battling criminal embezzlement resulting in changes in condo laws across Ontario.

Ryan is passionate about increasing access to ARVs for people living with HIV (his own treatment journey has been challenging), reducing stigma perpetuated by the industry and advocating for less HIV exceptionalism where possible, to consider a more integrated model of healthcare.



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### Supporting information

- <https://open.spotify.com/show/6wgtMxAWSc60thHdHllyAG?si=debd0332acdc4c9e>  
<https://thereddressball.ca>
- <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/toronto/five-condos-board-toronto-police-darryl-mcgregor-laczko-blanchard-1.4547396>
- [CV](#)

### **Leadership experience and engagement with CAHR** *(How has this candidate demonstrated their interest and ability to serve on the Board?)*

Ryan has attended CAHR as an employee of the OHTN and works (ongoing) for CAHR as a consultant. His interest in the research aspect of the HIV sector has been a part of his professional life since 2010.

### **Leadership and engagement with Canadian HIV research** *(for discipline reps, focus on experience bringing views from and back to the specific discipline community)*

Ryan's first role at the OHTN was video production of St Michael's hospital HIV medical rounds. Since then he has interviewed and worked alongside many researchers and study participants, facilitating sessions and helping to design media products.

### **Key skills, expertise, and contributions candidate would make to the CAHR Board**

Ryan is experienced with social media/communications, project management and well-versed in the areas of confidentiality, community based research and is a fast learner!



## CAHR Board Nominees 2023

### ROLE: COMMUNITY

#### NOMINEE #3

##### **Nominee**

Candice Norris Kihew AtayuKaan Iskwew Eagle Spirit Woman  
Peer Research Associate, Pewaseskwon (Simon Fraser University)

##### **Primary Nominator**

Alexandra King  
Cameco Chair in Indigenous Health and Wellness, University of Saskatchewan

##### **Endorsing Nominator**

Kathleen Deering  
CGSHE Faculty Member and an Assistant Professor in the Division of Social Medicine, University of British Columbia

##### **Bio of nominee**

Remembering who I was, I realize my journey has been a circle. I was born into a world of alcohol, violence and drugs that slashed my family in half and set me up for a life of survival mode and trauma responses involving addictions, jails and hospitals.

As a child, I remember my Dad's great pride in being a strong, resilient Cree Boy. My Mother who struggled with drug addiction, instilled great knowledge in me during one of our few heart-to-hearts in her short time on earth as a resilient, beautiful, intelligent Dene woman who guides my work today. She died of AIDS over a decade ago, stuck in her addiction on Vancouver's Downtown Eastside. This led me into poverty and homelessness stemming from mental illness and intergenerational trauma born of colonization. At 23, I landed in a single room occupancy hotel pregnant, addicted and newly diagnosed with HIV. Full circle, here I am!

My Colonizer Name is Candice Norris, but the spirits know me as Kihew AtayuKaan Iskwew. I am Eagle Spirit Woman. I am a Peer Research Associate with the Pewaseskwon research group in Vancouver and a Peer Cultural Support Worker in the community. First and foremost, I am a Mother, Grandmother, Sister and Aunty to a strong, resilient group of people. I am living a sober and illicit drug-free life with a healthy, undetectable HIV viral load. I am the best friend and passionate advocate for Indigenous peers I can be. I share my experience of hope with people living as I once did, and still do, passing on medicines, songs and teachings gifted by Knowledge Sharers during a dark time of my life. I pray you find your inner light to help others out of the darkness with love and compassion.



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### Supporting information

- Canadian Aboriginal AIDS Network (CAAN) <https://caan.ca>, Pacific Aids Network (PAN) <https://paninbc.ca>, Canadian Network on Hepatitis C (CanHepC) [www.canhepc.ca](http://www.canhepc.ca),
- Nominee's research group: Pewaseskwan (The Indigenous Wellness Research Group) focuses on research on Indigenous health and wellness – at times with a disease-specific focus (e.g. HIV/AIDS, HCV, diabetes, heart disease, Kennedy's Disease, etc.) Research may involve Western medicine, but it brings traditional Indigenous knowledge and medicines to the forefront, as these are as important to promoting good health among Indigenous people in Canada. Pewaseskwan is led by Dr. Alexandra King and Prof. Malcolm King. They have teams based at Simon Fraser University (SFU) in Vancouver, BC and the University of Saskatchewan (USask) in Saskatoon, SK.
- The teams collaborate with Indigenous communities, supporting them as they undertake their own health and wellness research. Pewaseskwan (Cree for “the sky is starting to clear”) takes a different approach to engagement, relationships, research and research services – all of which will better enable Indigenous communities to do their own health and wellness research. Pewaseskwan supports them in developing their own research agendas and advocating for their needs, rather than passively waiting for researchers to initiate studies.
- [CV](#)

### **Leadership experience and engagement with CAHR** (*How has this candidate demonstrated their interest and ability to serve on the Board?*)

