

## *Speaker Biographies*

### **Margarett Best**

Lawyer, advocate, mentor and dedicated community volunteer, Margarett Best was elected MPP in the riding of Scarborough-Guildwood on October 10, 2007, and appointed to Cabinet, as Minister of Health Promotion, on October 30, 2007. In her capacity as Minister of Health Promotion, Minister Best will champion health and wellness for all Ontarians through a wide range of programs and services that include chronic disease prevention, physical activity, sport participation, injury prevention and mental wellness.

Minister Best was born in May Pen, Clarendon, Jamaica. She is an alumna of the University of Toronto at Scarborough and Osgoode Hall Law School, and she holds a Mutual Funds Certificate from the Investment Funds Institute of Canada.

Minister Best advocated for public safety and diversity awareness in law enforcement as a member of the OPP Advisory Committee. She presented seminars and facilitated entrepreneurial workshops for under-served youths at Shouters Baptist Ministries. She was a First Vice-President of the Black Business and Professional Association and a member of the board of Urban Financial Services Coalition. She mentored young people on possible career choices in law, as a panelist with the Applause Institute and as a participant in the Annual Scarborough Youth Career Fair.

She sat on the Law Society of Upper Canada Solicitors' Examination Blueprint Committee, and on the board of the Women's Rights Action Coalition of Durham and Sheena's Place Breakfast Committee. In 2004, she was appointed to the College Compensations and Appointments Council where she sat on the Human Resources and the Premier's Award Committees.

In 2007, Minister Best was nominated for the Lincoln Alexander Medal and she was awarded an African Canadian Achievement Award in 2006. Recognized by the Women's Rights Action Coalition of Durham for her commitment to social and gender-equality issues, she also received a "Reaching Out and Giving Back Award" from the Prospect Primary School Alumni Association, and a Professional Award of Excellence from the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis.

### **Helena Jaczek**

Dr. Helena Jaczek was elected to the Ontario legislature in 2007. For more than 18 years, Dr. Jaczek served as the Medical Officer of Health and the Commissioner of Health Services for York Region. She was responsible for a budget of over \$100 million with over 1,000 employees.

Dr. Jaczek has served on the board of the Ontario Great Lakes Renewal Foundation, and in 2006, she won the Canadian Institute of Planners for York Region's Award for Planning Excellence in the category of Environmental Planning.

She has mentored foreign-trained professionals, helping them successfully integrate to life in Canada. For her work, she was awarded the Outstanding Alumni Mentor Award 2007 from the University of Toronto. Dr. Jaczek has also served on various boards, including as president of the South York Region Heart and Stroke Foundation Council, and as a member of the Capital Campaign Cabinet for the York Centre for Children, Youth and Families.

For 11 years, she was a family doctor, and she has a MBA from York University. She immigrated to Canada in 1963 from England.

## **David Salisbury**

Dr. David Salisbury is the Medical Officer of Health for the City of Ottawa and a Senior Consultant in Aviation Medicine to Transport Canada's Civil Aviation Medicine Branch. He graduated from Queen's University Medical School at Kingston in 1978 and was a flight surgeon in the Canadian Forces for almost thirty years retiring at the rank of Colonel.

He has a Master's degree in Occupational Health from the University of British Columbia and graduated from the USAF Residency in Aerospace Medicine course in 1988. During his military medicine career he was Head of Central Medical Board, Medical Advisor to the Chief of the Air Staff, Deputy Force Surgeon in Croatia, Commanding Officer of the Canadian Forces Environmental Medicine Establishment and finally the Deputy Chief of Staff for Force Health Protection at NDHQ, Ottawa.

He joined Ottawa Public Health in 2004 and was appointed MOH in 2005. Dave has numerous publications in aviation medicine, occupational medicine, epidemiology and public health. He has been the Executive Secretary for the Clinical Reasoning Skills Test Committee of the Medical Council of Canada, the President of the International Military Flight Surgeon Pilots Association, President of the Canadian Aerospace Medicine and Aeromedical Transport Association and is a Fellow of the Aerospace Medical Association. He is an active pilot and is Board Certified in Aerospace Medicine as well as being a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in Community Medicine.

## **Richard Schabas**

Dr. Richard Schabas is Medical Officer of Health for Hastings and Prince Edward Counties and Consultant Internist at Campbellford Memorial Hospital. Dr. Schabas was Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health from 1987 to 1997.

