

Lupus Ontario *New Directions* Symposium 2022

LEARN ABOUT CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH
FROM THOSE LEADING THE WAY!

10.22.2022



ABOUT THE SYMPOSIUM

The 2022 Lupus Symposium is focused on presenting research and understanding the disease which afflicts more than 50,000 Canadians and more than 5M people globally.

The symposium will provide participants and attendees an opportunity to learn about cutting-edge research in the area of lupus and associated illnesses; present exciting new treatment options being developed for the lupus community and allow attendees to get to know the Fellows Lupus Ontario has trained and supported, as well as hear about their latest research.

This is an exciting time in the lupus community with new treatments being developed for the first time in years and novel research being performed by leading Canadian scientists. We thank you for your support and partnering with us to make this year's symposium a success!



**This year
the event
is virtual**

ABOUT LUPUS ONTARIO

Lupus Ontario is the largest provincial organization in Canada providing support, awareness, and education of lupus to patients, caregivers, and health practitioners alike. Since its inception in 1978 Lupus Ontario has been instrumental in development of dedicated lupus clinics in Ontario and an ardent supporter of innovative research.

In 1987 Lupus Ontario set out to raise \$1M to create and launch a program that would be a world first – the Lupus Databank Research Program at Toronto Western Hospital. The Lupus Databank forms the foundation of lupus research through to the present day. The Lupus Ontario commitment to ground-breaking research thrives today in exciting areas including the newly formed Lupus Ontario Anne Matheson Biobank.

Through the creation of the Geoff Carr Fellowship, Lupus Ontario has trained more than 30 Rheumatologists to specialize in lupus and motivated each recipient to delve into lupus-based research. The program has funded specialized training through grants totalling more than \$2M.

**HAVE QUESTIONS?
CONTACT US**

Phone: 1-877-240-1099 | 905-415-1099
Email: info@lupusontario.org
Visit our website to learn more:
www.lupusontario.org

SYMPOSIUM AGENDA

Saturday, October 22, 2022

INTRO: 10:00AM TO 10:15AM

Intro & Welcome

Brent Leonard, *Director at Large, Lupus Ontario*

SESSION 1: 10:15AM TO 11:15AM

The State of Lupus Care and Research Today - Dr. Zahi Touma

Intro by Brent Leonard, *Director at Large, Lupus Ontario*

SESSION 2: 11:15AM TO 11:45AM

Oral Complications Associated with Dry Mouth: Management, Treatment, plus Tricks and Tips- Dr. Leslie Laing