My involvement with CAHR has grown over the last few years. As my research skills have developed, I have been able to engage with CAHR and other HIV/AIDS related organizations through presentations, co-authoring publications, poster creation and ceremonial openings. I provided ceremonial openings for some sessions at CAHR 2018/2019 and received a CAHR Community Registration Scholarship in 2020, which has been carried over to CAHR 2023. Please see below several of my HIV-related presentations:

- Brass, Norris, S., Fayed, S. & King, A. (2022, April). Peers4Wellness: Indigenous Approaches to Peer-Led Wellness Care and Research for Indigenous Womxn with Lived and Living Experiences of HIV and/or Hepatitis C. Oral Presentation - the 2022 Virtual Canadian Conference on HIV/AIDS Research, Vancouver, BC
- Thompson, B., Norris, C., Jinkerson-Brass, S., Ametepee, K., Howard, T., King, A. (May 2019). Stamsh Slhanay Lhawat: Warrior Women Healing. Oral presentation - the 28th Annual Canadian Conference on HIV/AIDS Research, Saskatoon, SK
- King, A., King, M., Fayed, S., Gonzales, S., Jinkerson- Brass, S., Norris, C., Scotton, S. & Thomson, B. (2018, April). Perspectives on “Two-eyed Seeing”: Weaving Indigenous and Western Ways of Conducting HIV Research Panel presentation - the 27th Annual Canadian Conference on HIV/AIDS Research, Vancouver, BC

### **Leadership and engagement with Canadian HIV research** (*for discipline reps, focus on experience bringing views from and back to the specific discipline community*)

I show leadership and engagement by continually advocating for people at the grassroots level that our Pewaseskwan research group and CAHR are working for. It is essential to have peers



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like me on our team encouraging others with lived experience to join us. As a peer, I provide concrete leadership about what does and does not work. Our team is like a tightly woven braid of sweetgrass with even strands of ancestral wisdom, lived experience and Indigenous and western research expertise. I show leadership at community research events ensuring our research participants feel safe and know their Indigenous voices are privileged. Research teams and boards of directors like CAHR's need peers to provide credibility with those we serve at the ground level. I have also worked with other groups on Canadian HIV research –

- Deering KN, Norris C. "Centering the voices of Indigenous women living with HIV: Sharing findings from the SHAWNA Project." (May 18, 2022). Wise Practices & Skills Building VIII Gathering by Communities, Alliances & Networks (CAAN)
- Deering KN, Norris, C. "Access to cultural safety among Indigenous women living with HIV: sharing findings and building collaborations." (March 1, 2022). Communities, Alliances and Networks National Indigenous Women's Advisory Meeting

### **Key skills, expertise, and contributions candidate would make to the CAHR Board**

I have lived and living experience of HIV/HCV and have experience conducting HIV-related research as well as peer navigation. I possess the cultural grounding and teachings needed to lead ceremonial events and assist with openings/closings of meetings. I am capable of problem-solving, thinking creatively, looking at the big picture perspective and breaking down scenarios to find solutions.

As a peer, I understand first-hand how CAHR can better support those with lived and living experience through technology so they can join the dialogue and help us find answers. I advocate for team wellness, community engagement and capacity building through communication and Indigenous culture because I believe "you can't pour out of an empty cup." I want to learn how grants work so I can continue pursuing HIV/AIDS research. I am eager to understand the inner workings of a large organization like CAHR through my participation on the board, should I win the nomination.

I want to join those who bring a Truth and Reconciliation Commission lens to CAHR's efforts because I believe improving the health of Indigenous people is at the heart of reconciliation.



## CAHR Board Nominees 2023

### ROLE: PRESIDENT ELECT

#### **Nominee** *(considered elected by acclamation)*

Shariq Haider  
Professor Medicine, McMaster University

#### **Primary Nominator**

Keith Fowke  
Professor Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, University of Manitoba

#### **Endorsing Nominator**

Alexandra King  
Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

#### **Bio of nominee**

I am Professor Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases and Internal Medicine, Department of Medicine, McMaster University. I am a consultant in Infectious Diseases and Internal Medicine at Hamilton Health Sciences, McMaster University for the past 22 years, I am a clinician educator and actively engaged in clinical research focused on Infections in Immunocompromised Hosts (HIV, Cancer and Transplant Patients).

I am the Medical Director for HIV Care in Hamilton at the SIS Clinic and have been providing HIV care for the past 22 years in Hamilton. My research interests in HIV is in the area of Liver Diseases notably Hepatitis C, Hepatitis B and Fatty Liver Disease. I was the supervisor for the recipient of the first Trainee to receive the Anita Rachlis OHTN Award for Training in HIV. I also am the Fellowship Director for a one-year Clinical HIV Fellowship Training in Hamilton for both Canadian and International Infectious Disease Specialists for the past 7 years.