## **Tim Sly**

Tim Sly is a professor in Ryerson University's School of Occupational and Public Health, an associate professor in the School of Graduate Studies, and an external examiner for the University of Technology, Kingston, Jamaica.

He holds public health inspector qualifications in the UK and Canada, and was in the public health and epidemiology fields for many years, with a focus on the investigation of food borne diseases.

He has a MSc in Epidemiology from the Faculty of Medicine, UWO, and a PhD in Risk Studies from Teesside University, UK. He has been published in Canada, UK, USA, and New Zealand, and has also lectured, worked, and consulted in Taiwan, Brazil, and the Caribbean region.

## **Lesbia Smith**

Dr. Lesbia Smith has enjoyed a career in public health for more than 30 years. Most of these years were spent as a Senior Consultant in the Ontario Ministry of Health in a portfolio covering health and environment, and had other assignments in the Ministry of Labour and in the Industrial Disease Standards Panel developing workplace compensation criteria.

She is currently a private consultant and Assistant Professor, Department of Public Health Sciences, Gage Occupational and Environmental Health Unit, and Associate of the Centre for Environment, University of Toronto; Clinical Research Associate of the Institute of Environment and Health, McMaster University.

### *Lesbia Smith cont'd*

She has carried out many studies of lead exposure in children in Ontario, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia and participated in the development of the current lead intervention guidelines. Her current work includes updating materials for Health Canada in 2006 and 2007 to consider a new lead reference dose and new exposure intervention strategies.

Current academic activities include graduate-level teaching, doctoral and master degrees student supervision, presentation of original work at professional conferences, scientific reports and publications.

### **Ross Upshur**

Ross Upshur is currently the Director of the University of Toronto Joint Centre for Bioethics and a staff physician at the Department of Family and Community Medicine, Sunnybrook Campus of the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre.

Dr. Upshur is the Canada Research Chair in Primary Care Research and a Research Scholar and Associate Professor, Departments of Family and Community Medicine and Public Health Sciences and Adjunct Scientist at the Institute of Clinical Evaluative Sciences at the University of Toronto.

He is a member of The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, the College of Family Physicians of Canada, The Joint Centre for Bioethics, University of Toronto and is an Associate Member of the Institute of Environment and Health at McMaster University. He is also an affiliate of the Institute of the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology at the University of Toronto.

### **Gaynor Watson-Creed**

Dr. Watson-Creed is the Medical Officer of Health for the Capital District Health Authority in Halifax, Nova Scotia, and an employee of the provincial department known as Nova Scotia Health Promotion and Protection. She has been there since completing a residency in Community Medicine at McMaster University in 2005.

Dr. Watson-Creed completed her family medicine training at McMaster University in 2001 and maintains a small degree of clinical practice in women's health.

She holds a teaching appointment with the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology at Dalhousie University. Prior to entering medicine she did an undergraduate degree in Chemistry at the University of Prince Edward Island (her home), and a Master's Degree in Biochemistry at the University of Guelph. Gaynor received her MD from Dalhousie University in 1999.

### **Erica Weir**

Dr. Weir completed medical school at Queen's University in Kingston and residencies in Family and Community Medicine at McMaster. She complemented her training with a Master of Science in Epidemiology at Toronto and a one year clinical fellowship in women's health, based at Women's College Hospital.

She is currently the Associate Medical Officer of Health in the Regional Municipality of York and is an assistant professor in the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology at Queen's.

Dr. Weir has been an associate editor with the Canadian Medical Association Journal since 1999.

## **Kumanan Wilson**

Dr. Wilson is a specialist in General Internal Medicine at the Toronto General Hospital. He is also an Associate Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Health Policy, Management and Evaluation at the University of Toronto. He also holds appointments at the Institute of Intergovernmental Relations at Queen's University and the Joint Centre for Bioethics, University of Toronto.

Dr. Wilson recently received his MD from the University of Western Ontario and completed his fellowship training in general internal medicine at McMaster University. He received his MSc. in Health Research Methods from McMaster University.

As a Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) New Investigator, Dr. Wilson's research has focused on studying policy making in areas of health protection. His work has included analyses of the Canadian blood system, pediatric immunization policy, pandemic preparedness and intergovernmental relations in public health.