

CMA leadership selection process

Nominations Committee – A committee appointed by members for members

The [CMA’s Act of Incorporation and Bylaws](#) set out the rules that govern the CMA. Amendments to the bylaws are presented to CMA members for approval at the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Chapter 12 of the bylaws outlines the mandate of the CMA Nominations Committee to recruit and secure strong, balanced leadership for the association.

All members of the CMA [Nominations Committee](#) are approved by General Council delegates¹ at the AGM. The Nominations Committee is comprised of one member from each province and territory (except Nunavut); one member from the affiliate societies; one resident member; one student member; the chair of the Appointments Committee; and the immediate past president of the CMA, who chairs the Nominations Committee.

Annual call for expressions of interest

Every year, the CMA holds a process to fill upcoming vacancies on the Board of Directors and on certain committees, and to fill the roles of AGM chair and vice-chair.² The CMA welcomes expressions of interest from all eligible members and collaborates closely with numerous organizations — including provincial and territorial medical associations, [affiliates and associated societies](#) — to encourage applications and secure strong, balanced and diverse leadership candidates.

The application form and interview questions invite candidates to voluntarily self-identify with respect to their diversity attributes and self-assess with respect to various skills specific to the position for which they are applying. The application process is designed to confirm applicants’ CMA membership status and to ensure that they do not have conflicts of interest that would disqualify them pursuant to the CMA bylaws.

Application review process

The CMA operating rules and procedures allow the CMA Nominations Committee to strike working groups to review expressions of interest received for any position and select one candidate to recommend to the full CMA Nominations Committee.³

Each working group consists of the CMA Nominations Committee chair, the CMA Appointments Committee chair and up to two other representatives. In the case of a working group to select a candidate for a provincial or territorial director, the additional representative(s), insofar as it is possible, come from the province or territory for which there is an upcoming vacancy.

¹ Some General Council delegates are appointed by virtue of their position (e.g., the chair and members of the CMA Board of Directors, the AGM chair and vice-chair, the president of each division and some past officers). Provincial and territorial medical association delegates and affiliate society delegates are members appointed by their respective provincial or territorial medical association or affiliate society to vote in CMA elections. See section 10.2.1 of the bylaws for a complete list.

² Note: Interim vacancies that arise between nominations cycles are considered by the CMA Board of Directors pursuant to the CMA bylaws.

³ All members of the CMA Nominations Committee are provided with, and attest to completing, unconscious bias training.

The working groups consider each candidate's self-identification and self-assessment responses holistically. They have the discretion to conduct interviews with shortlisted candidates as they deem necessary. In terms of self-identification attributes, the working groups seek nominations that reflect the diversity and demography of the physician population, specifically with a sensitivity to age, gender, sexual identity, ethnicity/race, Indigeneity, disability and regional balance.

In terms of skills, the working groups consider each candidate's lived experience, professional standing and development, and/or academic credentials and preparation against the terms of reference for the board or the committee in question. Additionally, for board director positions, the following competencies are considered (i.e., knowledge, skill level, expertise):

- Health sector perspective – Public health/population health and health innovation
- Advocacy, political and policy perspective – Patient advocacy/experience and public policy leadership
- Business and organizational perspective – Human resources/talent management, communications, finance and accounting, technology, social impact and risk management
- Leadership and governance perspective – Corporate strategy and board/governance experience

Applicants for board director positions are subject to the CMA Board Code of Conduct and Organizational Expectations ("the Code"). To assess conflicts of interest pursuant to the Code, shortlisted candidates undergo a background check (including, without limitation, the following areas: bankruptcy, criminal record and social media), which the CMA conducts via a third party after the interview process. Shortlisted candidates for the CMA Audit and Finance Committee and the CMA Governance Committee also undergo these background checks.

Selection process

The working groups bring their final selections to the full CMA Nominations Committee, which reviews all candidates and presents them to General Council for approval during the AGM. In accordance with section 13.4 (d) of the CMA bylaws, the immediate past president presides over the approval process. All terms commence immediately following the AGM.

In keeping with nominations best practices, the internal work of the CMA Nominations Committee is confidential. Candidates who are not selected to be put forward for approval are welcome to request feedback on their application and interview, if applicable.

President-elect elections

The CMA presidency is rotated alphabetically among the provinces and territories (excluding Nunavut).

Every year, the CMA issues a call for nominations for the president-elect position in the respective province or territory. Members in that province or territory then elect a final CMA president-elect nominee to be presented for approval at the AGM. If the nominee is approved, they become CMA president in the subsequent association year.

2023–24 highlights⁴

Procedures and conflict of interest declarations

The CMA [Bylaws and Operating Rules and Procedures](#) and rules of order ensure a fair, transparent, effective and expeditious elections and nominations process. All conflicts of interest were declared and appropriately managed throughout the process with recusal from deliberations and voting on relevant positions.