#### **Supporting information**

I have been the President of the Canadian Foundation of Infectious Diseases CFID (NGO that supports creating capacity for research in Infectious Diseases in Canada by supporting research initiatives for undergraduate students, medical students, residents, fellows and faculty) coming to the end of my two year term. In my role as President for CFID key achievements

- I have led: include development and dissemination of our 10 year Strategic Plan for CFID, have enhanced the fiscal health and governance structure of CFID, and developed new partnerships with organizations such as NCCID, AMMI and CFID .
- I am an examiner and surveyor for the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, and recognized as a leader in Medical Education in Canada.



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### **Leadership experience and engagement with CAHR (How has this candidate demonstrated their interest and ability to serve on the Board?)**

I have been a member of the CAHR Board as the Clinical Representative for 4 years, and then I was re-elected to serve two terms in the role of Secretary for CAHR for the past 4 years. During my 8 years on the CAHR Board I have been an active and engaged member contributing to the development of new initiatives, active participant in all CAHR activities, advocating for a greater voice for community members, and urging broader representation on the Board to reflect the communities we serve.

I served as the Co-Chair of CAHR 2021 annual Conference. I contributed to the development of the Strategic Plan for CAHR in 2020, this engagement provided me a clear understanding of the history of the organization, its core values, and a salient understanding of our accomplishments and opportunities for growth for our organization. I believe my experience on the CAHR Board is invaluable to support the vision, mission and values of CAHR. I have worked with three Presidents for CAHR and have learned key aspects of leadership from each of these individuals that have helped shape my leadership development. I am committed to build on their achievements, and provide new ideas/vision on how to serve and enhance collaboration with our community members, and key stakeholders.

As a leading KOL in the field of HIV my engagement with national partners: NCCID, AMMI, CTN, CFID, Government and Industry partners has and will be an asset to support the visibility and fiscal viability of CAHR.

### **Leadership and engagement with Canadian HIV research (for discipline reps, focus on experience bringing views from and back to the specific discipline community)**

I am a member of CTN, with a focus on HIV and Liver Diseases. I am actively involved in clinical trials in HIV therapeutics, and Hepatitis C coinfection. I am a KOL (key opinion leader) in the field of HIV-1 Infection. I have been an instrumental leader in advocating for global studies to have Canadian research sites to provide leading edge therapeutic options to our patients.

### **Key skills, expertise, and contributions candidate would make to the CAHR Board**

Belonging to a visible minority I have always been a strong advocate for broad engagement, inclusivity and a voice for people living for HIV. My experience on the Board is an invaluable asset to ensure that we continue our commitments to equity/diversity/ and inclusivity as Board members, and that there is a process of accountability. I have participated in formal Oppression Training with the CAHR Board in 2017 and Indigenous Community Research Partnership Training with the CAHR Board in 2023. My experience on the Board will be a strong asset to ensure that we adhere to our policies, remain in a positive fiscal position, and as President I will continue to ensure that we continue to engage all our members, through a process of effective communication and provide platforms for us to receive suggestions and be a flexible and dynamic organization that responds to the needs of its community.



## CAHR Board Nominees 2023

### ROLE: SECRETARY

#### **Nominee** (*considered elected by acclamation*)

Lyle McKinnon  
Associate Professor, University of Manitoba

#### **Primary Nominator**

Marissa Becker  
Assistant Professor, University of Manitoba

#### **Endorsing Nominator**

Rupert Kaul  
Professor, University of Toronto

#### **Bio of nominee**

Lyle did his PhD at the University of Manitoba focused on understanding HIV-specific CTL responses and HIV diversity. His postdoctoral work was carried out at the University of Toronto on defining mucosal HIV target cells in the female genital tract. During his training he spent ~10 years in Nairobi, Kenya carrying out field research including epidemiological and immunological studies of high-risk men and women. He then spent >3 years at CAPRISA in Durban, South Africa continuing his work in mucosal immunology in the context of HIV prevention trials in women.

He has published >115 peer-reviewed articles, has an H-index of 37, and has held funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI), Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, National Institutes of Health (NIH), Research Manitoba, Manitoba Medical Services Foundation, UM Rady Faculty, and others. Since 2015 he has been an Assistant Professor in the Department of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases and Community Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba, with cross appointments at CAPRISA and the University of Nairobi. He was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in 2021. His research interests include understanding the HIV transmission in human cohorts, and the mucosal immune bases of infectious disease susceptibility and response to vaccination.

#### **Supporting information**

- lab webpage: <https://www.mckinnonlab.com/>
- pubmed: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=lyle+mckinnon&sort=date&size=200>
- google scholar: <https://scholar.google.ca/citations?user=5YrnTrsAAAAJ&hl=en>

#### **Leadership experience and engagement with CAHR** (*How has this candidate demonstrated their interest and ability to serve on the Board?*)

I have been part of CAHR since my graduate student training in 2002, and am have served as the Basic Sciences representative on the CAHR Board of Directors (2019-23). I have served on 3 CAHR conference organizing committees as the Basic Sciences Co-Chair (2016-Winnipeg, 2019-





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Saskatoon, 2021-Virtual), and an invited speaker at CAHR 2018 in Vancouver. I have participated in numerous CAHR workshops and was an invited speaker at the CAHR Mid-career workshop in 2017.

