



UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY
O'Brien Institute for Public Health

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & CORE OPERATING TEAM

2019 PORTFOLIO SUMMARIES & BIOGRAPHIES

Prepared for:

**O'Brien Institute for Public Health
International Scientific Advisory Group**

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ALBERTA HEALTH SERVICES

REPRESENTATIVE: JASON CABAJ, MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, CALGARY ZONE

The AHS Representative provides linkage and facilitates information sharing between the Institute and AHS, especially with regard to Population, Public & Indigenous Health SCN activities, and other endeavours of public health relevance from AHS and the broader Alberta context



JASON CABAJ

Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Community Health Sciences

Dr. Jason Cabaj is a Public Health and Preventive Medicine physician (MD, Queen's University; FRCPC, University of Calgary) with training in epidemiology from the University of Calgary. He is a Provincial Lead Medical Officer of Health for Public Health Surveillance & Infrastructure (PHSI) with Alberta Health Services, program director for the Public Health and Preventive Medicine (PHPM) residency program, and Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences, Cumming School of Medicine. Dr. Cabaj is involved with a range of research activities to inform public health practice and policy, with a focus on creating healthy environments.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

PORTFOLIO LEAD: FARIBA AGHAJAFARI

The portfolio includes an annual, internal competition for [O'Brien Institute awards](#), from which nomination packages are also considered for external awards. Additional goals include awareness of the large number of relevant external awards, matching of competitive members to these awards, supporting members in their applications/nominations, tracking successful and unsuccessful nominations, and recognizing recipients.



FARIBA AGHAJAFARI

Assistant Professor, Department of Community Health Sciences

Dr. Fariba Aghajafari is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health Sciences at the University of Calgary. She completed her training in Family Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan. She has obtained a Master's degree in Clinical Epidemiology from University of Toronto and a PhD in Health Services Research from University of Calgary. Dr. Aghajafari's teaching and research involve evidence-based medicine, pregnancy and child health, nutrition, refugee health and health services research in primary care.

COMMUNITY HEALTH SCIENCES

REPRESENTATIVE: BRENDA HEMMELGARN, DEPARTMENT HEAD

The CHS Department Head supports linkage and information sharing between the Institute and its major academic partner, providing updates on faculty recruitment and graduate training, as well as other ongoing events and activities



BRENDA HEMMELGARN

Professor and Head, Department of Community Health Sciences

Dr. Brenda Hemmelgarn is Head of the Community Health Sciences Department at the University of Calgary since October 1, 2014. She obtained a PhD in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from McGill University, with an MD from McMaster University and subspecialty training in nephrology from the University of Calgary. Dr. Hemmelgarn is a Professor in the Departments of Community Health Sciences and Medicine at the University of Calgary.

Dr. Hemmelgarn’s research interests are in the study of chronic medical conditions including chronic kidney disease, diabetes, hypertension and cardiovascular disease, as well as health services research aimed at improving management of these chronic conditions. Dr. Hemmelgarn holds provincial and national operating grants, and is the recipient of the Roy and Vi Baay Chair in Kidney Research. She is also actively involved in Clinical Practice Guideline development both nationally through the Canadian Society of Nephrology and internationally through KDIGO, and has over 350 peer-reviewed publications.

INTERNAL PEER REVIEW

PORTFOLIO LEAD: DEBORAH MARSHALL

The Institute's [IPR process](#) arranges pre-submission peer review for Institute members preparing funding applications. The major competition supported is the CIHR Project Scheme, however the Institute offers IPR for other CIHR grant funding opportunities and for other agencies' competitions. Modified processes are also created to support applications for salary awards, team grants, and newly emerging opportunities.

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DEBORAH MARSHALL

AJE Child Chair Rheumatology & Professor, Departments of Community Health Sciences & Medicine

Deborah A Marshall is the Arthur J.E. Child Chair of Rheumatology Outcomes Research and former Canada Research Chair, Health Services and Systems Research (2008-2018). In addition, she is a member of the O'Brien Institute of Public Health and the McCaig Institute of Bone and Joint Health and a Senior Scientist at Arthritis Research Canada.

