

## Meet our Speakers

### Interactive Learning Sessions to Increase Impact

#### Session A: Knowledge Dissemination – Supporting Accessibility of Outputs to Increase Usability and Impact

##### Michel Duval, MD, PhD

Dr. Michel Duval is a Pediatric Oncologist and Clinician Scientist at CHU Sainte-Justine, and a Professor at the University of Montreal. While his research focuses on immunotherapy for childhood cancer, the difficult situations faced by his patients and their families motivated him to pursue a second field of research in ethics and the engagement of patients, families and communities. Michel is a co-lead of ACCESS' cross-cutting Knowledge Mobilization Group.

##### Karen Haas, BA

Karen Haas is a Person With Lived Experience and a dedicated Patient Partner who is passionate about helping patients and families understand the complexities of pediatric cancer and research. She is an author, the creator of several molecular pathology micro-learning modules intended for patients and the public, and the Chair of the Stakeholder Engagement Committee for an ongoing Canadian-led pediatric brain tumor clinical trial. Karen is a co-lead of ACCESS' cross-cutting Knowledge Mobilization Group.

##### Stephanie Reid, BSW, RSW

Stephanie Reid is a Registered Social Worker and Person With Lived Experience. She is deeply involved in advocacy, research and training initiatives that support children and families affected by childhood cancer and offers her valuable insight from both a professional and personal perspective. Stephanie is a co-lead of ACCESS' cross-cutting Knowledge Mobilization Group.

##### Argerie Tsimicalis, RN, PhD

Dr. Argerie Tsimicalis is a Nurse Scientist at Shriners Hospitals for Children-Canada and an Associate Professor at McGill University. Dr. Tsimicalis' research program focuses on the collaborative creation of new programs, structures and resources to bridge the gap between research, practice and lived experience in order to transform the delivery of children's health services. Argerie is a co-lead of ACCESS' cross-cutting Knowledge Mobilization Group.

##### Kirsty Ferguson, PhD

Dr. Kirsty Ferguson, a scientist and poet, is a Research Associate at BC Children's Hospital Research Institute. She believes that communication is a vital skill for any scientist and that creative methods can make research engaging and accessible to wider audiences. She uses poetry to open dialogues between scientists, patients and families, and to amplify the voices of individuals and communities. During her postdoctoral research on neuroblastoma at University of Cambridge, UK, she led a collaborative project resulting in the anthology, *'Hope, in Time'*, and wrote, *'A place of possibility'* to reflect research culture at the Cambridge Stem Cell Institute.

#### Session B: The Power of a True Collective – Meaningful Engagement of Diverse Stakeholders

##### Minogiishgadkwe (Beautiful Day Woman)/Wendy Lariviere, BSW

Minogiishgadkwe (Beautiful Day Woman) is an Anishinaabe woman from Nipissing First Nations and a member of the Waabzheshii (Martin) Clan. Her English name is Wendy Lariviere. She currently serves as the Director of Social Services for her community. She is also a student in the Master of Social Work: Indigenous Field of Study at Wilfred Laurier University and a childhood cancer Parent Advocate. Her work is grounded in Indigenous

knowledge systems, community-based practice, and advocacy. This work is dedicated to her son, Zoongabweban (Standing Strong), whose spirit continues to guide her professional and personal commitments.

### **Ayesha Ahmad, BSc**

Ayesha Ahmad is a Master of Science candidate in the Health Research Methodology program at McMaster University. Her research focuses on geographic access to pediatric oncology care in Canada, using national data to examine how distance from treatment centres may influence care pathways and outcomes. She previously worked in emergency health services in the Yukon, where she developed a systems-level understanding of how geography shapes access to care in northern and remote contexts. Ayesha's work integrates quantitative health services research with lived experience and a focus on meaningful engagement across regions.

## **Session C: Strategic Actions to Increase Future Access to Treatment**

### **Thierry Lacaze-Masmonteil, MD, PhD**

Dr. Thierry Lacaze-Masmonteil is a Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Calgary, as well as the Scientific Director of the Maternal, Infant, Child and Youth Research Network (MICYRN) and RareKids-CAN – the pediatric rare diseases clinical trials and treatment network. As the Scientific Director of MICYRN and RareKids-CAN, he is steering the development of a national infrastructure to support clinical investigations with an emphasis on multi-centre clinical trials. Under his tenure, MICYRN has acquired the expertise to function as a decentralized Academic Research Organization (ARO), a first in Canada for the non-oncology pediatric clinical trial space.

### **Breanne Stewart, BSc, BScN, RN**

Breanne Stewart serves as the Network Director for RareKids-CAN – the pediatric rare disease clinical trials and treatment network. In this role, she provides strategic leadership, oversees operations and drives collaboration within the network in order to ensure the delivery of high-quality clinical trials and innovative research initiatives for individuals affected by rare diseases. Having joined MICYRN in 2018 as the inaugural Associate Director of Clinical Trials, Breanne is deeply passionate about optimizing research processes in Canada to ensure timely and efficient treatment and access to therapies for patients and their families.

### **Katrina MacDonald, BScN, RN**

Katrina MacDonald has been a pediatric oncology nurse in various capacities since 2005. Katrina began working as a research nurse with the PROFYLE program in 2022, which ignited her love for research nursing and has evolved into a research leadership role. Along with Dr. Meghan Pike, Katrina has recently worked to build a Clinical Research Support Team at IWK Health with a focus on bringing early-phase clinical trials to children in the Maritimes. Katrina is currently completing her Master of Nursing thesis at the University of New Brunswick, focusing her research on nurse-led clinical research units.

### **Meghan Pike, MD**

Dr. Meghan Pike is a pediatric hematologist-oncologist at IWK Health and Assistant Professor at Dalhousie University. She leads the pediatric solid tumour program at IWK Health and is the Site Principal Investigator for PROFYLE, a pan-Canadian program that offers molecular sequencing to patients with difficult-to-treat cancers. She is also the Medical Director of the Clinical Research Support Team, led by Katrina MacDonald, with the goal of bringing more early-phase clinical trials to patients in the Maritimes. Her research interests include patient-reported outcome measures, fertility preservation and advancing the care for pediatric patients with sarcoma.