### **Leadership and engagement with Canadian HIV research** *(for discipline reps, focus on experience bringing views from and back to the specific discipline community)*

My research interest is in mucosal immunology as it relates to HIV transmission, with a focus on the female reproductive and gastrointestinal tract. This work involves collaborative cohort research in countries such as Kenya, South Africa, Uganda, and Thailand, and a large collaborative network within Canada and the US. Given this network established over the past 20 years of training in Canada (PhD at U Manitoba, 2009; postdoctoral fellow at U of Toronto, 2009-13), international experience working and living in Kenya (2003-13) and South Africa (2013-16), and establishing my own program as an early career researcher at U of Manitoba in 2016, I am familiar with many stakeholders in the Canadian HIV research community, and am well positioned to represent the basic science pillar on the CAHR Board.

### **Key skills, expertise, and contributions candidate would make to the CAHR Board**

I have enjoyed my work on the CAHR Board as the Basic Science representative, which included contributing to CAHR's new 5-year plan, working to transition the CAHR 2020 meeting rapidly to the virtual format, and serving on the leadership of the CAHR 2019 and CAHR 2021 conferences, the latter of which remains virtual due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I have experience in planning these conferences and also serving on the planning committees for the HIV R4P meetings (in 2016 and 2018), including special sessions on HIV cure in 2019 and HIV-COVID-19 pandemic overlap in 2021.

At the 2021 meeting we successfully invited Dr. Anthony Fauci to further elaborate on the parallels between these ongoing pandemics. My multidisciplinary research program that spans epidemiology, basic sciences, and qualitative research is well suited to interacting with the diverse expertise on the CAHR Board and to represent the Canadian HIV research community. With this in mind, I hope to extend my involvement in CAHR as Secretary of the CAHR Board.



## CAHR Board Nominees 2023

### ROLE: TREASURER

#### **Nominee** *(considered elected by acclamation)*

Alexandra King

Cameco Chair in Indigenous Health and Wellness, University of Saskatchewan

#### **Primary Nominator**

Keith Fowke

Professor and Head, Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, University of Manitoba

#### **Endorsing Nominator**

Renee Masching

Research Impact Leader, Communities, Alliances and Networks

#### **Bio of nominee**

Dr. Alexandra King is a member of Nipissing First Nation (Ontario). She has recently begun her second five-year term as the Cameco Chair in Indigenous Health and Wellness at the University of Saskatchewan where she co-leads Pewasewskwan (the Indigenous Wellness Research Group). She also has an adjunct appointment at Simon Fraser University (SFU) in Vancouver, BC where she also supports a research team.

Dr. King's work is grounded in reconciliation, *etuaptmumk* (Two-eyed Seeing), which brings together Indigenous and Western worldviews or forms of knowledge, and ethical space—which must be created when peoples with disparate worldviews engage with each other. Dr. King's research priorities and expertise centre on HIV/AIDS and HCV with Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing woven throughout her work.

Her team's reach is expanding through endeavours like the Waniska Indigenous Centre for HIV/HCV/STBBI Inequities which has been actively supporting community-based research with Indigenous communities in Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Alberta to care for people living with HIV/HCV/STBBIs. Her Vancouver team works with research participants with lived/living experience of HIV/HepC in the Downtown Eastside through art, expressive therapies, storytelling and culture. This team is also caring for a project exploring Indigenous-centred peer navigation programs for HIV/HCV.

In Saskatchewan, Dr. King leads research in Saskatoon involving justice health and supporting the wellness of Indigenous people identifying as cis-women, trans-women, Two Spirit or non-binary and who have lived or living experiences of HIV and/or hepatitis C (HCV) through community-based, peer-focused research. Dr. King puts community partners at the heart of her research, for example, she initiated the Saskatoon peer focused research project by connecting with Prairie Harm Reduction (PHR), who has shaped the research methodology and objectives to fit the Saskatchewan environment and the research team is anchored by four Indigenous women with lived/living experience.



## CAHR Board Nominees 2023

### Supporting information

The Ontario HIV Treatment Network (OHTN): HIV Endgame program Funding Opportunity: Ontario HIV Treatment Network's (OHTN) HIV Endgame program - Canadian Association for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (cacmid.ca), CIHR HIV/AIDS and STBBI Research Advisory Committee (CHASRAC) CIHR HIV/AIDS and STBBI Research Advisory Committee (CHASRAC) - CIHR (cihr-irsc.gc.ca), Canadian Network on Hepatitis C (CanHepC) [www.canhepc.ca](http://www.canhepc.ca), The National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health (NCCIH) STBBI and COVID-19 Working Group NCCIH - National Collaborating Centre for Indigenous Health > Home, The 2022 World Indigenous Peoples' Conference on Viral Hepatitis (WIPCVH) <https://wipcvh.org>, Pewaseskwan (The Indigenous Wellness Research Group) focuses on research on Indigenous health and wellness – at times with a disease-specific focus.