Dr. Marshall has experience in technology assessment agencies, academia and pharmaceutical and diagnostics industry research settings in Canada, the United States, and Europe. Dr Marshall focuses her research program on methods to

improve the effectiveness and efficiency of health care services in the context of precision medicine and patient-centeredness. Her research assesses the value of health care interventions through measurement of patient preferences, cost-effectiveness analysis, and simulation modeling of health care.

She was the Project Lead for a US National Institutes of Health Program Grant on Translational and Policy Research in Personalized Medicine, which develops evidence to assess how precision medicine can improve health outcomes. She is a founding co-investigator of the innovative Patient and Community Engagement Research (PaCER) Program at the University of Calgary which trains patients to design and conduct health research, using specific adapted methods of qualitative inquiry. Dr. Marshall is the co-lead of the Economics platform for UCAN CANDU – Canada-Netherlands Personalized Medicine Network in Childhood Arthritis and Rheumatic Disease funded by the CIHR Personalized Medicine in Inflammation Network. Dr. Marshall is also the co-lead of the Patient Engagement theme for IMAGINE (Inflammation, Microbiome, and Alimentation: Gastro-Intestinal and Neuropsychiatric Effects) – a CIHR Strategy for Patient Oriented Research (SPOR) Chronic Disease Network.

LEADERSHIP & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PORTFOLIO LEAD: ALIYA KASSAM

By leveraging existing resources, and filling gaps as necessary, with evidence-informed [online materials, workshops, programs, and events](#), the Mentorship and Professional Development portfolio helps members develop leadership skills and networking relationships.

[View annual reports](#)



ALIYA KASSAM

Assistant Professor, Department of Community Health Sciences

Dr. Kassam is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences. She currently is the Research Lead in the Office of Postgraduate Medical Education where she has projects looking at ethical issues and professionalism in resident physicians, resident physician wellness and mentorship. She is an active supervisor in the graduate program in the Medical Education and Health Services Research specializations. Her academic background includes an undergraduate honor's degree in Psychology and a Masters in Epidemiology from the University of Calgary. Dr. Kassam also has a PhD in Health Services Research from King's College, London, England. Her research interests pertaining to medical education and health services research include ethics and professionalism, mentorship and

leadership, transitions in medical training and assessment.

POLICY

PORTFOLIO LEAD: ALEEM BHARWANI

The Policy Portfolio oversees and facilitates the O'Brien Institute's establishment of deep engagement and longitudinal partnerships with governments, systems, and public agencies that shape policies influencing our health and well-being. Due to our necessary focus in this sphere, both a strategic council and an operational council have been formed to support the development of a vision, mission and values for the Institute's health policy initiative.



ALEEM BHARWANI

Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Medicine

Dr. Bharwani is the Director for Public Policy and Strategic Partnerships with the Cumming School of Medicine, and the Lead for Public Policy at the O'Brien Institute for Public Health at the University of Calgary. He is a specialist in internal medicine with graduate training from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government in public policy and public administration. He has previously held Directorships for both the Medical Teaching Unit (in affiliation with W21C) and the Internal Medicine Residency Mentorship Program while also actively serving as the Scientific Director for the Office of Leadership Development at the Cumming School of Medicine. He was a recent resident of the Venture Incubation Program at the Harvard Innovation Lab. In addition to annually winning teaching awards, he has been recognized for his leadership by two international societies (American College of Physicians and Society of General Internal Medicine). Dr. Bharwani remains an active community citizen, serving on a variety of community and corporate boards. His current focus is promoting academic diplomacy and pluralism.

RESEARCH IMPACT ASSESSMENT

PORTFOLIO LEAD: DIANE LORENZETTI

The [RIA Portfolio](#) informs Directors and members of the Institute on best practices in the fields of research metrics, key performance indicators, outcomes measurement, benchmarking, and reporting. Products and advice from the portfolio are evident in the Institute's [reports for its International Scientific Advisory Committee](#).