Intro by Lisa Bilodeau, *Director at Large, Lupus Ontario*

SESSION 3: 11:45AM TO 12:15PM

Meet the Fellows - Dr. Tala El Tal

Intro by Anne Brooks, *Fundraising & Marketing Manager, Lupus Ontario*

EXHIBITORS / BREAK: 12:15PM TO 1:00PM

Break – Visit Sponsor/Partner Booths

SESSION 4: 1:00PM TO 2:00PM

Lupus Nephritis: New Hopes - Dr. Konstantinos Tselios

Intro by Linda Keill, *President, Lupus Ontario*

SESSION 5: 2:00PM TO 2:30PM

Meet the Fellows - Dr. Amanda Steiman

Intro by June Alikhan, *Vice President, Lupus Ontario*

CLOSING: 2:30PM TO 2:45PM

Brent Leonard, *Director at Large, Lupus Ontario*

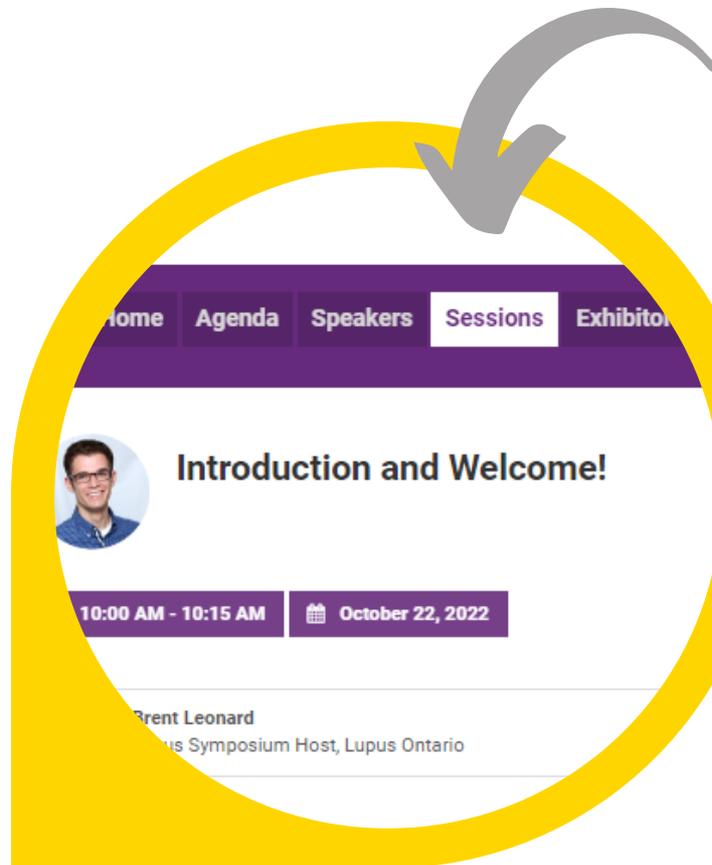
SYMPOSIUM FORMAT

A fully virtual format for 2022, including five sessions featuring incredible Speakers. Access each session through the “Sessions” tab in the symposium web portal at the designated time.

There will be Q&A with the Speakers at the end of each session. Please ask questions through the chat function.

Be sure to visit any of the Exhibitors in our Exhibition Hall for exclusive videos and interaction with organization members. There will be a break at 12:15 pm, but feel free to visit there any time before, during or after the symposium.

**SAVE THE DATE:
October 23, 2023, for the 2023
Lupus Symposium which will
be a hybrid in-person/virtual
event, based in Markham.**



MISSION

Lupus Ontario's mission is to provide vital support, education, awareness, advocacy, and research through the fundraising efforts of our staff and volunteer community to help those with lupus live longer, healthier and better lives.

Our Vision is a Life without Lupus

INTRO: 10:00AM TO 10:15AM

Intro & Welcome

Brent Leonard, Director at Large, Lupus Ontario



Brent Leonard

Director at Large, Lupus Ontario

Brent is a member of the senior finance team at a health-tech firm based in Ottawa, Ontario whose mission is to foster a holistic approach to healthcare aimed at supporting individuals through their entire wellness journey – before and after illness, not just during it. This is a cause he is truly passionate about and has continued to pursue through the Master of Health Administration (MHA) program at the University of Ottawa.

In addition to his 15+ years of experience in finance and operations at several start-up companies and software firms, Brent is actively involved in the community. Among other areas, he serves on the Board of Directors for the Canadian Immunodeficiency Patient Organization (CIPO) where he is Board Treasurer. Brent also participates annually in fundraisers for The Ottawa Hospital and SickKids Hospital in Toronto.

Brent is passionate about health advocacy, awareness and education and strongly believes that knowledge is power in dealing with illness and that engagement in care is key for patients. It is with this mindset that Brent spearheaded the development and launch of the Lupus Ontario Podcast geared toward helping those with Lupus better understand the disease and empower them to become more involved in their health journey.

SESSION I: 10:15AM TO 11:15AM

The State of Lupus Care and Research Today – Dr. Zahi Touma

This session will focus on current research methodologies and care trends for lupus patients.



Dr. Zahi Touma

Rheumatologist & Clinical Epidemiologist, Director, Toronto Lupus Program at UHN, Associate Professor of Medicine, University of Toronto

Dr. Touma is a Rheumatologist and Clinical Epidemiologist whose research is focused on patients with systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and measurement science with a particular interest in the assessment of disease activity, patient reported outcomes and cognitive function.

He has developed SLE disease activity indices: the SLEDAI Responder Index-50 and the SLEDAI-2K Glucocorticoids Index. Dr. Touma has established the NeuroLupus Program, which is a team of experts in psychometrics, neuropsychology, neurology, psychiatry, measurement, and bioinformatics with the goal of developing improved methods of identifying cognitive impairment in SLE and understanding its course over time and impact on health-related quality of life and productivity.