Dr. King's research may involve Western medicine, but it brings traditional Indigenous knowledge and medicines to the forefront, as these are as important to promoting good health among Indigenous people in Canada. The Saskatchewan and BC teams collaborate with Indigenous communities, supporting them as they undertake their own health and wellness research. Pewaseskwan (Cree for “the sky is starting to clear”) takes a different approach to engagement, relationships, and research enabling Indigenous communities to do their own wellness research.

### **Leadership experience and engagement with CAHR** *(How has this candidate demonstrated their interest and ability to serve on the Board?)*

Dr. King has long been a member of CAHR and currently serves as the treasurer. She has shown leadership by consistently presenting and leading workshops at CAHR conferences. She has notable experience organizing conferences; in 2021, she was the Clinical Co-Chair of the Annual CAHR Conference. In 2019, she was the Conference Co-Chair, Co-Principal Investigator, and Scientific committee member of the 28th Annual CAHR Conference. She also chaired the 2022 World Indigenous Peoples' Conference on Viral Hepatitis (WIPCVH) and two mini conferences in 2020 and 2021. Her involvement with WIPCVH started with its 2014 inception.

Dr. King brings leadership and guidance in Indigenous methodologies and ways of knowing, being and doing to every role she accepts. Dr. King will share her extensive experience working with a wide range of research entities. She co-leads the Indigenous and Equity/Diversity/Inclusion platforms for CanHepC and is a member of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Institute of Circulatory and Respiratory Health Advisory Board.

### **Leadership and engagement with Canadian HIV research** *(for discipline reps, focus on experience bringing views from and back to the specific discipline community)*

Dr. King spearheads multi-faceted HIV research nationally. Here are some current and past examples of her HIV- related research grants:

- She is the Principal Investigator on Sanctum 1.5's Hope Through Strength: A novel, women-directed and community-based approach to wholistic care for mother-infant pairs experiencing a substance use disorder and/or HIV project which is a CIHR grant running from 2020 – 2025.



## CAHR Board Nominees 2023

- She is the Principal Investigator on Testing, Reaching the Undiagnosed and Linkages to Care: "REACHing" for Impact CIHR team grant HIV/AIDS Biomedical and Clinical Research running from 2019 – 2024.
- She is the Principal Investigator on Waniska! Indigenous Centre on HIV/HCV/STBBI Inequities supported by CIHR Centers for HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and STBBIs grant running from 2019 – 2024.
- She is the Co-investigator on Atotitum ~ Becoming of Age: Inspiring healthy sexuality OR decolonizing sexuality and wellness through "Identity Medicine" to prevent, reduce and eliminate HIV/HCV/STBBI inequities among Indigenous youth in Saskatchewan CIHR project grant running from 2022 – 2026.
- She was the Principal Investigator on Peers4Wellness: Indigenous approaches to wellness support and research for Indigenous women with HIV and HCV in British Columbia and Saskatchewan CIHR grant running from 2018 – 2022.

### **Key skills, expertise, and contributions candidate would make to the CAHR Board**

As a practicing First Nations doctor and researcher, Dr. King is uniquely positioned to highlight the current health needs of Indigenous people in Canada. She brings culturally relevant and trauma informed care to her out-patient practice. She anticipates bringing leadership in Indigenous ways to CAHR to help it decolonize and allow Indigenous values and ways to flourish. She will share her expertise in privileging wholistic approaches to research grounded in healing, wellness and relationships to help create system-level changes that will contribute to decolonizing health science research across Canada.

She is involved with grants worth \$97.9M. These grants have brought increasing recognition of USask as a leader in Indigenous health and wellness research. In Canada's Top 50 Research Universities rankings for 2022, USask recently placed first among the country's 16 medical universities for research income growth. Dr. King was awarded the 2022 Researcher of the Year honour by the USask College of Medicine. She has nurtured the Pewaseskwon team to reach 30+ members including Elders and Knowledge Holders, PhDs, those with lived and living experience, newcomers to Canada, students and Indigenous Cultural Facilitators, who bring cultural knowledge and practices honouring their ancestors and guiding the work in a good way.



## CAHR Board Nominees 2023

### ROLE: CLINICAL SCIENCE

#### **Nominee** (*considered elected by acclamation*)

Kelly O'Brien

Associate Professor, University of Toronto

#### **Primary Nominator**

Carol Strike

Associate Dean & Professor, University of Toronto

#### **Endorsing Nominator**

Francisco Ibanez-Carrasco

Assistant Professor, University of Toronto

#### **Bio of nominee**

Kelly is a physiotherapist and clinical epidemiologist with a Canada Research Chair (Tier 2) in Episodic Disability and Rehabilitation. She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy, at the University of Toronto with cross appointments to the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation (IHPME) and Rehabilitation Sciences Institute (RSI).