DIANE LORENZETTI

Diane Lorenzetti is the Director of the University of Calgary's Health Sciences and Science & Technology Libraries, and an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences. Her research and teaching interests focus on professional development and the teaching and practice of knowledge syntheses, including systematic reviews.

SEMINARS AND EVENTS

PORTFOLIO LEADS: KERRY MCBRIEN & FABIOLA APARICIO-TING

Guidelines and benchmarks have been developed to help the Seminar and Events portfolio lead a planned and deliberate program of [events](#) hosted by the O'Brien Institute. Activities include a weekly seminar series, member forums, special lectures by visiting speakers, public-facing symposia, and workshops. The Institute also co-sponsors well-aligned events led by other University entities, community partners, or professional or health agencies, to increase the opportunities available to Institute members. [View annual reports](#)



FABIOLA APARICIO-TING

Instructor, Department Community Health Sciences

Dr. Aparicio-Ting joined Community Health Sciences in 2012 and is currently Co-Director for the Health & Society program, Bachelor of Health Sciences. Her epidemiology research interests are in the social epidemiology of health inequities and behaviours. Dr Aparicio-Ting has shifted much of her research to a program of scholarship of teaching and learning with a focus on applied educational research in health science education, curriculum development and evaluation; critical thinking; and interdisciplinary course development. Her work spans from local to global program development.

Dr. Aparicio-Ting holds a Master of Public Health from the University of Texas Health Science Center (2002) and a PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Calgary (2010). As Instructor, Dr. Aparicio-Ting teaches a number of undergraduate courses in the areas of public health, epidemiology and the social determinants of health. Her educational contributions have been recognized by the Canadian Association for Medical Education with a Certificate of Merit (2014) and with a BHSc Teaching Award (2015).



KERRY MCBRIEN

Assistant Professor, Departments of Family Medicine & Community Health Sciences

Dr. McBrien is an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Family Medicine and Community Health Sciences at the University of Calgary. Dr. McBrien is a clinician scientist with an active practice in family medicine. She finished medical school and a residency in Family Medicine at the University of Toronto. She completed a Master of Public Health at the Harvard University School of Public Health, focusing on outcomes research, statistical analysis, and healthcare economics, and then completed an AI-HS funded Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in Health Economics with the Interdisciplinary Chronic Disease Collaboration. Her research focuses on patient complexity in the primary care setting, and in particular how models of care affect quality and efficiency of chronic disease care.

STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

LEAD: EDDY LANG

Complementing the Institute communications team, the Strategic Communications portfolio has a mandate to inform policy, and raise public awareness and visibility of the Institute, by sharing the membership's knowledge, research, insight, and expertise.

The assets mobilized for internal and external reach include the Institute's [O'Bulletin](#) and [O'Snap](#), website, [news coverage](#), opinion-editorials, [social media](#), and special public [events](#) designed to enable the membership to engage in real-world knowledge translation, to expand research, to grow its networks, and achieve impact..



EDDY LANG

Professor, Department of Community Health Sciences

Eddy Lang is the Academic and Clinical Department Head and an Associate Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine, at the Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary. He also holds the position of Senior Researcher with Alberta Health Services. He co-chaired the 2007 Academic Emergency Medicine Consensus Conference on Knowledge Translation which remains an ongoing interest. Dr. Lang is a member of the GRADE working group and has led the development of GRADE-based clinical practice guidelines in pre-hospital care in the US and is currently engages in the same activity with the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation. Dr. Lang is also an award-winning educator having received recognition at both the university, national and international

levels. He also serves as Senior Associate Editor for the Canadian Journal of Emergency Medicine and Associate Editor for ACP Journal Club and the International Journal of Emergency Medicine. He is also writes a quarterly column for the Calgary Herald on Evidence-Based Medicine

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

REPRESENTATIVE: JENNIFER HATFIELD

Effective partnerships -- including with citizen, patient, service and other community groups -- are critical to the planning, execution, dissemination, and policy impact of the O'Brien Institute's research.