Equity, diversity and inclusion

The CMA is committed to [equity and diversity, reconciliation and inclusion](#). Its leadership needs to reflect the diversity of the medical profession and the communities it serves to ensure that the association draws on a wide range of experiences, perspectives, attributes and skills to develop better solutions, drive innovation and creativity, and enhance decision-making.

To encourage participation from historically underrepresented groups, the call for expressions of interest was issued to over 75 organizations, including provincial and territorial medical associations, [affiliates, associated societies and observer organizations](#). The CMA is grateful to many of them for assisting in the promotion of the CMA leadership vacancies and encouraging their members to apply. Previous candidates who had indicated an interest in hearing about future opportunities were also notified.

Applicants were asked to voluntarily self-identify across a range of skills and diversity attributes (as outlined on page 2 above). There were 12 vacancies for an initial term and 11 positions with incumbents willing to serve for another term. A total of over 100 expressions of interest were submitted from new applicants and incumbents (see page 4 below for the final list of nominees selected by the CMA Nominations Committee). A working group was established for one vacancy with an incumbent, because additional applicants came forward.

Vacant position

No applications were received for the Northwest Territories vacancy on the CMA Nominations Committee. The vacancy will be included in the call for expressions of interest that is issued in 2024.

President-elect position

A physician from New Brunswick will serve as president elect in 2024–25 and as president in 2025–26. The CMA worked with the New Brunswick Medical Society during the summer of 2023 to promote this opportunity and encourage members of all backgrounds and experiences to put forward their candidacy. Approximately 35 members from across Canada attended a “Meet the Candidates” session on Nov. 14, 2023. Participants had the opportunity to hear from the two candidates who applied: Dr. Margot Burnell and Dr. Jennifer Russell. The election ran from Nov. 22 to Dec. 6, 2023; 466 out of the 2,840 eligible members in New Brunswick cast their vote. The CMA issued a statement on Dec. 8, 2023, that Dr. Burnell had been elected.

Following the election, the New Brunswick Medical Society submitted Dr. Margot Burnell as the nominee for the president-elect position pursuant to section 12.3.4 of the CMA bylaws, which provides: *“Any member, division, or the Nominations Committee in the case of a nominee from Quebec, may submit a nomination for the Office of President-Elect, in accordance with the Association’s Operating Rules and Procedures.”*

If approved by General Council delegates, Dr. Burnell will serve as president-elect from May 29, 2024, until May 31, 2025, when she will become CMA president.

⁴ The information in this report is current to Apr. 18, 2024.

2024 nominees for approval

Listed below are the names of the nominees that will be presented for General Council approval on May 29, 2024. Biographies follow in the order in which the nominees appear.

Terms are up to three years, unless otherwise indicated using the following legend:

- * Initial three-year term, eligible for renewal
- ** Second three-year term, ineligible for renewal
- + Initial one-year term, eligible for renewal
- ++ Second one-year term, eligible for renewal
- +++ Third one-year term, ineligible for renewal

CMA PRESIDENCY		
<p>At any given time, the CMA has the following roles (each also serves as a director on the CMA Board of Directors):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a president who acts as the spokesperson for the association; • a president-elect who serves as a back-up to the president and will act as president the following year; and • a past president who supports the president and president-elect. 		
Position	Nominee	Term
President-elect	Margot Burnell, MD	05/2024 – 05/2025

BOARD OF DIRECTORS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CMA is a membership organization governed by a board of directors that is responsible for managing the CMA’s affairs and has the legal duties and obligations of any board in addition to the specific duties stipulated in the CMA bylaws. The board directs the organization’s work within the framework of our mission, vision and values (see Impact 2040). • The board is made up of the CMA’s president, president-elect and immediate past president, as well as a chair, a CMA member from each province and territory with at least 40 CMA members, a medical student, a medical resident and a non-physician. • Terms for provincial and territorial directors are three years, renewable once; these directors generally serve two three-year terms. Terms for the medical student and medical resident directors are one year, renewable twice. 		
Position	Nominee	Term
British Columbia director **	Nigel Walton, MD	05/2024 – 05/2027
Newfoundland and Labrador director **	Paula Cashin, MD	05/2024 – 05/2027
Northwest Territories director *	Katherine Kessler, MD	05/2024 – 05/2027
Ontario director *	Naheed Dosani, MD	05/2024 – 05/2027
Student director +++	Santanna Hernandez	05/2024 – 05/2025
Resident director +	Kaylynn Purdy, MD	05/2024 – 05/2025

APPOINTMENTS COMMITTEE

- Advises the CMA board on appointments to committees, groups and advisory bodies including external organizations.

