

**UofT
TALKS**

Presented by The Institute of Medical Science

Opioids: From Wonder Drug to Epidemic - Now What?



Thursday June 28th, 2018
Isabel Bader Theatre | 6-9pm

Programme

Schedule

5:00PM.....Networking & Registration Begins

6:00PM.....Welcome & Opening Remarks

Richard Foty, PhD, Institute of Medical Science

Elizabeth Smyth, Vice Dean, Programs, School of Graduate Studies

6:15PM.....Session 1

Nicole Ireland

From Remote Communities to Downtown Streets: No One is Immune to Canada's Opioid Crisis

6:35PM.....Session 2

Matt Johnson

TBD

6:55PM.....Session 3

Dr. Hance Clarke, MD, PhD

The Opioid Crisis: A View from the Frontline

7:15PM.....Session 4

Dr. David Juurlink, MD, PhD

Addressing the Opioid Crisis

7:35PM.....Discussion

Nicole Ireland, Matt Johnson, Dr. Hance Clarke, Dr. David Juurlink

Moderated Panel Discussion

Hosted by Richard Foty

8:40PM.....Closing Remarks

Richard Foty, PhD, Institute of Medical Science

Dr. Mel Silverman, Former Director, Institute of Medical Science

Background

From Morphine to Naloxone, each iteration of opiate based medication has had a dramatic impact on the healthcare system. First seen as a miracle analgesic, opiates were prescribed by healthcare practitioners for various types of pain experienced by patients. However, as the addictive properties of opiates and opioids began to surface, what was once a wonder drug became a much more volatile substance.

The history of opioids is rich and its role in society is changing - now more than ever it's important that we understand opioids, their uses, the impact it can and will have, and what we need to do to better manage these substances. This urgency in understanding comes from the massive toll opioid use has had on the lives of Canadians: as of 2017, there has been a 121% increase in opioid related deaths compared to the number of deaths seen in 2015 in Toronto alone. At the provincial level, there was a reported 1,053 opioid related deaths from January to October 2017 with a shocking 7,658 emergency room visits related to opioid overdose. Not only is opioid use on the rise, but is impacting the individual lives of Torontonians and is putting a lot of stress on the healthcare system.

How the healthcare system responds to the issue of opioid use is multifaceted because it is an issue that has implications beyond the clinic. With the emergence of harm reduction programs around the city of Toronto, what we see is the strength of a community coming together to save the lives of their fellow Torontonians, many of whom are often marginalized due to their financial and social status. The fight against the opioid crisis is a fight against the physical and social issues surrounding drug use. Not only must we work collaboratively to prevent overdoses, but we must work together in order to break down stigma and provide equitable and accessible care for those who need it.

Background

This year, UofT Talks will be unpacking the opioid crisis from an interdisciplinary lens. Our featured speakers, Nicole Ireland, Matt Johnson, Dr. Hance Clarke, and Dr. David Juurlink, will be exploring the full history of opioids, its current impact, and what we need to do moving forward in order to better serve the population of Toronto that uses opioids. Through this open discussion, we hope to not only explore how to save the lives of those overdosing as a result of opioid use, but also deconstruct the social stigma around opioid use and explore how to better utilize existing networks to serve the Toronto community.



Organizing Committee

Student Leads

Ekaterina An
Craig Madho
Swapna Mylabathula
Fadl Nabbouh
Katherine Schwenger
Katie Tucker

Faculty Leads

Richard Foty
Brenda Toner

Committee Members

Mohamed Adam
Julia Antolovich
Laura Best
Keith Colaco
Lauren De Freitas
Simon Haney
Corey Kamen
Kathryn Lye
Shanna Stanley-Husnain
Hening Sun
Anjali Vig
Marija Zivcevska

Speakers



Nicole Ireland

***From Remote Communities to
Downtown Streets:
No One is Immune to Canada's
Opioid Crisis***

Nicole Ireland is a national reporter and producer for CBC News in Toronto. She specializes in reporting on health and social justice issues - a passion that stems from her background in both health care and international development.

Prior to becoming a journalist, Nicole worked as a communications officer for St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto and for UNICEF – a role that took her to Sudan, Sri Lanka and Lebanon to tell the stories of people affected by crisis. Through those experiences, Nicole realized that her true calling was reporting, so she completed a graduate degree in journalism at Columbia University in New York. She then returned home to Canada to work for CBC News, where she has been a reporter in Iqaluit, Nunavut; Thunder Bay, Ontario; and Toronto.

Nicole has been reporting on the opioid crisis in Canada since 2012, from stories on OxyContin's devastating effects on the streets of Thunder Bay and on remote First Nations to the emergence of fentanyl across the country, including Toronto.

Speakers



Matthew Johnson

Talk Title: TBD

Matt Johnson is the Harm Reduction Program Coordinator at Queen West Community Health Centre. He is a long-time harm reduction worker, advocate and one of the original organizers of the Overdose Prevention Site in Moss Park. He continues to push for greater and meaningful involvement of people who use drugs in the development and implementation of services as well as policies affecting drug users. He works for an end to the drug war, and a humane system based in respect, human rights, and greater health and stability for all.



Dr. David Juurlink, MD, PhD

Addressing the Opioid Crisis

Dr. Juurlink is a staff internist and head of the division of Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology at Sunnybrook. He is professor and Head of the division of Clinical Pharmacology and Toxicology at the University of Toronto. He is also a medical toxicologist at the Ontario Poison Centre at the Hospital for Sick Children and a senior scientist at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences, where he maintains an active research program in the field of drug safety.

Speakers



Dr. Hance Clarke, MD, PhD

The Opioid Crisis: A View from the Frontline

Hance Clarke, MD, PhD, is the Director of Pain Services and the Medical Director of the Pain Research Unit and the Elhers Danlos Program at the Toronto General Hospital (TGH).

Dr. Clarke has been recognized nationally and internationally for his research productivity and improvements to patient care such as the development of his novel Transitional Pain Program. His research interests include identifying novel acute pain treatments following major surgery, identifying the factors involved in the transition of acute postsurgical pain to chronic pain and identifying risk factors associated with continued opioid use and poor health related quality of life after major surgery. He has authored more than 60 peer-reviewed manuscripts in the past five years and supervised more than 30 students.

Dr. Clarke has also played a leading role in educating the Canadian public about pain control, risk factors for chronic opioid use, alternatives to opioids as a pioneering strategy at TGH, misconceptions about opioid use, and the need for further studies on understanding the beneficial and adverse effects of cannabis. He is a strong public champion of evidence-based solutions for the opioid crisis and a national pain and addictions strategy.

In addition to his medical and further anesthesia training at University of Toronto (U of T), he received his PhD from the Institute of Medical Science at U of T and is a member of the Royal College Clinician Scientist Program.



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