



Pacific Pain Forum



NEW HORIZONS IN PAIN CARE

April 4, 2025

8:30-4:30 PDT

Reception to follow

Conference Program

UBC ROBSON SQUARE
800 ROBSON STREET
VANCOUVER, BC



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Territorial Acknowledgement

We would like to acknowledge that this conference was organized and is hosted on the traditional, unceded, ancestral territories of the x^wməθk^wəyəm (Musqueam), Sk̓wx̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

Due to colonialism and systemic violence, Indigenous peoples in North America experience a disproportionately high prevalence of chronic pain.

Some of you may be joining our conference from other territories. Please take a moment to reflect on whose lands you currently reside.



This event is an Accredited Group Learning Activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification program of The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and approved by the Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society. You may claim a maximum of 5.3 hours (credits are automatically calculated)



Learning Objectives:

- Identify innovative frameworks, technologies, and evidence-based practices for the assessment and treatment of chronic pain, enhancing patient care outcomes.
- Collaborate across disciplines to design and implement comprehensive, multimodal pain management strategies, addressing the physical, emotional, and social dimensions of chronic pain.
- Recognize the impact of cultural and gender differences on pain, diagnosis, and treatment.
- Discuss strategies to provide equitable and culturally competent care for diverse patient populations.

Registration Opens at 7:45 am April 4, 2025

Coffee, tea and a selection of house-baked muffins, scones, croissants, fresh fruit with a selection of hot breakfast sandwiches will be available at registration.

Feel free to bring your own reusable water bottle as water stations are available at UBC Robson Square.

Program starts at 8:30 AM PDT

Note: Keynote and Plenary Sessions occur in the **Main Theatre (C 300)**

Rooms for break out sessions are noted within the agenda.

Online live stream will be from the main theatre only. Recordings of all sessions will be available post conference..



Agenda April 4, 2025 - All times in PDT

8:30 - 8:50

Welcome & Opening Remarks with Fiona Dalton, CEO PHC, PJ Matras & Dr. Vishal Varshney and Kristine Juck

8:50 - 9:35

Opening Keynote
Dr. Nel Wieman

Eliminating Anti-Indigenous Racism & Increasing the Cultural Safety of the Health System

Anti-Indigenous racism has been documented as widespread in BC's health system and it plays a significant role in Indigenous patients accessing and receiving care for health conditions, including chronic pain and substance use. Clinicians, researchers and those in other health-related fields will benefit from learning how to develop cultural humility in their work that contributes to increased cultural safety. Trauma, historical and contemporary, is related to pain and addiction and learning how this impacts Indigenous patients is critical to increasing cultural safety. The BC Cultural Safety and Humility Standard is the first of its kind in Canada and plans are underway to create a national standard. Tools such as these can assist clinicians, researchers and others to develop a "two-eyed seeing" approach that will result in improved health outcomes for Indigenous people in Canada.

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

- Describe what antiracism, cultural safety and cultural humility look like in their individual settings (clinical, research etc).
- Identify how trauma is a major factor in pain & substance use for Indigenous (FN/M/I) people.
- Integrate a "two-eyed seeing" approach into their individual settings (clinical, research etc).

9:40 - 10:25

Concurrent workshops: Choose ONE

Please note room to attend. Live stream will remain in the Main Theatre



See next page for choices



9:40 - 10:25



Concurrent workshops: Choose ONE

Please note room to attend. Live stream will remain in the Main Theatre

Main Theatre	C 440	C 400
<p>Managing Chronic Pain in Rural Primary Care</p> <p>Dr. Sean Ebert</p> <p>At the end of this presentation, the participant will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define and identify patients with persistent/chronic pain. • Apply processes and resources to help educate patients. • Apply techniques and tools to improve the management of patients with persistent/chronic pain. 	<p>Chronic Pain and Intimacy: "Let's talk about sex baby"</p> <p>Susan Reid Schellinck, Occupational Therapist</p> <p>At the end of this presentation the participant will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discuss the factors that influence intimacy in relationships and how they affect individuals with pain. • Demonstrate effective communication techniques. • Examine the impact of poor communication and overextension on relationships and well-being. 	<p>The Evolution of Neuromodulation</p> <p>Tina Woodcock, Registered Nurse, Sabine Hyman Registered Nurse & Kelly Lee Registered Nurse</p> <p>At the end of this presentation the participant will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define Neuromodulation and how it works. • Describe the indications for Spinal Cord Stimulator Devices, Dorsal Ganglion Root Stimulator devices and Intrathecal Pumps. • Recognize how neuromodulation therapies have evolved.

