Dr. Saadia Ahmad, Manager, Outpatient Mental Health Programs, Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare

Dr. Saadia Ahmad has worked for Hotel-Dieu Grace Healthcare for approximately 11 years. She is currently Manager of a number of Outpatient Mental Health programs at Hotel-Dieu Grace health care transitioning to a position as Mental Health and Addictions Clinical Research Lead. Prior to her current position, she served as Clinical Neuropsychologist overseeing all Psychological and Neuropsychological services at the HDGH Ouellette site. Dr. Ahmad is an adjunct faculty member for the University of Western Ontario's Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry providing lectures on clinical techniques for undifferentiated physicians to the Windsor medical students rotating through Psychiatry. She has also taught approximately 20 courses at the University of Windsor in the Department of Psychology. She has a number of peer review publications and has received a number of provincial and national research awards and grants for her work in the area of neuropsychology.

Dr. Ken Blanchette, Chair, School of Health Sciences, St. Clair College

Dr. Ken Blanchette is the Chair for the School of Health Sciences at St. Clair College. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Windsor and completed his Doctor of Chiropractic from National Institute of Health Sciences in Chicago Illinois. He practiced for 12 years in the United States specializing in breach birth complications, epileptic case management and advancing spinal decompression within the region as well as creating an integrated health model between disciplines. In 2010, he joined St. Clair College and was involved in the building of a 32 million dollar state of the art simulation center. Following the completion of the capital project, he has created an opportunity for professional training within our region and internationally for Health Care Disciplines and organizations in gaining continuing education. Dr. Blanchette is a current member of the board of directors for Hotel Dieu Grace Hospital and the Windsor Essex county Health Unit, as well as the Chair for the Heads of Health Sciences for Ontario Colleges.

Dr. Pierre Boulos, Special Advisor, Research Ethics Education & Internationalization, University of Windsor

Pierre Boulos, PhD is the Special Advisor, Research Ethics Education and Internationalization at the University of Windsor, where he has been a faculty member since 2001. Pierre has taught in Computer Science, Education, Physics, and Philosophy. He is a Research Fellow in the Centre for Research in Argumentation, Reasoning, and Rhetoric and a graduate faculty in the new doctoral program in Argumentation Studies. Pierre has presented and published widely on science and logic, computer ethics, and research ethics. His book, Understanding Cyber Ethics in a Cyber World, was published in 2008. More recently, Pierre has been appointed to the National Tri-Agency Panel on Research Ethics — the country’s highest body setting research ethics policy for all of Canada — a first for someone from the Windsor area.
Dr. Rick Csiernik (Keynote Speaker), Professor, School of Social Work, King’s University College, Western University

Rick Csiernik BSc, MSW, PhD, CCAC, RSW, Professor, School of Social Work, King's University College at Western University has written and edited fourteen books, including Just Say Know; A Counsellor’s Guide to Psychoactive Drugs, Homeless, Housing and Mental Health, Substance Use and Abuse: Everything Matters, and Responding to the Oppression of Addiction. He has authored over 150 peer reviewed articles and book chapters and has presented at over 200 national and international conferences, workshops and seminars. He has been part of research teams that have received over three million dollars in funding and has been on the King's University College Honor Role of teaching 16 consecutive times. Rick was the co-developer of the McMaster University Addiction Studies Program where he has taught for over 25 years and was inaugural recipient of the McMaster University Instructor Appreciation award.

Dr. Sandra Fisman, Professor and Chair, Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Department of Psychiatry, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University

Dr. Sandra Fisman is presently Professor and Chair of the Division of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in the Department of Psychiatry at Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry at Western University. She was previously Chair of the Department of Psychiatry and Chief of the London Mental Hospital Services from 2001-2011. In 2010/2011 she completed the OMA Schulich Physician Leadership Development Program as a member of Cohort1. She recently completed and published, in the Canadian College of Physician Executives, with her co-authors, a quantitative and qualitative study of the outcome for the first four graduated cohorts of the program. These experiences have fostered for her a strong interest in Healthcare Transformation.

Dr. Fisman has long been engaged in the provision of acute care as well as tertiary care mental health services for children and youth. This interest brought together the respective ministries funding these services (Ministry of Child and Youth Services and Ministry of Health) in a collaborative relationship to develop an access pathway to emergency services in Southwestern Ontario. Her present research is focused on development of a brief Adolescent Screening Instrument to assess suicide risk with predictive validity, the use of an electronic personal health record to facilitate care for adolescents and evaluation of DBT group training skills in reduction of self-harm and suicidal behaviour.

However, most of all, she is the proud parent of four adult children and grandmother to several grandchildren. These experiences have served to educate her more than any professional degrees and have been a reminder of the importance of remaining humble.
Dr. Sonja Grbevski, Vice President, Clinical Operations, Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare

Dr. Sonja Grbevski has her Ph.D. in Counselor Education, with cognates in Rehabilitation Counseling and Educational Psychology from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. She is a Registered Social Worker, in addition, she is certified as a critical incident stress management trainer. Sonja has been with Hotel Dieu Grace Healthcare nee Hospital for over 10 years now in various leadership positions. She is currently the Vice President of Clinical Operations. Sonja is also an Adjunct Professor in the Rehabilitation Counseling program at Wayne State University. Her research includes treatment of individuals with severe mental illness and co-occurring disorders; and trauma informed care. She has presented at numerous conferences throughout North America and has trained professionals through Eli Lilly and Canadian Mental Health Association, and ESC LHIN to name a few.