Position	Nominee	Term
Member-at-large **	Marcia Clark, MD	05/2024 – 05/2027

AGM CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

- The AGM chair, assisted by the vice-chair, manages the meeting to ensure fairness and apply the rules of order.

Position	Nominee	Term
AGM chair **	Melanie Bechard, MD	05/2024 – 05/2027
AGM vice-chair *	Carl Nohr, MD	05/2024 – 05/2027

AUDIT AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

- Oversees the overall financial management of the association, including financial risk management, annual budget overview and the external audit function.
- Oversees the integrity and credibility of the association’s audited financial statements, liaises with the association’s external auditor and oversees the audit.
- Makes recommendations on the appointment of the external auditors, the administration of the CMA pension plan and membership fees.
- Receives reports from the risk management team and information updates on enterprise financial matters and year-end consolidated financial statements.

Position	Nominee	Term
Member-at-large *	Fredrykka Rinaldi, MD	05/2024 – 05/2027

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

- Elaborates, interprets and recommends amendments to the Code of Ethics and Professionalism and addresses problems related to ethics referred to the CMA.
- Advises the CMA on matters pertaining to ethical issues that arise from scientific and technological progress in the health sciences and ethical issues of interest or concern to the medical profession.
- Advises the CMA on ethical issues related to its core strategies and priorities.

Position	Nominee	Term
Prairie provinces/NWT member *	Christine Gibson, MD	05/2024 – 05/2027
Ontario member *	Angela (Hong Tian) Dong, MD	05/2024 – 05/2027
Quebec member **	Gilles Beauchamp, MD	05/2024 – 05/2027
Atlantic provinces member *	Abraham Rudnick, MD	05/2024 – 05/2027
Student member +++	Fiza Javed	05/2024 – 05/2025
Resident member ++	Gali Katznelson, MD	05/2024 – 05/2025

GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

- Advises the CMA board on all aspect of governance including the CMA bylaws; also reviews corporate proposals.

Position	Nominee	Term
Member-at-large **	André Bernard, MD	05/2024 – 05/2027
Member-at-large **	Boluwaji Ogunyemi, MD	05/2024 – 05/2027

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

- Reports annually to the CMA General Council and recruits and secures strong, balanced leadership for the association.
- Issues calls for nominations reflecting the diversity and demography of the physician population.
- Interacts with divisions, affiliates and the membership to bring forward nominees for approval by General Council.

Position	Nominee	Term
Alberta member *	Ngozika Mbonu, MD	05/2024 – 05/2027
Manitoba member *	Robert Obara, MD	05/2024 – 05/2027
Quebec member *	Kevin Yang Wu, MD	05/2024 – 05/2027
Student member ++	Navjit Moore	05/2024 – 05/2025
Resident member +	Foluso Ishola, MD	05/2024 – 05/2025

2024 nominee biographies

Dr. Margot Burnell

Dr. Margot Burnell is a medical oncologist who has served the patients of New Brunswick for over three decades. She is an associate professor of medicine at Dalhousie University and was the head of the department of oncology for eight years. She is chief of staff for Zone 2 of the Horizon Health Network. She has participated in and chaired multiple committees associated with the health authority, the Saint John and New Brunswick medical societies, CMA, pan-Canadian Oncology Drug Review and Hospice Greater Saint John. She has participated in many clinical trials. She is co-chair of the supportive care committee for the Canadian Cancer Trials Group.

Following an undergraduate education in biology and chemistry, Dr. Burnell completed her medical degree at Western University in 1980 and her internal medicine and medical oncology residency at the University of Toronto in 1985. She completed a fellowship year in oncology at the Royal Marsden Hospital in London, United Kingdom, in 1986 before joining the staff at the Saint John Regional Hospital. Dr. Burnell has been honoured by the New Brunswick Medical Society with the Dr. Donald Morgan Service Award, by the Rotary Club with a Paul Harris Fellow Award and by the CMA with an Honorary Membership Award.

Dr. Burnell is a dedicated physician who cares about her patients and wants to make a difference in their lives, helping them on an individual basis and participating in systems administration. She feels being a physician is a calling and shares her passion for medicine with coworkers and learners. She values her personal and work family. Trust, respect, transparency and accountability are her core values. She rallies teams to reach their potential and dreams by valuing their expertise, highlighting their endeavours and celebrating their successes. Dr. Burnell believes in giving back to her community to make it a stronger, healthier one.



Dr. Nigel Walton

Dr. Nigel Walton is a foreign medical graduate who trained in the United Kingdom at the University of Liverpool and University College London before emigrating to Canada in 1986. He is a general practitioner who practised in northern Saskatchewan and rural British Columbia before settling in West Vancouver in 1990.