10:25 - 10:55



Coffee Break - Enjoy a refreshment and visit our sponsor booths.

Please return to the Main Theatre at **10:55** (C 300)

10:55 - 11:40

What's Happening in Pain? The Ontario Perspective

Dr. Tania Di Renna

Objectives:

- Describe the steps involved in developing a pain strategy.
- Identify factors that are crucial to the development of a cohesive pain program.
- The learner will be able to stay awake during this presentation because it will be told in a comical fairytale style.



Agenda April 4, 2025 - All times in PDT

11:40 - 12:15

Ketamine - The Cure for What Ails us?

Dr. Ainsley Sutherland

Objectives:

- Discuss the growing perception of ketamine as a cure-all in pop culture.
- Describe the evidence for ketamine infusions in acute and chronic pain.
- Discuss the broad range of protocols used in various clinics.
- Examine how we manage a patient coming for surgery who receives ketamine infusions.

12:15 - 1:15



Lunch - Enjoy a refreshment and visit our sponsor booths.

Please return to the Main Theatre at **1:15** (C 300)

1:15 - 2:00

Validation or Lip Service? A conversation with the experts Panel Discussion

Moderator: Tori Etheridge

Panel: Keith Meldrum, Virginia McIntyre, Desmond Williams, Jenny Lorca

Persistent pain is not solely biomedical. Attendees will learn why, how, when, and what to validate in clinical encounters. This lively and dynamic discussion with people living with pain will provide insights into their lived experience and strategies to enhance communication and connection.

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

- Explain what validation and invalidation looks like in the clinical encounter.
- Identify key communication strategies in clinical encounters including validating the experiences of individuals living with persistent pain and when to apply these strategies to foster trust and connection.
- Build practical skills to improve patient communication and empathy, learning directly from real-world strategies shared by individuals living with pain.

2:05 - 2:50

Concurrent workshops: Choose ONE

Please note room to attend. Live stream will remain in the Main Theatre



See next page for choices



Agenda April 4, 2025 - All times in PDT

2:05 - 2:50



Concurrent workshops: Choose ONE

Please note room to attend. Live stream will remain in the Main Theatre

Main Theatre	C 440	C 400
<p>Essential Tools for the Evaluation and Management of Female Chronic Pelvic Pain</p> <p>Dr. Catherine Allaire & Rebecca Weaver, Physiotherapist</p> <p>At the end of this presentation, the participant will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define chronic pelvic pain and its impact on patients. • Describe the most common contributors to CPP and how to identify and manage them. • Recognize the importance of Pain neuroscience education and pelvic physiotherapy in addressing Central Sensitivity. 	<p>The Role of Mental Health Practitioners Working with Chronic Pain - Debunking the Myths and Expanding the Possibilities</p> <p>Natasha Edney, Psychotherapist</p> <p>At the end of this presentation, the participant will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify limited perceptions of the role of mental health clinicians in the treatment of chronic pain. • Recognize the varied mental health modalities and treatments that are available for chronic pain sufferers to better understand the role mental health clinicians can play in a bio-psycho-social-spiritual treatment plan. • Identify patients that would benefit from referral to a mental health clinician, and the specific modality that might be best suited for the patient. 	<p>Using Advanced Imaging to Guide Interventional Spine Procedures: A Case-Based Group Discussion</p> <p>Dr. Michael Pariser</p> <p>At the end of this presentation, the participant will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognize the importance of advanced imaging(MRI and CT) to plan and perform interventional spine procedures. • Acknowledge how procedural planning improves intervention quality and safety. • Identify the utility of the Contra-Lateral Oblique (CLO) view for the safe performance of epidural steroid injection. • Illustrate the use of prospective perspective views when performing epidural steroid injection.