Kelly's research is focused in the area of episodic disability, chronic disease and rehabilitation, specifically characterizing the episodic nature of disability experienced by people aging with chronic disease, and examining the implementation of community-based rehabilitation interventions to improve health outcomes, practice, and policy for people living with chronic disease.

Kelly's research interests include: measuring and modeling episodic disability from the perspective of adults aging with HIV (Episodic Disability Framework), developing and assessing properties of a patient-reported outcome measure (PROM) of episodic disability for adults aging with HIV (HIV Disability Questionnaire) and examining the effect of interventions to promote healthy aging (community-based exercise). Methodological areas of interest include: implementation science, measurement, structural equation modeling, Rasch analysis, qualitative methods, survey research, and systematic reviews.

Kelly has served on the CAHR Board of Directors since 2021 as Clinical Science Representative. In 2020, Kelly was elected as a member of the Royal Society of Canada, College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists. Kelly is a member of the Ontario HIV Treatment Network Cohort Study Scientific Steering Committee, and CIHR Canadian HIV Trials Network.

Kelly co-founded and is a steering committee member of the Canada-International HIV and Rehabilitation Research Collaborative (CIHRRC), an international network of over 110



## CAHR Board Nominees 2023

stakeholders in Canada, the United Kingdom, European Union, United States, Australia, and South Africa with an interest in addressing priorities in HIV and rehabilitation research.

### Supporting information

- Webpage: <https://www.physicaltherapy.utoronto.ca/faculty/kelly-obrien/>
- Lab Webpage: Episodic Disability and Rehabilitation Research Program <https://www.physicaltherapy.utoronto.ca/episodic-disability-and-rehabilitation-research-program>
- CIHRRC webpage: <https://cihrrc.ca>
- HIV in Motion Study webpage: <https://hivinmotion.ca/>
- List of publications available at:  
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/myncbi/10EHxYdQ688M8V/bibliography/57380188/public/?sort=date&direction=descending>

### Leadership experience and engagement with CAHR *(How has this candidate demonstrated their interest and ability to serve on the Board?)*

Examples of Kelly's leadership, engagement and collaboration include:

- Kelly has served on the CAHR Board of Directors as Clinical Science Representative (2021-)
- Kelly and F. Ibanez-Carrasco collaborated with CAHR to host an International Forum on HIV Aging and Rehabilitation Research at the CAHR 2016 conference: <https://cihrrc.ca/forums/53-2/>
- Kelly collaborated with CAHR and Realize on two initiatives at the CAHR 2017 conference: 1) an international plenary session entitled: Where Does Rehabilitation Fit in the HIV Care Cascade? and 2) an ancillary meeting entitled: Addressing Research Priorities in HIV, Aging and Rehabilitation of which over 30 stakeholders attended from Canada, Ireland, UK, and US, who also attended the conference
- Kelly has engaged in CAHR leadership and training opportunities such as the CAHR Professional Development Workshop for ID Researchers (2020), CAHR Early to Mid-Career Workshop (2017;2015), and CAHR Communications Workshop (2015)
- With CAHR, C. Strike and F. Ibanez-Carrasco, Kelly was part of a CIHR Grant team to help implement three CAHR-CIHR Calm Cool Collected Data Collection Workshops (2016,2017,2018)
- Kelly was a member of CAHR New Researcher Workshop planning committee (2008-2010)
- Kelly was the recipient of the CAHR-CANFAR Excellence in Research Award in Clinical Sciences (2019)
- Kelly is an abstract reviewer for the CAHR conference (2016-)

### Leadership and engagement with Canadian HIV research *(for discipline reps, focus on experience bringing views from and back to the specific discipline community)*

Kelly's research involves an international, multidisciplinary and community-engaged approach to health care research. She collaborates with researchers, clinicians, and people living with HIV



## CAHR Board Nominees 2023

across over 40 academic institutions, hospitals, community organizations and health centres with expertise in HIV, aging, rehabilitation, and health services research.

Since 2017, Kelly has been awarded over \$13 million (\$7M as principal investigator (PI)) in operating grants. She has engaged in ~23 peer-reviewed grants, 16 of which are funded from the CIHR III (HIV/AIDS STBBI Research Initiative; Emerging COVID Research Gaps and Priorities) and CIHR Institute of Aging, and 4 funded as Nominated PI. Kelly holds additional funding as Nominated PI from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Ontario HIV Treatment Network, and UofT Connaught Community Partnership Research Program involving national and international collaborations. She has been awarded salary awards/fellowships from agencies such as the Canada Research Chairs Program, CIHR, Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation, and British Academy.

Kelly has 139 peer-reviewed publications (63 as first or senior responsible author) and an h-index of 41, demonstrating her ability to plan, implement and translate impactful research. With 108 invited presentations, her expertise has been recognized nationally and internationally.