Dr. Touma is a member of the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) committee for development of classification and response criteria for rheumatic diseases and the ACR methodologist on an ACR/EULAR funded project to develop response criteria for trials in giant cell arteritis. He leads the Outcome Measures in Rheumatology (OMERACT) working group to update core set domains for SLE clinical trials. He is the recipient of an Early Researcher Award from the Government of Ontario.

Dr. Touma is the Director of the Toronto Lupus Program at University Health Network (UHN), and an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Toronto, Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation. He is also an Adjunct Scientist for the Institute of Work and Health, and a Scientist for Schroeder Arthritis Institute, Krembil Research Institute.

SESSION 2: 11:15AM TO 11:45AM

Oral Complications Associated with Dry Mouth: Management, Treatment, plus Tricks and Tips- Dr. Leslie Laing

This session provides information about Dry Mouth and Oral Complications, with a focus on Sjögren's Syndrome as a common comorbidity among lupus patients.



Dr. Leslie Laing

Prosthodontist at Toronto Public Health, Oral and Dental Clinics,
President of Sjögren's Society of Canada

Dr. Laing is a Prosthodontist where her role is to provide oral rehabilitation. This is accomplished either in the form of dentures (partial or complete), bridges, implant-supported prostheses, or minimally invasive techniques. This is combined with her additional role as an Immunologist, where Dr. Laing's primary focus is the oral treatment of patients with Sjögren's or other autoimmune diseases.

Currently as Prosthodontist at Toronto Public Health, Oral and Dental Clinics her primary patient base is low-income seniors who are either partially or completely edentulous and/or those who suffer from dry mouth. Dr. Laing has private practices in the Bay/Cumberland area of downtown Toronto, in Mississauga, and in Brockville Ontario.

Dr. Laing is an Associate in Dentistry at the Faculty of Dentistry, University of Toronto. In her previous role as Assistant Professor, she taught Prosthodontics at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Her research interest is based on the oral condition of those suffering from the autoimmune disease known as Sjögren's. Dr. Laing is the President of the Sjögren's Society of Canada.



Lisa Bilodeau

Director at Large, Lupus Ontario

Lisa is passionate about advocacy and support for those living with Lupus and other autoimmune issues. Prior to her diagnosis of SLE and Sjögren's in 2016, Lisa spent 20 years in the Advertising & Marketing industry.

Lisa brings her marketing and communication experience to the Public Awareness Committee, promoting Lupus Ontario's mission through advocacy, education, and awareness.

SESSION 3: 11:45AM TO 12:15PM

Meet the Fellows - Dr. Tala El Tal

This session provides an opportunity to meet a past recipient of the Geoff Carr Fellowship, awarded by Lupus Ontario to eligible Rheumatologists who specialize in Lupus.

Dr. El Tal will discuss a bit about her background and what brought her to specialize in Lupus, as well as her cutting edge research in Lupus!



Dr. Tala El Tal

Clinical Research Lupus Fellow, Paediatric Rheumatologist,
The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto

A lupologist, lupus-specific paediatric rheumatologist, in the making at The Hospital for Sick Children (Sickkids) for children and young adults, as a recipient of the Geoff Carr Fellowship Award. She obtained her medical degree in 2016 and completed her paediatric and adolescent medicine residency at the American University of Beirut (AUB) in 2019, in Lebanon. Recently completed a paediatric rheumatology fellowship at SickKids in June 2021, during which Dr. El Tal helped lead the Canadian paediatric surveillance program for Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C) at a national and hospital level in the COVID pandemic.

During her lupus fellowship, Dr. El Tal hopes to apply her QIPS skills to improve routine mental health screening for depression and anxiety in childhood systemic lupus erythematosus (cSLE) clinic to ultimately enhance patient mental health outcomes. In addition, her current lupus research focuses in neuropsychiatric (NPSLE), specifically examining the longitudinal prevalence of cognitive impairment and relationship to disease and health-related quality of life in cSLE.