2:50 - 3:20



Coffee Break - Enjoy a refreshment and visit our sponsor booths.

Please return to the Main Theatre at 3:20 (C 300)



Agenda April 4, 2025 - All times in PDT

3:20 - 3:35

PHSA Pain Care BC

Kristine Juck & Tori Etheridge

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

- Discuss the provincial Strategic Action Plan for Pain in BC.
- Identify key accomplishments of Pain Care BC (PCBC) over the past year, since the 2024 Pacific Pain Forum.
- Determine future quality improvement initiatives and network engagement for PCBC.

3:35-4:20

3rd Annual Dr. William McDonald Keynote Presentation: Treating Pain in Canada: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Dr. Hance Clarke

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

- Describe innovations in Canadian Pain Management.
- Examine identified gaps in the Canadian Pain Healthcare Landscape.
- Discuss important steps to improving Pain Research & Management in the coming year.

4:20-4:30

Closing Remarks & Prize Draws with PJ Matras, Dr. Vishal Varshney & Kristine Juck

4:30- 6:00

Join us for a wine and hors d'oeuvre reception!

Evaluation

Your feedback is **essential** in shaping our future conferences; please take a moment to share your thoughts through the conference evaluation form.

- **General Certificates of Attendance** will be emailed to all attendees by Monday April 15th.
- **For CAS accreditation certificates**
 - You are eligible for a CAS CPD certificate. Please fill out the evaluation via the on line portal. Once completed, you will receive your CAS CPD certificate. You will be prompted to enter your name on the certificate.



Evaluation Link





Dr. Catherine Allaire

Dr. Allaire is a Clinical Professor in the UBC Department of Obstetrics & Gynaecology and is Head of the Division of Gynaecologic Specialties. She is the Medical Director of the BC Women's Centre for Pelvic Pain and Endometriosis and of the Reproductive Medicine Program. She is co-director of the UBC Clinical Fellowship in MIS, Pelvic Pain and Endometriosis.

Dr. Allaire is past President of the World Congress on Endometriosis and past President of the Canadian Society for Advancement of Gynecologic Excellence (CanSAGE) and current board member of IPPS. She is co-lead of EndoACT Canada, a national advocacy group dedicated to driving policy action on endometriosis.

Dr. Allaire has published over 100 peer reviewed research papers and co-authored many national guidelines on benign gynaecologic conditions including the 2024 SOGC Guidelines on Endometriosis Diagnosis and SOGC Guidelines on Chronic Pelvic Pain.



Dr. Hance Clarke

Hance Clarke is a staff anesthesiologist and the Director of Pain Services and the Pain Research Unit at the Toronto General Hospital. Dr. Clarke is currently the knowledge Translation Chair For the University of Toronto Centre For the Study of Pain and an Associate Professor in the Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine at the University of Toronto. He currently holds the GoodHope Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome Chair in Translational Medicine and has been recognized internationally for the development of the Toronto General Hospital Transitional Pain Service.

He is the president of the Canadian Pain Society and the Canadian Consortium for the Investigation of Cannabinoids. He has authored over 200 peer reviewed publications and has been invited to speak on pain control, cannabis and the opioid crisis to the House of Commons in Ottawa, Canada and elsewhere around the world.



Fiona Dalton, President and CEO Providence Health Care

Fiona Dalton became President and Chief Executive Officer of Providence Health Care on April 23, 2018. Fiona holds a BA Honours in Human Sciences from The Queen's College, Oxford University. She received an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science from the University of Southampton in 2017.

Fiona has amassed over 27 years of increasingly senior health care experience, distinguishing herself as a values-based leader, cultivating ethical and progressive organizational cultures that put patients and residents first. Under her previous leadership as the CEO of University Hospital Southampton NHS (National Health Service) Foundation Trust in the United Kingdom, the NHS's Care Quality Commission ranked the hospital as "Good" overall and "Outstanding" in the "Well Led" category.

Fiona is passionate about improving patient outcomes and organizational performance by focusing on improving quality, safety, staff wellness, staff engagement, and fiscal and environmental stewardship. She is an ardent champion of enabling and spreading research and innovation—from ideas formulation to pilot-implementation to scaled-up commercialization—that have positive real-world impacts.