For 18 years he was a director of the British Columbia Medical Association (now Doctors of BC), where he served as vice-chair of the Board of Directors and on several committees, including the Executive, Audit and Finance, Communications, and Governance and Nominations committees. Before joining the CMA board in 2021 he was a delegate to 13 CMA General Councils. He remains in active practice as a family physician and is a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Family Practice at the University of British Columbia.

He has a wide variety of interests including health and the environment; climate change; technology in medicine; artificial intelligence; inequality in health; and equity, diversity and inclusion.



Dr. Paula Cashin

Dr. Paula Cashin is the first Indigenous radiologist and nuclear medicine physician in Canada. She is a Mi'kmaw physician who works in rural Newfoundland in teleradiology. Dr. Cashin completed medical school and diagnostic imaging at Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador. She is a dual FRCPC certified physician, with subspecialty training in nuclear medicine at the University of British Columbia and an interventional radiology fellowship at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Cashin serves in national physician leadership roles as vice-chair of the CMA Board of Directors, chair of the CMA Appointments Committee, board director of the CMA Foundation and a council member of the Canadian Medical Protective Association.

Dr. Cashin is an advocate for equity, diversity and inclusion in medicine. Her advocacy began after a personal experience with systemic discrimination and harassment that prevented her from working as a physician for three years. She openly discusses these challenges and the systemic barriers to focus attention on changing the culture of medicine. Her advocacy work includes roles at multiple national physician organizations, including the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, the Canadian Association of Radiologists, and Equity in Medicine. She is a mentor with the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada and faculty lead for Indigenous health at Memorial University of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Dr. Cashin completed a master of laws (LLM) at Osgoode Hall Law School in 2021. Her master's research focused on the development of a national physician dispute resolution process to address the potential career loss and patient safety issues that arise from unresolved workplace conflict and harassment.



Dr. Katherine Kessler

Dr. Katherine Kessler is a family physician in Yellowknife, Northwest Territories. She has served as the deputy territorial medical director and area medical director for Stanton Territorial Hospital and Yellowknife Region, and she has been a part of the physician leadership team of the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority since its inception in 2016. In addition to local health system leadership and clinical practice, Dr. Kessler has previously been a corresponding member for the CMA's Committee on Ethics and the College of Family Physicians of Canada's Advisory Committee on Family Practice.

Dr. Kessler completed undergraduate medical training at the University of Alberta and residency training at Dalhousie University, completing family medicine training in 2009. She is a graduate of the Advanced Health Leadership Program at the Rotman School of Management and continues to participate in leadership development opportunities at the local and national levels. Originally from Edmonton, Alberta, Dr. Kessler has lived and worked in the Northwest Territories since 2009. Serving a majority Indigenous and culturally diverse population, she is committed to personal growth in providing and advocating for culturally safe and equitable care, and to ensuring that the unique challenges of providing and receiving health care in rural and geographically remote locations are considered in national discussions.



Dr. Naheed Dosani

As a palliative care physician and health justice advocate, Dr. Naheed Dosani is dedicated to advancing equitable access to health care for people experiencing structural vulnerabilities like poverty and homelessness. These efforts include founding and leading the Palliative Education and Care for the Homeless (PEACH) Program at Inner City Health Associates in downtown Toronto and serving as the medical director of Kensington Hospice at Kensington Health, the health equity lead at Kensington Health, a health equity expert advisor at the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer and a palliative care physician at St. Michael's Hospital at Unity Health Toronto.

Raised in Scarborough, Ontario, Dr. Dosani completed his medical school training at McMaster University, followed by residency training in both family medicine and palliative care at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Dosani shares his passion for primary care, palliative care and health equity with learners as an assistant professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Toronto. His research interests include advancing access to equity-oriented care for structurally vulnerable populations and culturally diverse communities.

Dr. Dosani has received many prestigious honours for his trailblazing work, including the Meritorious Service Cross for Humanitarianism from Canada's Governor General in 2018, a humanitarian award from the Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians in 2019 and an Award for Young Leaders for early-career physicians from the CMA in 2020. He received an honorary degree (doctor of laws) from Ontario Tech University in 2022.



Mrs. Santanna Hernandez

Mrs. Santanna Hernandez is Dene, from the Liidlii Kue Nation and Cold Lake First Nation on her father's side and Dutch on her maternal side. She was raised on the traditional territory of the Sto:lo Nation and spent many years as a guest on the unceded territory of the Sinixt (Lakes), Syilx (Okanagan), Ktunaxa and Secwepemc (Shuswap) nations, whom she honours for the many traditions and gifts they shared with her. Mrs. Hernandez is a mother of four children and working on her own healing journey from post-generational trauma and ongoing systemic racism.