Anne Books

Fundraising & Marketing Manager, Lupus Ontario

Anne Brooks recently joined Lupus Ontario as the Fundraising and Marketing Manager. Anne brings over 10 years' experience in the not-for-profit sector and over this time, has developed a strong track record of successful event and campaign management and development of stakeholder relationships. She is a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals in London & Region.

EXHIBITORS / BREAK: 12:15PM TO 1:00PM

Break – Visit Sponsor/Partner Booths



Lupus Ontario

Life without lupus

Lupus Ontario's mission is to provide vital support, education, awareness, advocacy and research through the fundraising efforts of our staff and volunteer community to help those with lupus live longer, healthier and better lives.

www.lupusontario.org



BC Lupus Society

Together we can conquer lupus

Committed to supporting the lupus community through advances in research, public awareness, and providing education.

www.bclupus.org



Sjögren's Society of Canada

Our mission is to provide support and education for diagnosed and undiagnosed Sjögren's patients, to increase professional and public awareness, and to promote and fund Sjögren's-related research.

Sjögren's is a chronic, systemic, inflammatory autoimmune disease that usually attacks and damages the salivary, tear and mucous-secreting glands. An estimated 1% of Canadians, 90% of whom are women live with Sjögren's yet it is often undiagnosed, misdiagnosed, and undertreated.

www.sjogrenscanada.org



Clinical Trials Ontario

Clinical Trials Ontario improves clinical trials for a better Ontario

STREAMLINE processes to help make high-quality clinical trials more timely, efficient, and cost-effective.

ENGAGE with patients and the public to increase awareness, foster collaboration, and improve how clinical trials are conducted.

PROMOTE Ontario's competitive advantages and clinical trial capacities to attract more trials and industry investment to the province.

www.ctontario.ca



Greater Hamilton Health Network (GHHN)

Building Community Health Together

The Greater Hamilton Health Network (GHHN) is one of the first Ontario Health Teams across the province, with a purpose of transforming healthcare in partnership with patients, families, care partners, primary care, local organizations, and the community.

A collaboration of local health and social service partners the GHHN includes representation from more than 30 organizations, we are a dedicated group of professionals, organizations and people with lived experience working to co-design a patient centred, health system grounded in engagement, health equity and the local needs of the communities we serve.

www.greaterhamiltonhealthnetwork.ca

EXHIBITORS / BREAK: 12:15PM TO 1:00PM

Break – Visit Sponsor/Partner Booths



Kidney Foundation

Building Community Health Together

For over 50 years, this vision has guided us to be a collaborative, inventive and focused leader in the development of programs, services, research opportunities and awareness campaigns that have had a positive impact on the millions of Canadians living with, or at risk of developing kidney disease.

The Foundation's national research program has grown to become one of the most important sources of funding for scientists conducting kidney-related research. We are also committed to providing education, information and support about kidneys and kidney disease.

www.kidney.ca



Raynaud's Association

Providing warmth and comfort against the cold

The Raynaud's Association is a US non-profit organization whose mission is to provide support and education to the millions of sufferers of Raynaud's Phenomenon, an exaggerated sensitivity to cold temperatures.

The Association seeks to raise awareness and educate the public about Raynaud's, which can be painful and, for some, may cause serious blood vessel damage. The organization also works to help people understand that Raynaud's should not be dismissed as a mere nuisance. Seeking medical attention is important both to find treatment and to rule out the possibility that an underlying, serious disease, such as lupus, may be causing Raynaud's symptoms.

www.raynauds.org



GSK Glaxo-Smith-Kline

We unite science, technology, and talent to get ahead of disease together

A science-led global healthcare company with a special purpose: to help people do more, feel better, live longer.

GSK is at the forefront of SLE care. We are continuously exploring new treatment options and building on a strong foundation of successful clinical studies to find new ways to help those with lupus. In partnership with patients, advocates, and physicians, we are setting long-term goals to help those whose lives are affected by this chronic disease.

www.gsk.com



AstraZeneca

AstraZeneca. What science can do.

AstraZeneca is a science-led biopharmaceutical company pushing the boundaries of science to deliver life-changing medicines.

Science compels us to push the boundaries of what is possible. We trust in the potential of ideas and pursue them, alone and with others, until we have transformed the treatment of the disease.