Dr. Tania Di Renna



Dr. Tania Di Renna, BSc., FRCPC., Associate Professor at the University of Toronto, Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine, completed her medical school and Anesthesiology residency training in Ottawa. She obtained a chronic pain fellowship at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto and has spinal cord stimulation training from Montreal Neurological Institute.

She is currently the Medical Director of the Toronto Academic Pain Medicine Institute (TAPMI). TAPMI is a partnership of 5 academic hospitals that manage chronic pain in Toronto. She practices anesthesiology and chronic pelvic pain at Women's College Hospital. She has a long leadership career in Chronic Pain. She served as the co-chair of the HQO Guidelines for Chronic Pain, the co-chair of the Ontario Chronic Pain Network and Ontario Representative for Pain Canada. She is now the President-Elect of the Canadian Pain Society.

Dr. Sean Ebert



Sean has been a rural physician for the past 25 years. His work includes anesthesia which has enhanced his opportunity to work with acute and chronic pain patients. Sean has been privileged to serve in leadership capacities in multiple organizations. His current leadership work is with the Rural Coordinating Centre of BC, the BC Patient Safety and Quality Council, Divisions of Family Practice and now Pain BC. Sean is a passionate student of quality improvement and system change.

Natasha Edney



Natasha is a UK-trained Psychotherapist (2003) and a Registered Clinical Counsellor in British Columbia. With a private practice at Solis Integrative Health Centre in Nelson, BC, and serving clients internationally online, Natasha specializes in trauma and chronic pain, with a particular interest in understanding the relationship between chronic pain/disease and underlying trauma. She integrates diverse modalities into her practice, including somatic trauma therapy, Mindfulness (MBSR), and her work as a Level II certified Pain Reprocessing Therapy practitioner.

Natasha is honoured to be actively involved with Pain BC in various capacities including work with their Making Sense of Pain program and mentoring healthcare professionals through the BC Adaptive Mentorship Network for Chronic Pain, Mental Health, and Substance Use. She is a hub team member of the Pain BC Project ECHO and is also an academic marker for the Centre for Counselling and Psychotherapy Education in London, England.



Tori Etheridge

Tori Etheridge, has experience spanning public healthcare, private practice, research, and healthcare leadership. As a clinical leader, she mentors multidisciplinary teams and emphasizes patient-centered care, trauma-informed practices, and cultural sensitivity. Past executive with the Pain Science Division of the Canadian Physiotherapy Association, she facilitated knowledge translation initiatives and mentorship programs across Canada. She had a dual role in research as both editor and clinician, helping to bridge the gap between research and practice. Her leadership roles have seen successful integration of research, clinical practice, and operational policies, building clinics from the ground up through collaboration with multidisciplinary teams, researchers, physicians, stakeholders, academics, and professional organizations. Currently, Tori serves as the Provincial Clinical Lead of Initiatives and Innovation for Pain Care BC, where she leads the development of practice and policy to enhance patient care. She actively implements best practices, advises regional health authorities, and contributes to the program's strategic planning.



Sabine Hyman, RN

Sabine completed her registered nurse education in Germany and initially worked in Oncology before immigrating to Canada in 1988. Since 1989, they have been a dedicated staff nurse at St. Paul's Hospital, with extensive experience across multiple areas, including general and vascular surgery, plastics, gynecology, urology, palliative care, orthopedics, and, for the past 20 years, the Interventional Pain Clinic. They have specialized expertise in caring for patients with spinal cord stimulators and intrathecal pumps, a role they've fulfilled since 2006.



Kristine Juck, Executive Director Pain Care BC

Kris Juck is currently serving as the Executive Director for Pain Care BC and Cystic Fibrosis Care BC in PHSA. She started this role in April 2023. Before coming to this role, she was with the Fraser Health Authority where she served as the Director, Clinical Operations at Royal Columbian Hospital (emergency, trauma and neurosciences). Within her 10 years at Fraser Health, she led multiple programs at multiple tertiary and community sites in the areas of emergency, surgery, critical care and regional rehabilitation programs. Prior to Fraser Health, Kris worked in progressively senior leadership roles at BC Children's and BC Women's Hospitals and has set up grassroots programs in pediatric, surgical and complex pain care spaces.