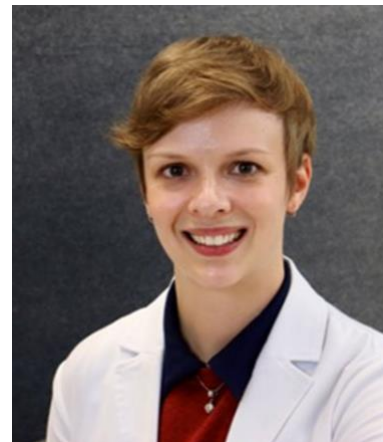
She is a military medical student at the University of Calgary. She served as the first Indigenous president of the Canadian Federation of Medical Students and will continue to support the federation in the position of past president. She serves as co-chair on the ii'taa'poh'to'p student advisory circle and is continually working on research and initiatives to support Indigenous students at the university. Mrs. Hernandez uses her leadership and governance experience to walk a parallel path with allies. Before attending medical school, she completed a bachelor of Indigenous social work degree at the University of Victoria with a focus on Indigenous health and health policy.



Dr. Kaylynn Purdy

Dr. Kaylynn Purdy served on the board of the Canadian Federation of Medical Students as an Ontario regional director then director of education from 2016 to 2018, on the board of the Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS) from 2018 to 2021 and the Professional Association of Residents of Alberta from 2019 to 2020. Most recently, they served as the learner board director at the Association of Faculties of Medicine in Canada from 2021 to 2024. Dr. Purdy graduated from the Northern Ontario School of Medicine University and is a resident in adult neurology at the University of Alberta and incoming resident in critical care medicine at the University of Calgary. During residency they completed a master's of health policy at Stanford University.

Dr. Kaylynn Purdy is originally from Sparwood, British Columbia, where they grew up with respect for the mountains and the importance of community. Their journey in medicine was profoundly shaped by their brother's journey with schizophrenia and ultimately his death from a drug poisoning in 2021. In addition, their own personal health struggles have made them a fierce advocate for people, especially those who are marginalized in their community.



Dr. Marcia Clark

Dr. Marcia Clark is an orthopedic surgeon and clinical associate professor at the University of Calgary and deputy head of surgery for the Calgary Zone. Her academic interests are in simulation-based medical education (SBME), medical education and the intersection of health and technology.

Dr. Clark is the president-elect for the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. In her 16 years of volunteering she has contributed to many Royal College committees. These include the domains of standards, accreditation, educational delivery, curriculum evaluation, program evaluation and board oversight. Dr. Clark has travelled extensively with RCCI delivering sessions on medical education topics to international faculty. Her trips include China, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Her research interests are in simulation, biomechanics, hip and knee arthroplasty and the environmental impact of surgery on the landfill. She supports researchers in these areas and has published several peer-reviewed articles. Dr. Clark is a contributor to the Creative Destruction Lab in the health stream. This opportunity offers mentoring with health technology startups. She was the chair of the Clinical Advisory Board for UCeed (a venture capital fund) and was recently on the General Advisory Panel for The51, a female-focused venture capital fund.

Dr. Clark's clinical practice is focused on surgical arthritis care and sport medicine. She provides medical care to several athletic teams and organizations, including international motor racing (Formula One and the World Cup Desert Rally), the Canadian Alpine Ski Team and Snowboard Canada, Calgary Wolfpack Rugby and the University of Calgary Dinos (hockey and wrestling). For leisurely pursuits, her goals include being outside in daylight, alpine skiing, snowshoeing, hiking and biking — all activities that get her off concrete.



Dr. Melanie Bechard

Dr. Melanie Bechard (she/her) is a pediatric emergency physician at the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) and an assistant professor at the University of Ottawa. She completed her master’s in public health degree with a concentration in health systems and policy at Johns Hopkins University. In recognition of her role as a developing health systems leader, Dr. Bechard received a Fulbright Scholarship and Bloomberg School of Public Health Sommer Scholarship to pursue her graduate training.

Dr. Bechard has served on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Federation of Medical Students (2013–2015), the Professional Association of Residents of Ontario (2016–2017), the Federation of Medical Women of Canada (2019–2021), the CMA (2017–2018, 2019–2020) and Canadian Doctors for Medicare (2015–2024). She is passionate about using public policy to support a healthier and fairer society. Dr. Bechard’s broad interests include equitable access to care, health economics and injury prevention.

Outside of the hospital, you can find Dr. Bechard cycling around Ottawa, teaching yoga, enjoying tea and a good book, or serving as an enthusiastic caretaker for her four hamsters and chinchillas.