In this topic, the O'Brien Executive benefits from close alignment with the Cumming School of Medicine's SPaCE (Strategic Partnerships and Community Engagement) portfolio, which designs, integrates and leads strategic initiatives to ensure we are responsive, accountable, and engaged with our communities locally and globally.



JENNIFER HATFIELD

Professor, Department of Community Health Sciences

Dr Hatfield was Associate Dean Global Health and International Partnerships from 2009-2014 and has recently completed her term as Associate Dean Strategic Partnerships and Community Engagement in the Cumming School of Medicine 2014-2019. She is a researcher, educator and leader in global health with a focus on public health, gender, and maternal and new born child health in low and middle income countries. She is dedicated to promoting scholarship in the area of global health research governance that promotes ethical and equitable partnerships and principles. Most recently she has worked on initiatives to build capacity at the Cumming School in indigenous health.

Dr. Hatfield is leading many innovative research projects around the world on behalf of Canada and the University of Calgary. She is co leader of the One Health Field School in Tanzania and is engaged in the development of two Schools of Public Health, one in Tanzania and one in Nepal. As a Senior Mentor for the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, she participated in post-conflict reconstruction leadership development projects with health sector, civil service and NGO professionals in Afghanistan. As co-chair of the Canadian Coalition for Global Health Task Group on Global Health Research Partnerships, Dr. Hatfield was part of an international leadership team working to promote and improve partnerships between researchers in Canada and lower and middle-income countries. Over the last five years was the Chair of the Canadian University Advisory Council on Global Health Research which unites 24 universities across Canada in their efforts to build capacity in Canada and abroad.

Through her work as a mentor and facilitator, she has supervised dozens of graduate and undergraduate student research projects in Canada and abroad. She is committed to both building the capacity of the Cumming School of Medicine to respond global health challenges and to ensuring that the next generation of researchers and clinicians will be ready for the future as global citizens.

TRAINEES

CO-LEADS: KIRSTEN FIEST & ELIZABETH ODDONE PAOLUCCI

The training mandate per se is beyond the scope of the O'Brien Institute, but undergraduate, graduate, postdoctoral, and resident trainees are valuable resources for the research endeavor of its members. The Trainee portfolio therefore liaises between the Institute and trainees, supervisors, training programs (within the Department of Community Health Sciences, other Cumming School of Medicine Departments, and other University of Calgary Faculties), and relevant funding agencies and interest groups to optimize the provision and output of this critical human resource.

[View annual reports](#)

KIRSTEN FIEST

Assistant Professor, Departments of Community Health Sciences & Critical Care Medicine



Kirsten received her PhD in Epidemiology from the University of Calgary and completed post-doctoral training in neuro and psychiatric epidemiology from the University of Manitoba. She is an assistant professor with the [Department of Community Health Sciences](#), as well as a research leader focused on applying her expertise in epidemiological methods to advance evidence-informed patient and family centered care of critically ill patients. Currently the care of seriously ill patients is almost entirely delegated to healthcare professionals, which is in contrast to care in the community where patients and family members are primarily responsible for their own care. Fiest is working to better engage patients and families in their care in hospital – leading to a more unified

experience.

ELIZABETH ODDONE-PAOLUCCI

Graduate Program Director & Associate Professor, Department of Community Health Sciences



Dr. Oddone Paolucci is an Associate Professor in the Medical Education specialization and Director of the Graduate Program for the Department of Community Health Sciences; she holds a joint appointment in the Department of Surgery, and is both a member and the Education Co-Lead of the O'Brien Institute for Public Health. She has actively served in various leadership roles, including academic research symposia, research grants and awards, and resident scholarship committees.