Kris has a clinical doctorate in Audiology and a Masters of Clinical Science degree. In addition to her past clinical and operational roles, she understands the importance of research and academia. She is a strong collaborator and strongly believes in the importance of enhancing existing services and growing them to meet the needs of the patients they serve.

Kris has leveraged her background as a clinician and her track record as a strong operational leader to move very large projects forward and is using these skills to foster better pain care in BC. She is passionate about supporting patients to get they care they need, when they need it and by the right people. Right patient, right place, right time!

Outside of work, Kris can be found supporting her 3 kids in their aspirations with hockey, rowing and volleyball.



Kelly Lee, RN BsN



Kelly is the Clinical Nurse Leader and Patient Educator for the Interventional Pain and Neuromodulation Clinic at St. Paul's Hospital. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Vancouver Community College and received her Critical Care Specialization from BCIT. Previously, she has worked in cardiac services including cardiology, cardiac surgery wards and Cardiac Surgery ICU at St. Paul's Hospital. She began working at the Interventional Pain and Neuromodulation clinic in 2022. Kelly has thoroughly enjoyed being a part of the Interventional and surgical innovations with the use of interventional infusions, nerve blocks and pain devices including spinal cord stimulators and intrathecal pumps to help manage chronic pain and cancer pain populations. Kelly enjoys hiking, kayaking, skiing and backcountry camping on her time off

Jenny Lorca (she/they/isu/siyá)



Jenny is a Spoonie, volunteer, patient partner, advocate, speaker, and storyteller. She devotes her lived experience of chronic pain and complex chronic disease to build partnerships with organizations, initiatives, and projects such as Pain BC, Pain Canada, Chronic Pain Network, Power Over Pain Portal, University of British Columbia, and Circa Pain. They believe personhood should never be threatened by patienthood; as a champion of peer support as social change Jenny is dedicated to walking alongside folx who live with pain and the ones who support them. They are thrilled to collaborate with fellow Spoonies and peers, clinicians, researchers, and policymakers who are committed to improving the lives of people with lived and living experience of pain

PJ Matras, RN, Clinical Nurse Specialist



PJ Matras, RN, MN is a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) in Pain Management at Providence Health Care (PHC) and an Adjunct Professor at the University of British Columbia (UBC) School of Nursing. She brings over 32 years of diverse nursing experience to her role. After working in various clinical areas, she completed her Master of Nursing degree and joined PHC as a CNS in 2016.

PJ is deeply committed to enhancing patient outcomes and experiences in pain management. She serves as the lead for the Pacific Pain Forum planning committee, is an executive member of the Clinical Nurse Specialist Association of British Columbia (CNSABC), and contributes to the Education Board at Pain BC.

PJ has a passion for advancing nursing practice, CNS service, and improving care for individuals experiencing pain.



Virginia McIntyre

Virginia McIntyre is the President and Executive Director of the People In Pain Network and the Canadian Pain Society PWLE Committee Chair. With over 30 years of experience in diagnostic imaging, she transitioned to becoming a patient partner and peer supporter in 2017. Virginia is notably the first Canadian with lived experience to be awarded the [Mayday Pain and Science Fellowship](#).

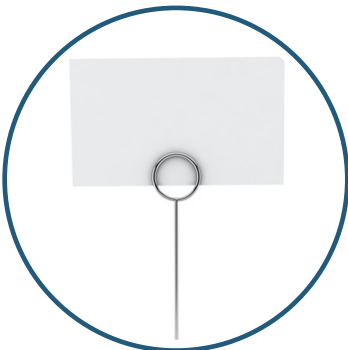
She is actively involved as a lived experience partner in various research projects and pain-related initiatives. Virginia is a proud member of several committees, including the Pain Canada National Advisory Committee, the Co-Chair of the Canadian Pain Society (CPS) Communication Committee, and the Atlantic Mentorship Network Advisory Committee. As a public presenter, pain advocate, and educator, Virginia is dedicated to raising awareness about chronic pain and emphasizing the importance of pain resources, including peer support.