Dr. Carl Nohr

Dr. Carl Nohr has served the profession as a president of a provincial medical association and as a CMA board director. He has also served as a director for several other organizations, including the National Association of Parliamentarians, in which he is credentialed as a professional parliamentarian. He holds the ICD.D credential from the Institute of Corporate Directors and has served medical and non-medical organizations in diverse roles. He is a passionate supporter of diversity and of the medical profession.

Dr. Nohr graduated from McGill University in 1978 and then trained as a transplant surgeon and eventually became a community general surgeon in a small city in Alberta. He has lived experience in both the academic and private practice worlds. He was the first specialist to be recognized by the Section of Family Practice of Alberta for outstanding service to primary care. He received the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal for service.

Dr. Nohr notes: “I love our profession, the planet and people. My personal principles are mindfulness, seeking to control my thoughts and paying complete attention to others; selflessness, a blend of self-confidence and a humble desire to serve; and compassion, having positive intentions for others.”

Dr. Fredrykka Rinaldi

Dr. Fred Rinaldi is a family physician practising in Medicine Hat, Alberta. She has an independent community clinic and hospital privileges. She has an LLB and MBA. Dr. Rinaldi was on the Canadian Medical Protective Association's Council for many years and has been actively involved with the Alberta Medical Association (AMA) since 1996 including Executive Family Medicine, AMA Board of Directors. She is immediate past president of the AMA. She has a strong interest in governance, bylaws and frank, respectful communication (what you see is what you get). Currently she is occupied with the sustainability of community family practice longitudinal care and the crisis in acute care.



Dr. Christine Gibson

Dr. Christine Gibson works as a trauma therapist and family physician at the Mosaic Refugee Clinic and as a trauma therapist at the AHS Adult Addiction clinic. She holds a master's degree in medical education (Dundee) and a doctorate in professional studies by public works in transdisciplinary studies (Middlesex). She is the co-founder of two non-profits: Global Familymed Foundation (2012) and The Belong Foundation (2023), as well as a cooperative (until 2022) and corporation: Safer Spaces Training Global Inc.

Dr. Gibson spent 17 years working as a hospitalist physician at the most diverse centre in Calgary. She has held positions as the program director of the Enhanced Skills in Global Health (health equity) program from 2008 to 2014, assistant program director of the family medicine from 2007 to 2009 and clinical assistant professor at the Cumming School of Medicine, in the Departments of Family Medicine and Psychiatry. She is a TEDx alumnus, a TikTok medical educator and a curious globetrotter.

Dr. Gibson is enthusiastic, equity focused and supportive of community-designed solutions. She is eager to be engaged in the advocacy work that reflects the mission of the CMA, which speaks to her own desire for agency and authenticity as a transdisciplinary physician in a world full of complexity and complicity.



Dr. Angela (Hong Tian) Dong

Dr. Angela Dong is an internal medicine resident at the University of Toronto, concurrently pursuing a diploma in the Global Health Education Initiative. She graduated from McMaster University with a bachelor's degree in health sciences (BHSc) and completed her medical degree (MD) there as well. During her time at McMaster, Dr. Dong led initiatives and research in health policy, synthetic biology and design thinking. Currently engaged in both medical education and health care technology research, she is also an active participant in the Professional Association of Residents of Ontario Leadership Program (class of 2025).

At the University of Toronto, Dr. Dong has served on the Postgraduate Medical Education Internal Medicine Scheduling Committee and contributed significantly to antiracism policy as part of the university's Anti-Asian Hate Committee. She served on the iGEM Governance and Policy Committee, shaping international biosecurity and bioethics policy on synthetic biology, and founded the MP-MD Apprenticeship where medical students joined constituency offices for hands-on policy internships. Dr. Dong was research director for the McMaster-Hamilton Municipal Day of Action, where she successfully advocated for planetary health bylaws, and has served on various committees, including the advisory council to the minister of labour, the Ontario Medical Students Association's Policy and Response Committee and the Canadian Federation of Medical Students' Committee on Health Policy.



Dr. Gilles Beauchamp

Dr. Gilles Beauchamp is chairman of the Department of Surgery at the Université de Montréal, where he has worked as a thoracic surgeon since 1979 and has been teaching ethics since 1998. He is also involved in surgical education at the Université de Montréal as director of the core program, and he has been co-director of the thoracic surgery program at Université Laval and Université de Montréal. From 2007 to 2020, Dr. Beauchamp was responsible for the surgical externship at Maisonneuve-Rosemont Hospital.

He completed medical school and residency in general surgery at the Université de Montréal and his specialty in thoracic surgery at the Université de Montréal and the University of Toronto. He also has a specialized graduate diploma (diplôme d'études supérieures spécialisées) in bioethics. Having worked as a leader in the Department of Surgery for many years, Dr. Beauchamp has an active interest in highlighting third-year medical students' observations on clinical and professional ethics.