Ms. Catherine Joyes, Manager, SouthWestern Academic Health Network (SWAHN)

Catherine Joyes holds an HBA (History) from Brescia University College, a Master of Library and Information Science from Western University, and an MBA from the Ivey School of Business. From 1997-2002, Catherine was a member of the Prospect Research team in Advancement Services, part of the External Relations Department at Western. After leaving Western, Catherine spent twelve years working for two local nonprofit funding organizations managing community grantmaking programs. She joined the SouthWestern Academic Health Network as Manager in January 2015. A life-long Londoner, Catherine has an affinity for continuous learning and development and enjoys her involvement in various book clubs and volunteer committees.

Ms. Janice Kaffer, CEO, Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare

As a skilled communicator and systems leader; Janice has been recognized by peers, government and professional colleagues as a successful and engaging leader of strategic change and organizational development. Janice delivers value based leadership that is inclusive of the principles of patient and family centered care, staff development and physician engagement and is focused on individual accountability for results within a strong team based structure.

Janice has been serving in executive roles for many years – most recently as the Chief Executive Officer and President of Hotel Dieu Grace Healthcare, in Windsor. Janice’s role previously at Hotel Dieu Grace Healthcare was as the VP Clinical Programs and CNE. Prior to this role, Janice was the VP and CNE at a district health authority in Nova Scotia where she had leadership accountability for many of the programs now delivered at HDGH.

Janice draws her strength and inspiration from her friends, her colleagues and particularly from her family. Her husband of 35 years Bernie, her children Kate and Matt, as well as her son-in-law Jason all keep Janice focused on the importance of family and community. Janice is an exceptionally proud Amma to her grandchildren, Allison, Nathan and Courtney who are the light of her life.
Ms. Joy Lang, Member, Family Support for Caregivers, CMHA Middlesex; Community Research Associate, Centre for Research & Education on Violence Against Women and Children

Ms. Joy Lang was the founding Director of the Chatham Kent Women's Centre Inc. for 21 years (1979-2000). She was actively involved in enhancing services and training related to woman abuse in her county and across the province of Ontario. Ms. Lang was a founding Director of the Chatham-Kent County Task Force on Family Violence and the Chatham-Kent County Child Abuse Co-ordinating Committee. She has continued to be involved in the areas of woman abuse, sexual harassment, homelessness and domestic violence through her participation in research and clinical services at The Centre for Children and Families in the Justice System of the London Family Court Clinic, The Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women & Children at Western University, the London Homeless Coalition and The London Co-Ordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse. Ms. Lang is currently a Community Research Associate with The Centre for Research & Education on Violence against Women & Children.

Mr. Robert Moroz, Integrated Director, Canadian Mental Health Association – Windsor-Essex County Branch and Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare

Robert Moroz completed his undergraduate degree at the University of Windsor, and received a Masters of Social Work from Wayne State University in Detroit. For the past 25 years, Rob has held positions in community and emergency mental health services in Essex and Kent counties. Windsor’s recent realignment of hospital services has resulted in Rob serving in leadership positions for inpatient and outpatient mental health care in both acute and sub-acute settings.

Rob has led staff, physicians, community partners and clients in redesigning mental health services processes throughout the patient care stream, which has resulted in improved treatment planning, greater staff efficiency and reduced wait times for patient transfers of care.

Additionally, for two years Rob served as HDGH’s Safe Workplace Advocate – in this role he was responsible for conflict resolution, development of safe work plans, leadership coaching and conduct of formal investigations. CMHA and HDGH entered a formal collaborative agreement two years ago, and since then HDGH has been designated as the mental health service provider for subacute and acute care within the upcoming Windsor-Essex Health System. Together both partners will have key responsibilities for much of mental health service delivery within this new system, and work has already commenced to integrate clinical processes, maximize staff talents and improve the client experience within the collaborative.
Dr. Margaret Steele, Vice Dean, Hospital & Interfaculty Relations, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

Dr. Margaret Steele is currently the Vice Dean, Hospital & Interfaculty Relations, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry. Margaret is a Professor in the Departments of Psychiatry, Pediatrics and Family Medicine. In her current role, she is co-facilitating the development of the Academic Health Sciences Network in Southwestern Ontario (SWAHN).

She earned her Honours degree in Microbiology and Immunology at Western University in 1983 and completed her MD in 1987. She obtained her Fellowship in Psychiatry in 1992, and in 1993, completed the requirements for the Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Diploma. Margaret earned a Masters of Higher Education from the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education\University of Toronto and became a Fellow of the Hedwig van Ameringen Executive Leadership in Academic Medicine at Drexel University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 2008. In 2012, Margaret became a Distinguished Fellow of the Canadian Psychiatric Association and in 2013 she became a Canadian Certified Physician Executive.

Dr. Marnie Wedlake, Knowledge Transfer & Exchange Specialist, CMHA Middlesex; Adjunct Research Professor/Sessional Assistant Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences, Western University

Marnie has worked in community-based mental health care since 1986, and at CMHA Middlesex since 1997. Her current position at CMHA is Knowledge Transfer & Exchange Specialist. She has a Hons BA in Psychology (Waterloo), a MEd in Educational Psychology (Western), and a PhD in Health Professional Education (Western). As a Registered Psychotherapist, Marnie is a Member of the College of Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario. She has a part-time psychotherapy practice. She is an Adjunct Research Professor and a Sessional Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences, at Western University.

As a qualitative researcher and a person who tends to be quite practical, Marnie delights in finding varied and creative ways of applying philosophy and theory to real life. In her spare time Marnie enjoys reading, photography, writing poetry, watching movies, and being active outdoors.