### **Key skills, expertise, and contributions candidate would make to the CAHR Board**

Kelly's PhD training is in clinical epidemiology; her research experience spans quantitative and qualitative methodological approaches. She is fortunate to learn from and collaborate with mentors and colleagues, including academic and community-based experts including people living with HIV, researchers, clinicians, and community-based organizations, with a longstanding dedication to health services, and community-engaged research. As a member of the CIHR College of Reviewers, Kelly has experience reviewing Doctoral Fellowship and Project Scheme applications.

Kelly has experience volunteering on the Board of Directors with the Canadian Working Group on HIV and Rehabilitation (Realize)(2009-2014), Toronto PWA Foundation (2016-2021) and most recently with CAHR (since 2021). She had the opportunity to engage in anti-oppression knowledge and skills training and Indigenous cultural safety training including the 'San'yas Indigenous Cultural Safety Training', 'Indigenous Community Research Partnerships Training' and 'Whiteness at Work Training' with the Adaway Group.

As one of the few rehabilitation professionals working in the field, Kelly is in a unique position to contribute perspectives and experiences in HIV, disability and rehabilitation, adding to the interdisciplinary nature of the CAHR Board and successfully merging the fields of HIV, aging and other chronic conditions.



## CAHR Board Nominees 2023

### ROLE: EPIDEMIOLOGY/PUBLIC HEALTH

#### **Nominee** (*considered elected by acclamation*)

Viviane Dias Lima

Associate Professor / Scientist and Senior Methodologist, University of British Columbia |  
British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS

#### **Primary Nominator**

Robert Hogg

Distinguished Professor and Associate Dean of Research, Simon Fraser University

#### **Endorsing Nominator**

Angela Kaida

Professor, Scientific Director - CIHR Institute for Gender and Health, Simon Fraser University

#### **Bio of nominee**

I am a Scientist and Senior Methodologist at the British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS with 17 years of experience conducting research on vulnerable populations living with or at high risk of HIV/AIDS. I am also an Associate Professor at the University of British Columbia. I am also a CAHR Board Member for the Epidemiology and Public Health track. My research career has focused on the epidemiology and control of HIV. Based on my extensive training in statistics, epidemiology, and mathematical modelling, I have developed innovative disease progression and transmission models to understand the potential impact of behavioural, biomedical and programmatic interventions on the HIV epidemic.

My research has significantly improved the lives of individuals living with HIV and in averting healthcare system costs in Canada and abroad. My latest mathematical model assessed the impact of different PrEP and TasP interventions to decrease the burden of HIV in BC, and its results were used as evidence by Pharmacare to fund the BC PrEP Program. I have a network of national/international collaborators, an outstanding level and quality of research output: >200 peer-reviewed papers in high-impact journals (h-index 52; i10-index 141; average 12 papers/year); >200 conference abstracts; processed several manuscripts as an academic editor for PLoS One; several invitations to review for peer-reviewed manuscripts; various presentations at national/international meetings; and numerous advisory appointments to influential national/international organizations.

As a CAHR Board member, I have participated in several activities, including planning CAHR conferences in 2022 and 2023, and a grant application to fund future CAHR workshops. Over the years, I have secured continuous research funds to support my research staff and trainees through my research lab (<https://embarc.med.ubc.ca>). Currently, I am the principal applicant on two grants and a co-investigator on seven grants (>\$10M in funding).





## CAHR Board Nominees 2023

### Supporting information

- <https://embarc.med.ubc.ca>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/myncbi/1TUqbZqR6clAt/bibliography/public/>

### **Leadership experience and engagement with CAHR** (*How has this candidate demonstrated their interest and ability to serve on the Board?*)

Over the years, the candidate has supported CAHR as an abstract reviewer, a mentor for the HIV Researcher Workshop, a co-chair for the Epidemiology and Population Health Sciences Track, and more recently, as a Board Member for Epidemiology and Public Health. Additionally, she supports her students and staff to attend CAHR since it is an excellent opportunity for them to network, build new collaborations and exchange knowledge. It would be a pleasure to have Dr. Lima continue serving on the Board for Epidemiology and Public Health since it aligns wholly with her research and career interests. Based on her current research on comorbidities and other ongoing challenges facing those living with HIV and her background in epidemiology, biostatistics and mathematical modelling, she can bring to CAHR a new perspective to enhance training and mentorship for students and new and mid-career researchers in Canada. Dr. Lima is designing an innovative CAHR workshop focused on mathematical modelling that will be held next Winter. I believe that through CAHR, she can continue to promote excellence in HIV/AIDS research done in Canada, create opportunities for promoting learning among its members, and, therefore, enhance CAHR's national and international profiles.