Dr. Abraham Rudnick

Dr. Abraham Rudnick is the clinical director of the Nova Scotia Operational Stress Injury Clinic at the Nova Scotia Health Authority and a professor in the Departments of Psychiatry and Bioethics and the School of Occupational Therapy at Dalhousie University. He is also the chair of the policy committee of the Canadian Psychiatric Association and the co-chair of the policy committee of Doctors Nova Scotia. Dr. Rudnick previously worked as a chief of psychiatry in Ontario and in British Columbia as well as an executive vice-president of research and development at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre.

Dr. Rudnick completed an MD degree at the Hebrew University in Israel and a PhD degree (in philosophy) at Tel Aviv University in Israel. He completed a fellowship, including in the philosophy of medicine, at the University of Toronto and has also completed leadership training and certification through organizations such as the CMA (leading to his certification as a CCPE) and York University (including a mini MBA). Dr. Rudnick has received awards locally, nationally and internationally, including awards from the Canadian Psychiatric Association, Psychosocial Rehabilitation Canada, the Schizophrenia Society of Canada and the European Society of Person Centered Healthcare. He is invested in person-centred health services, as part of which value-based (as well as evidence-informed) care and related ethics are key.



Ms. Fiza Javed

Ms. Fiza Javed is a medical student at Queen's University, an entrepreneur and a CMA Ambassador. She is a racialized woman with over 10 years experience in advocacy, social justice and health equity. Ms. Javed has held leadership positions in numerous government, private, public health and not-for-profit organizations in the Quinte, Greater Toronto and Calgary areas. Currently, she is an executive for the Municipal Day of Action, working alongside Kingston, Frontenac and Lennox & Addington Public Health to advocate for harm reduction and increased resources for people with mental health disorders.

She started volunteering at the age of 12 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada. She has held multiple advocacy roles including being a youth health ambassador for the local public health unit and a youth representative for the Community Development Council Strategic Planning, identifying housing and food insecurity concerns for vulnerable families. She was awarded the BMO Financial Group National Scholarship Award in 2013, which is based on academic merit, leadership and community service. She has developed mental health and wellness teaching sessions for youth and virtual workshops for educators and health care workers in collaboration with social services agencies, Alberta Health Services and the Calgary Board of Education.



Dr. Gali Katznelson

Dr. Gali Katznelson is a psychiatry resident at the University of Toronto. She graduated as valedictorian from Western University, where she served as class president. She was also a student member of the CMA Committee on Ethics. She fell in love with bioethics as an undergraduate at McMaster University. She pursued a master's degree in bioethics at Harvard University, where she worked as a research assistant at the Petrie-Flom Center for Health Law Policy, Biotechnology, and Bioethics.



Dr. André Bernard

Dr. André Bernard is a staff anesthesiologist with Nova Scotia Health and is associate head of the Department of Anesthesia, Pain Management & Perioperative Medicine in the Faculty of Medicine at Dalhousie University.

An experienced board chair, he has served in this role with Doctors Nova Scotia (2016–2024) and previously served as interim board chair for the Medical Society of PEI (2020–2021). He is passionate about leading effective meetings and evolving board governance in keeping with best practices. He also sits on boards of other organizations, including as a senator at Dalhousie University. Dr. Bernard has offered leadership with the CMA in a number of capacities over the past 20 years, including on its governance review task force and its board of directors and as representative to the World Medical Association. He is currently the chair of the CMA Governance Committee.



Dr. Boluwaji Ogunyemi

Dr. Boluwaji Ogunyemi is a dermatologist, writer and public speaker, and the inaugural assistant dean of social accountability at Memorial University.

In his former role as assistant dean of the Faculty of Medicine, he provided oversight on the development, implementation and measurement of social accountability initiatives in the faculty in the areas of Indigenous health, health equity and global health. His diverse medical dermatology practice is primarily based in St. John's, with regular outreach clinics to Labrador including clinics in Labrador City as well as the Sheshatshiu and Natuashish Innu First Nations reserves.

Dr. Ogunyemi has served on the Public Health Agency of Canada's Ethics Consultative Group, which informs the federal government on public health ethical issues of national concern. An experienced board director and advocate, he currently serves on the Board of Directors of Canadian Doctors for Medicare and the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association.

A versatile communicator, he is a TEDx and keynote speaker and has been published in *The New York Times*, *The Globe and Mail*, the *National Post*, CBC and HuffPost on topics related to equity, diversity and health.