Keith Meldrum



Keith Meldrum is an Applied Science Technologist (civil engineering) and Registered Technology Manager and has lived with persistent neuropathic pain since August of 1986, following a near fatal motor vehicle accident. In 2021 he was diagnosed with primary mitochondrial disease, which also causes persistent pain. In 2012 he was appointed to the Board of Directors of Pain BC, serving as the Vice Chair and the Chair of the Governance and Nominating Committee until 2018. Since 2018 Keith has focused his advocacy efforts as a personal pain advocate. This led to an invitation to present at the International Association for the Study Pain's (IASP) 2018 World Congress, his appointment as a founding of the Global Alliance of Partners for Pain Advocacy, an IASP Task Force, and his 2022 appointment to the National Advisory Committee for Pain Canada. Keith has presented on the complexities of living with persistent pain and effective supported self-management locally, nationally, and internationally, guest lectured at universities, delivered numerous webinars, co-authored two articles on persistent pain, and has a Facebook blog called A Path Forward in which he shares his experiences, advice, and thoughts on living with persistent pain.

Dr Michael Pariser



Dr. Michael Pariser is an interventional pain specialist and Division Head for Multidisciplinary and Interventional Pain Management for the Vancouver Island Health Authority (VIHA) based at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital (NRGH). He completed his undergraduate medical degree and Anesthesiology residency at Western University, previously the University of Western Ontario (UWO) in London, Ontario. DR Pariser was fortunate to be mentored by DR Patricia Morley-Forster, and DR Geoffrey Bellingham who encouraged him to become the first Canadian resident to complete the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Pain Medicine residency, also at Western University. DR Pariser, in collaboration with his wife Leanne, is the Founding President of the Specialist Pain Physician Society of British Columbia (SPPSBC). He presently serves as Vice President of the Nanaimo Medical Staff Engagement Society (NMSES) and Medical Staff Advisory. His interests outside of medicine include hiking, skiing, and attempting to surf with his wife and daughters.



Susan Reid-Schellinck, Occupation Therapist



Susan Reid-Schellinck is an OT who works with people with chronic pain. She received her BSc from UVic, and OT degree from UBC. She is a provincial, national, and international speaker on functional aspects of chronic pain. She is clinical faculty for Pain BC and Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists and is a yearly guest lecturer for UBC MScOT students. She is honoured and humbled to be a part of some amazing projects including SME for Pain BC's Pain Foundations online course, Pain BC Project ECHO team member, mentor with the BC Adapted Mentor Network, and Chronic Pain Champion for the National Forum for SUAP (Substance Use and Additions Program). Susan is Chair of PacificSport Vancouver Island. She has a private practice, teaches Qi Gong, and facilitates a support group for people with CRPS. She tours Canada teaching other OTs about assessment and treatment of chronic pain. In her spare time, she gets out in nature, and still enjoys her teenagers. (lol)

Dr. Ainsley Sutherland



Dr. Sutherland is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the UBC Department of Anesthesiology, Pharmacology & Therapeutics and an Anesthesiologist and Pain Physician at St. Paul's Hospital. Dr. Sutherland obtained her PhD in Experimental Medicine at UBC examining genetic susceptibility to severe infections and sepsis in critically ill patients. She completed her residency in Anesthesiology at the University of Toronto and a fellowship in Transitional and Chronic Pain at Toronto General Hospital. Her area of expertise is the prevention of chronic pain and opioid use in post-surgical patients. She is the Physician Lead for the Acute Pain Service, the Co-Physician Lead for the Transitional Pain Clinic at St. Paul's Hospital and the interim Vancouver Coastal Health/Providence Health Care Regional Pain Lead.