### **Leadership and engagement with Canadian HIV research** (*for discipline reps, focus on experience bringing views from and back to the specific discipline community*)

Despite her technical background, throughout her career, Dr. Lima tried to conduct research that focused on ameliorating the impact of HIV/AIDS and other comorbidities in our population. She has collaborated with several Canadian and international researchers throughout the years and obtained continuing research funding to conduct research focused on the clinical and public health impact of HIV and other comorbidities in Canada. To translate the knowledge that she has obtained monitoring the progress of BC towards the 90-90-90 Targets, since 2014, Dr. Lima has been one of the advisors for the National HIV Cascade Working Group of the Public Health Agency of Canada. Additionally, she currently supervises 12 research and operational staff, some of which provide analytical support to all British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS researchers with vast collaborations across Canada and abroad. She has successfully supervised several graduate students, of which now hold prestigious jobs at the US Center for Disease Control, the US Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, and St. Michael's Hospital, to cite a few. Other examples of her leadership and engagement with the Canadian and international HIV research community can be found in her CV.

### **Key skills, expertise, and contributions candidate would make to the CAHR Board**

The candidate has training in epidemiology, biostatistics and mathematical modelling. She brings a new set of skills and background to the Epidemiology and Public Health Board. She has published on different relevant topics. She has led a series of observational studies that characterized the effect of ART on life expectancy and the role of ART adherence on patient outcomes. She has developed and supervised mathematical modelling studies to predict the



## **CAHR Board Nominees 2023**

burden of HIV and Hepatitis C infections in both high- and low-income settings. These models have predicted the impact of different interventions on transmission events. Recently, her research has provided evidence of the epidemiological transition of the HIV epidemic since 1996, and insight into how the distribution of comorbidities differs in people living with HIV compared to the general population. Some of her work has been cited in national and international guidelines, and they have been instrumental in obtaining funding for both the HIV and Hepatitis C Treatment as Prevention strategies in British Columbia.



## CAHR Board Nominees 2023

### ROLE: SOCIAL SCIENCE

#### **Nominee** (*considered elected by acclamation*)

David Brennan

Professor, Factor Inwentash School of Social Work, University of Toronto

#### **Primary Nominator**

Carol Strike

Professor, University of Toronto

#### **Endorsing Nominator**

Gilbert Emond

Associate Professor, Concordia University

#### **Bio of nominee**

Professor Brennan is a uniquely poised long term HIV advocate, researcher and leader who has a wide range of diverse and related experiences to his capacity to serve on the CAHR Board as the Social Sciences Representative. He serves as an OHTN HIV Endgame Leadership Chair in Gay and Bisexual Men's Health (Social Work) and the founding director of the CRUISElab, an interdisciplinary, social work-led, community-based research lab that investigates the health and well-being of gay, bisexual, two-spirit and other men who have sex with men (GB2M), as well as other sexual and gender minorities.

He is an award-winning community-based research scholar who employs qualitative, quantitative and mixed method designs to address the ongoing health and mental health needs of sexual and gender minority populations. Professor Brennan serves as the lead for the Investigaytors Toronto team, a community-based research training program for young GB2M. He serves on numerous sexual minority health-related studies and has published 60+ peer-reviewed articles and community reports in these areas of interest and research expertise.

Professor Brennan is the 2018 recipient of the Joint CAHR/CANFAR Excellence in Research Award (Social Sciences) at CAHR's Annual Meeting. He has received other awards including the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Achievement award from his two-time alma mater, the Boston College Graduate School of Social Work. He received a Community Recognition Award for his work in HIV from the AIDS Action Committee (Boston). He has been awarded continuous salary support for his scholarly work for nearly 14 years. His work has been continuously funded by CIHR, SSHRC, OHTN, CANFAR, Centre for Innovation and Canadian Blood Services, among others.

#### **Supporting information**

- [www.cruiselab.ca](http://www.cruiselab.ca)



## **CAHR Board Nominees 2023**

### **Leadership experience and engagement with CAHR** (*How has this candidate demonstrated their interest and ability to serve on the Board?*)

He has served as the Co-Chair of the CAHR's Social Sciences track and a member of the Scientific Committee for the CAHR 2018 Conference, as well as a reviewer for CAHR's Social Sciences track for many years

### **Leadership and engagement with Canadian HIV research** (*for discipline reps, focus on experience bringing views from and back to the specific discipline community*)

Professor Brennan has an extraordinarily extensive background in the HIV field. He has been involved in the HIV pandemic for over 37 years when he first volunteered at the newly formed AIDS Action Committee in Boston, MA while an undergraduate. He has worked in many roles including volunteer, clinical supervisor, case manager, activist, program coordinator/manager/director, bereavement counselor, researcher, instructor and scholar.

For 10 years, he served as a member of the Board of Directors for Victory Programs in Boston an innovative HIV/Substance use social service agency. He serves in the CIHR College of Reviewers and has served on numerous review panels. He serves on the Editorial board of three journals (Social Work Research, Journal of HIV/AIDS and Social Services, and the Journal of Gay and Lesbian Social Services), and reviews for nearly 20 journals, most of which are HIV related journals.

### **Key skills, expertise, and contributions candidate would make to the CAHR Board**

In his current role as Associate Dean of Research, he has excellent experience in working with a wide range of administrative and logistical tasks. David is a pleasure to work with. Brings dedication, humor and collegiality to all of the teams, committees and groups with whom he interacts.