Dr. Ngozika Mbonu

Dr. Ngozika Mbonu is involved in various academic and leadership positions. She serves as an assessment supervisor in the clinical assessment program at the University of Calgary as well as a family medicine examiner with the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC). She is the current president-elect as well as a board director of the Primary Care Network in St. Albert, Alberta. She has chaired the centralized program committee and physician wellness committee and is the chair of the program evaluation committee and a member of the human resources committee hiring the next executive director. She is a member of the honors and awards research committee with the CFPC.

Dr. Mbonu studied medicine at the University of Nigeria in 1997. Afterwards she obtained a master's degree in public health and a PhD in public health in the Faculty of Medicine at Maastricht University, The Netherlands, in 2010. She did a clinical research associate program (phase 1 to 4 clinical drug trials) with Kriger Research Institute (Canada) in 2014. She completed a teaching and learning certificate program with Norwich University (United States) in 2015. She completed her family medicine training at the University of Alberta in 2017, after which she completed a postgraduate diploma program in the United Kingdom in practical dermatology in 2021.



Dr. Robert Obara

Dr. Robert Obara is a Winnipeg-based family physician with a busy mixed practice. He also helps manage the Transgender Health Program at Klinik Community Health.

Dr. Obara completed his bachelor of science at the University of Victoria, followed by a master's in international public health at the University of Sydney, medical school at Trinity College Dublin and his family medicine residency at the University of Manitoba, where he served as chief resident.

Dr. Obara is a proud member of the LGBTQ community and has extensive experience working in this area, as well as in the area of women's health and rights.



Dr. Kevin Yang Wu

Dr. Kevin Yang Wu led a dental team during the initial COVID-19 lockdown. He has also played a critical role as an editor and reviewer for several peer-reviewed journals. His dedication to education is evident in his role as a clinician supervisor at McGill University. He founded and leads an interdisciplinary ophthalmology research team and has been a committed volunteer dentist for several community clinics. He has represented his colleagues as a member of the Association des chirurgiens dentistes du Québec, demonstrating leadership within professional circles.

In 2023, Dr. Yang Wu received Real World Ophthalmology’s Incredible Innovation & Scientific Contribution award, which recognizes young ophthalmologists who have notably contributed to the field with new innovations. The same year, he was also honoured with the Prix Profession Santé by Profession Santé for his significant community contributions and innovative projects. Additionally, he earned a Research Award – Best Oral Presentation in his department, awarded for exceptional oral presentation and research contributions. In 2021, he was the recipient of a CMA award.

Dr. Yang Wu has had diverse experiences, from providing dental care to underprivileged populations and leading teams during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. His work spans groundbreaking research projects aimed at enhancing ophthalmological procedures, significant contributions to peer-reviewed publications and teaching optical principles to junior residents. His diverse experiences extend beyond academia; he has also served as a volunteer dentist and COVID-19 vaccinator, demonstrating his dedication to community welfare and public health. His multifaceted background and experiences reflect his commitment to advancing science while maintaining a strong connection to community needs.



Ms. Navjit Moore

Ms. Navjit Kaur Moore is a third-year medical student at the University of British Columbia and a recent pharmacy graduate. She is a CMA Ambassador looking to bring awareness to stigmatized health topics. She cofounded the South Asian Women’s Health Talk, an initiative focused on education, advocacy and normalizing conversations integral to South Asian women’s health. She is also the current president of the Crohn’s and Colitis Canada Fraser Valley East Chapter and has supported patients with inflammatory bowel disease since 2015. She has over a decade of volunteer experience, including serving as a Burnaby Hospital team lead, Heart and Stroke Foundation ambassador and seniors companion volunteer.

Ms. Moore obtained a bachelor of science degree in 2017 and a doctor of pharmacy degree in 2021. She also completed a science co-op program and a certificate in infant development and supported child development. She trained as a Canada Border Services Agency student officer, where she obtained high-level security clearance and handled classified documents accordingly. She has been recognized for her outstanding academic and extracurricular achievements, including being awarded the 2023 BC Medal of Good Citizenship, the Doctors of BC Excellence in Health Promotion Award and an Emerging Leader Award from Canada’s Volunteer Awards BC/Yukon.



Dr. Foluso Ishola

Dr. Foluso Ishola is passionate about representation, inclusion and diversity. She is a CMA Ambassador. Previously, she served on the Trainee Advisory Committee and Underrepresented Minorities Student Advocacy Group of the Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH), where she promoted issues of diversity in postsecondary education and provided advice on equity strategy and inclusion practices. She also served as the chair of elections and vetting, promoting CUGH's visibility, diversity and membership engagement among trainees.

Dr. Ishola is a second-year public health and preventive medicine resident physician at the University of Ottawa. She completed her medical degree at Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria. She holds a master's degree in public health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and a PhD in epidemiology from McGill University.