Dr. Vishal Varshney



Dr. Vishal Varshney is a Clinical Assistant Professor in the UBC Department of Anesthesiology, Pharmacology & Therapeutics, an Anesthesiologist and Pain Physician at St. Paul's Hospital and Physician Lead, Inspiring People and Teams Pillar for Providence Health Care. He completed medical school from the University of Calgary, and his residency in anesthesiology at the University of British Columbia. He completed his fellowship in Pain Medicine at the University of Calgary, being one of the first physicians certified in Pain Medicine by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in western Canada. He has an interest in neuromodulation and medical education, serving as former Chief Technology Officer of the North American Neuromodulation Society Resident and Fellow Section. Dr. Varshney is the physician lead for the Pacific Pain Forum Planning Committee.

Rebecca Weaver, Physiotherapist



Rebecca Weaver is a Registered Physiotherapist with a special interest in Pelvic Health. She works at the Centre for Pelvic Pain and Endometriosis at BC Women's Hospital. Rebecca is passionate about pain education and loves working with the interdisciplinary team at BC Women's Hospital.



Cornelia (Nel) Wieman, MSc, MD, FRCPC

Dr. Nel Wieman is the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) at the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) in British Columbia, where she has worked since 2018. She is Anishinaabe (Mishi-Baawitigong First Nation, Manitoba) and lives, works and plays on the unceded territory of the Coast Salish peoples – the sə́lilwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh), Sk̓w̓x̓wú7mesh (Squamish), and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations.



Dr. Wieman completed her medical degree and psychiatry specialty training at McMaster University. Canada's first female Indigenous psychiatrist, Dr. Wieman has more than 20 years' clinical experience, working with Indigenous people in both rural/reserve and urban settings. Her previous activities include co-directing an Indigenous health research program in the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto and the National Network for Indigenous Mental Health Research, being Deputy Chair of Health Canada's Research Ethics Board, and serving on CIHR's Governing Council. She has also worked and taught in many academic settings, has chaired national advisory groups within First Nations Inuit Health Branch - Health Canada, and has served as a Director on many boards, including the Inspire Foundation and Pacific Blue Cross. Dr. Wieman served as the President of the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada (IPAC) from 2016-2022. She was one of the 6 Indigenous physician founders of the National Consortium on Indigenous Medical Education (NCIME). She was appointed to the BC Provincial Task Team charged with beginning implementation of the recommendations arising from the "In Plain Sight" report.

Desmond Williams

Desmond Williams is a community healer & TRE practitioner, International pain advocate, Audio Engineer & Sound Designer, stand-up comedian, writer & orator whose work is grounded in the culture, music, dancing, laughter, and storytelling of his upbringing with the traditions of the Nlaka'Pamux First Nations and St. Vincent & the Grenadines.



Desmond's work explores healing practices for People of the Global Majority, and how to foster the care and support needed to explore the depth of living this existence safely and effectively with others.

Tina Woodcock, RN

Tina attained a Bachelor of Science in Biology (1993) and Nursing (1999) from the University of Victoria. She attained specialties in oncology, wound care and acute palliative care nursing where she often cared for patients with chronic pain.

She was first introduced to neuromodulation when helping cancer patients with implanted intrathecal pumps, recognizing the benefit of this targeted drug delivery for localized cancer pain.

Since 2016 she has been a Patient Educator for the Interventional Pain Clinic at St. Paul's Hospital specializing in Neuromodulation nursing. She has developed a passion for supporting people who are both trialing, and living with, these highly specialized tools for chronic pain.





If you have any questions, please find one of our planning committee members wearing a **red lanyard.**



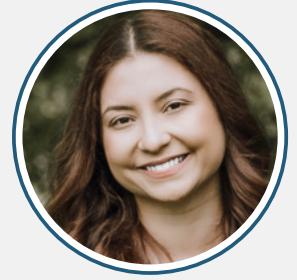
Lana Andric



Arielle Beauchesne



Dr. Michael Butterfield



Vicky Davis



Kathleen Duddy



Tori Etheridge



Sarah Hearne



Dr. Jim Kim



Clare Lakes



PJ Matras



Keith Meldrum



Dr. Jill Osborn



Alice O'Sullivan



Erin Robson



Kristine Juck



Marija Stefic-Cubic



Dr. Ainsley Sutherland



Kelly Third



Dr. Vishal Varshney



Felicia Yang



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Thank you to our valued Sponsors!

This program has received an educational grant or in-kind support from the following:

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Thank you for attending!



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