Our researchers are working to unlock the science of the immune system to address the significant unmet needs in lupus. By highlighting the experiences from people with SLE and investigating the underlying drivers of this complex disease, we aim to bring scientific advancements to the lupus community and challenge the boundaries they've had to accept for too long.

www.astrazeneca.ca/en/

SESSION 4: 1:00PM TO 2:00PM

Lupus Nephritis: New Hopes – Dr. Konstantinos Tselios

This session provides some data on new treatments for lupus nephritis and how these are going to impact patients with the disease.



Dr. Konstantinos Tselios

Rheumatologist at Hamilton Health Sciences Centre, Assistant Professor
McMaster University, Hamilton

Dr. Konstantinos Tselios, Assistant Professor with the Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine, is establishing the Lupus Clinic Registry and Biobank at the McMaster University. The project was recently approved by the Hamilton Integrated Research Ethics Board and aims to collect demographic, clinical, laboratory and therapeutic data from patients with systemic lupus erythematosus attending the clinic in a longitudinal basis.

In parallel, bio-samples (including serum, plasma, DNA, and urine) from the patients will be collected and stored in the “Lupus Ontario Anne Matheson Biobank” to facilitate basic and clinical research in the field.

In his recent study on lupus-related mortality in Ontario, Dr. Tselios demonstrated that approximately 20 years of life per patient are lost due to the disease and its complications. He believes that “...given the rarity of the disease, only large, well-defined, longitudinal cohorts can provide the answers we are looking to improve the quality of life of our patients and optimize survival.”

Additionally, Dr. Tselios pursues multifaceted research related to disease activity during the course of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), the impacts of lupus nephritis (LN), as well as drug-related interactions impacting quality of life.



Linda Keill

President, Lupus Ontario

Linda has previously served on the Board of Lupus Ontario as Secretary and as President from August 2014 until April 2019. Diagnosed with discoid lupus in 1982 and with SLE in 1983. Linda rejoined the Board in 2020 to continue contributing to improving the lives of lupus patients. Her interests lie in Fundraising and Advocacy. She brings to Lupus Ontario over 30 years' experience as an Information Technology Consultant and Project Manager.

SESSION 5: 2:00PM TO 2:30PM

Meet the Fellows - Dr. Amanda Steiman

This session provides an opportunity to meet a past recipient of the Geoff Carr Fellowship, awarded by Lupus Ontario to eligible Rheumatologists who specialize in Lupus.

Dr. Steiman will discuss a bit about her background and what brought her to specialize in Lupus, as well as her cutting edge research in Lupus!



Dr. Amanda Steiman

Assistant Professor, Rheumatologist at Sinai Health/University Health Network, Toronto

Dr. Amanda Steiman received the Geoff Carr Fellowship in 2011. She is currently a staff rheumatologist at Sinai Health/University Health Network in Toronto, a Director of the ACPAC (Advanced Clinician Practitioner in Arthritis Care), and an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Toronto.

Her clinical niche continues to be lupus, and she has developed a Young Adult SLE Clinic, in collaboration with pediatric rheumatologist/lupologist, Dr. Earl Silverman. Her academic interest is in Quality Improvement, and she continues to be involved in lupus research in this domain.

Dr. Steiman runs Project ECHO (Extension of Community Healthcare Outcomes): a supportive, virtual learning community for primary care providers (PCPs) to enhance their skills and confidence by sharing of best practices and practical advice for real patient cases. Project ECHO aims to support primary care providers with diagnosis and management of their rheumatic patients, allowing for early treatment so that tissue/joint damage is avoided or reduced.



June Alikhan

Vice President, Lupus Ontario

June Alikhan was elected to the Board of Lupus Ontario in 2016. June joined Lupus Ontario in order to combine both her personal and professional interests as well as contribute her financial skills and insights to the organization. June graduated from the University of Toronto with a Bachelor of Commerce degree and subsequently received her CPA, CA designation from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario. She has over 35 years of experience in the accounting field; with over 25 years in the real estate industry. June was diagnosed with SLE in 1989.

CLOSING: 2:45PM TO 3:00PM

Brent Leonard,
Director at Large, Lupus Ontario