Dr. Oddone Paolucci completed her PhD in Educational Psychology at the University of Calgary, with a specialization in Human Development and Learning. She has shown a strong commitment to teaching and has taught courses in development, learning, and cognition, as well as measurement, research design and statistical analysis at the undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate levels for the Faculties of Education, Nursing, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Medicine for over 21 years. She has been actively involved in the Cumming School of Medicine's graduate programs and has served as Supervisor and Supervisory Committee Member for numerous MSc and PhD students.

CORE OPERATING TEAM – O'BRIEN INSTITUTE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH

ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM:

Lindsay Bradshaw, Project Coordinator



Lindsay has worked in the Department of Community Health Sciences at the University of Calgary since 2000, when she was employed as an administrative secretary. She is now employed as a project coordinator for the O'Brien Institute for Public Health.

Lindsay has a University of Calgary Continuing Education Professional Management Certificate.

Marie-Claude Proulx, Project Coordinator



Marie-Claude joined the team in September 2014. She has been working at the University of Calgary since 2009 and was formerly a Research Project Manager for the Inflammatory Bowel Disease Unit and for O'Brien Institute member, Dr. Gilaad

Kaplan. Marie-Claude has a Masters degree in Molecular Biology and experience in clinical research and epidemiology. She brings to the Institute her diversified scientific and administrative background.

Karen Green, Administrative Coordinator



Karen joined the O'Brien Institute for Public Health in December 2017 as Administrative Coordinator and Assistant to the Institute's Scientific Director, Dr. William Ghali.

Karen graduated in 2005 with a Higher National Certificate

in Business Administration and Information Management. She joined the University of Calgary in 2014 and brings over 16 years' experience providing executive level administrative support, most recently as the Administrative Assistant for the Department of Ecosystem & Public Health, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine.

Sara Mahjor, Summer student



Sara comes to the Institute from the Faculty of Arts where she just graduated with a BA in Archaeology & History. She's been an essential help in creating the 2019 Research Impact Assessment for the International Scientific

Advisory Group visit and will continue to support the administrative and communication teams for the rest of the summer.

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM:

Brittany DeAngelis, Senior Communications Coordinator



Brittany DeAngelis joined the O'Brien Institute in May of 2015 as a Communications Assistant. Brittany has a background in broadcast journalism, digital communications and digital marketing and is currently working on completing her BA

in Communications and Culture from the University of Calgary.

Jade Markus, Communications Coordinator



Jade Markus is the Institute's communication coordinator, a role she comes to after nearly a decade-long career in journalism, her last journalistic gig being down the hill at CBC Calgary.

Apart from working at the CBC in both Calgary and Winnipeg, Jade's name has also appeared in Metro Winnipeg, the Toronto Star, and the Wall Street Journal, while simultaneously racking up two years' experience as a copy writer in an ad agency.

Pablo Fernandez, Strategic Communications Manager



Pablo joined the O'Brien Institute in October 2014 and brings with him a background solidly rooted in journalism and military service. For the last 14 years he has been an award-winning staff journalist at several media outlets including The Calgary Sun and

the Huffington Post. For the last six years, he has been an editor, department head and bureau chief specializing in developing and implementing online, brand growth and community engagement strategies. As an advisor, Pablo has also put his journalistic skills to work handling critical incident communications and community relations with the Canadian Army.

Angela Taylor, Communications and Events Coordinator



She tamed Toronto, grew up in Montreal, rocked it in Nova Scotia, and is now trying out Cowtown as the O'Brien Institute's events and communications coordinator.

Originally from Montreal, Angela has lived in five provinces across Canada. She completed a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at St. Francis Xavier University in Antigonish, Nova Scotia, followed by a brief stint living in Winnipeg. Afterwards, she completed a post-graduate certificate in Public Relations at Humber College in Toronto.

For two years while in Toronto, Angela worked for Hill+Knowlton Strategies, one of Canada's premier public relations agencies, before taking on a communications and events role with the law firm of Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP.