

SYMPOSIUM

LET'S TALK One Health

November 16, 2021

PRESENTED BY



Moderator



Farah Qaiser is the Director of Research and Policy at Evidence for Democracy, a non-partisan not-for-profit organization promoting the transparent use of evidence in government decision-making in Canada. Previously, Farah has completed a Master of Science at the University of Toronto, where she carried out DNA sequencing to better understand neurological disorders. She has written about science for various media outlets, co-founded the Toronto Science Policy Network, and currently serves on the Canada Chief Science Advisor's inaugural Youth Council.

Keynote Speaker



David Saint-Jacques has always been keen on exploring the world around him. Prior to joining the Canadian space program in May 2009, he practised family medicine in a northern Canadian village overlooking Hudson Bay. Before that, he worked as an astrophysicist in Cambridge, United Kingdom; Tokyo, Japan; Hawaii, USA; and Montreal, Canada. He was also a clinical faculty lecturer for McGill University's Faculty of Medicine and an engineer for a Quebec-based small business. As a member of the international astronaut team, David Saint-Jacques has acted as capcom (the liaison between the team on the ground and the crew in space) and carried out various operations planning and support functions at NASA's Mission Control Center and Astronaut Office. On December 3, 2018, he flew to the International Space Station as an Expedition 58/59 flight engineer and co-pilot of the Soyuz spacecraft. During his 204-day mission, he conducted a series of scientific experiments, robotics tasks and technology demonstrations. David Saint-Jacques became the fourth Canadian Space Agency astronaut to perform a spacewalk and the first to use Canadarm2 to catch a visiting spacecraft.

Panelists



Elyse Hope uses her diverse background to guide health sector projects through Genome BC and Genome Canada funding competitions and foster partnership development. Throughout her career as a scientist, Elyse has balanced her own research with efforts to help other scientists navigate the challenges of publishing, funding, and training. She is thrilled to continue this work at Genome BC, and to be in a position to build connections between academic and industrial groups that will elevate the reach and impact of their work and bolster Vancouver's international reputation as a top environment for innovation in health and biotechnology. Elyse earned a Ph.D. in Genome Sciences from the University of Washington in Seattle, and a Bachelor's of Science in Biology from Stanford University, where she contributed to research in computational genomics. Her graduate work focused on complex community traits underlying pathogenicity in yeast from both genetics and biodiversity standpoints. Before joining Genome BC, she served as a postdoctoral fellow at the BC Cancer Agency studying mechanisms of genome instability.



Deborah McGregor (Anishinaabe) is from Whitefish River First Nation, Birch Island, Ontario. At York University, she is joint faculty with Osgoode Hall law and Environmental Studies & Urban Change and is Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Environmental Justice. Professor McGregor's research has focused on Indigenous knowledge systems and their various applications in diverse contexts including environmental and water governance, environmental justice, health and environment, climate change and Indigenous legal traditions. She remains actively involved in a variety of Indigenous communities, serving as an advisor and continuing to engage in community-based research and initiatives and has been at the forefront of Indigenous environmental justice and Indigenous research theory and practice. She is co-editor of Indigenous research: Theories, practices, and relationships, Indigenous Peoples and Autonomy: Insights for a Global Age, the Anishinaabewin conference proceedings series. Her current projects focus on "Indigenous Environmental (In)Justice: theory and practice" and "Indigenizing self determined climate change futures". Her work has been shared through the IEJ project website <https://iejproject.info.yorku.ca/> and UKRI International Collaboration on Indigenous research <https://www.indigenous.ncrm.ac.uk/>.



Samira Mubareka completed her MD at Dalhousie University in 1999 and Internal Medicine training in 2002 at McGill University in Canada. She specialized in Infectious Diseases and Medical Microbiology at the University of Manitoba (2005). She went on to a research fellowship at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York City, in the laboratory of Dr. Peter Palese, Department of Microbiology (2009). Samira focused on the development of a novel model for the transmission of influenza virus, developing an interest around the aerobiology of respiratory virus transmission, which remains a focus of her work. Samira is currently a virologist, medical microbiologist and infectious disease physician at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto, Ontario, Canada and in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology at the University of Toronto. Samira has been working on SARS-CoV-2 since the outset of the pandemic in North America with a focus on virus biology, bioaerosols and exposure, genomics and diagnostics through close and cross-disciplinary collaborations across engineering, computational biology, molecular virology and animal health. Samira serves on the Chief Science Advisor of Canada, Dr. M. Nemer's COVID-19 Expert Panel, the Implementation Committee of the Genome Canada-led Canadian COVID-19 Genomics Network (CanCOGeN) VirusSeq project, and the Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table. She is currently focused on understanding the biology and transmission of SARS-CoV-2 variants of concern and on coronavirus zoonotic spillover.