



Dr. Sharon Cohen, neurologist and medical director, **Toronto Memory Program**

Dr. Sharon Cohen is a behavioural neurologist known for her excellence in patient care, teaching and clinical research. She's the medical director and principal investigator of the Toronto Memory Program, a community-based medical facility which she founded in 1996 for the purpose of enhancing diagnosis, medical care and treatment options for individuals with, or at risk for, Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. Cohen's memory clinic and research site are among the most active in Canada and have gained international recognition as centres of excellence. She also acts as a consultant and advisor to a broad range of stakeholders, including government organizations and patient advocacy group. Cohen's a frequent lecturer and contributes to media events, including those on medical ethics and is known for her advocacy of individuals with neurodegenerative diseases and her dedication to Canadian initiatives.

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Dina Linardos, nursing director, **CAREpath**

Dina Linardos is a graduate of the nursing program at McGill University and a Canadian Nurses Association-certified oncology nurse. From the beginning of her nursing career, she has been dedicated to providing care to cancer patients, working at Jewish General Hospital in Montreal as a staff nurse, oncology nurse clinician and nursing manager for the out-patient cancer clinics. During her years in clinical practice, Linardos provided mentorship to novice cancer-care nurses and oversaw clinical internship for nursing students. Presently, she's a nursing director at CAREpath, focused on the development of new programs and nurse-led initiatives that will enhance the cancer-care experience for patients from early diagnosis to survivorship.

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Arya Sharma, clinical co-chair, Alberta Health Services' obesity program

Dr. Arya Sharma is a professor of medicine at the University of Alberta. He is also the clinical co-chair of the Alberta Health Services' obesity program. Sharma is the founder and scientific director of Obesity Canada, a network of more than 15,000 researchers, health professionals and other stakeholders. He's also the past president of the Canadian Association of Bariatric Physicians and Surgeons. Sharma's past appointments include positions as a professor of medicine and Canada research chair at McMaster University; professor of medicine at the Franz-Volhard Klinik-Charite at Humboldt University Berlin and the Free University of Berlin. His research focuses on evidence-based prevention and management of obesity and its complications. Sharma is a leading voice in obesity science and medicine and has authored, or co-authored, more than 400 scientific articles and has lectured widely on the etiology and management of hypertension, obesity and related cardiovascular disorders. He's regularly featured as a medical expert in national and international TV and print media and maintains a widely-read blog.

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Dr. Ian Patton, director, advocacy and public engagement, Obesity Canada

Dr. Ian Patton is a passionate patient advocate and works as the director of advocacy and public engagement at Obesity Canada. In this role, Patton combines his academic background and training with his personal lived experience to help reach individuals living with obesity across Canada, as well as realizing Obesity Canada's mission of improving the lives of Canadians living with obesity. He obtained a PhD from Western University in kinesiology and completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Toronto. Patton's research focuses on body mass index, obesity and childhood physical activity. He's also lived with obesity for the majority of his life and is a post-surgical bariatric patient who now advocates both nationally and globally for improved access to care for individuals living with obesity, as well as for eliminating weight bias and discrimination.

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Ximena Ramos Salas, director, research and policy, **Obesity Canada**

Dr. Ximena Ramos Salas has a PhD in health promotion and socio-behavioural sciences from the School of Public Health at the University of Alberta. She's the director of research and policy at Obesity Canada and a technical consultant with the World Health Organization's regional office for Europe. As a population health researcher, Ramos Salas is exploring the unintended consequences of obesity prevention policies for people living with obesity. Her research goal is to spark solutions that will prevent the perpetuation of weight bias and obesity stigma and create more effective population health approaches.

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Sergio Martinez, director, human resources, **AIDS Committee of Toronto**

After completing his master's in film and communications from McGill University, Sergio Martinez moved to Los Angeles, California, where he worked in the film and television industry for almost two decades. It was in Los Angeles — during the height of the AIDS epidemic — that Martinez's passion for human rights and HIV advocacy started. He was one of the founders of AIDS Project Los Angeles, Being Alive and the Los Angeles LGBTQ Centre. After the death of his partner, Martinez moved to Toronto to continue working with marginalized communities impacted by HIV/AIDS. He has sat on a number of boards, chaired several fundraising events and has served as director of volunteer resources — and later, human resources — for 20 years.

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Lanie Schachter-Snipper, registered psychotherapist and national director of outpatient services, **EHN Canada**

Lanie Schachter-Snipper is a registered psychotherapist and mental-health leader with almost a decade of experience in launching innovative, effective clinical programs — online and in person. She combines her expertise as a clinician and business leader to develop and implement evidence-informed short- and long-

term addiction and mental-health programming. Through previous leadership roles, including clinical director of Bellwood Health Services, Schachter-Snipper has gained expertise in setting human resource priorities to promote corporate mental health, in addition to developing wellness programs to enhance staff retention, recruitment and performance. She now applies her valuable skill set to enhancing and expanding Edgewood Health Network Canada's portfolio of outpatient programs nationwide.

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Judith Plotkin, vice-president, health and wellness solutions, **People Corporation**

Judith Plotkin is the vice-president of health and wellness solutions at People Corporation, a national provider of group benefits, group retirement and human resources services. She holds overall responsibility for leadership and growth of the organization's proprietary health and wellness solutions. Through innovative and outcome-driven products, Plotkin is committed to helping employees lead healthier lives. She has more than 25 years of progressive leadership expertise in the employee assistance, disability management and workplace wellness industry. Plotkin's a frequent speaker and has published many workplace mental health and healthy workplace articles. Prior to joining People Corporation, she held a number of leadership roles at ReedGroup (formerly Aon), Wellpoint, Homewood Health and Morneau Shepell. Plotkin holds a bachelor of arts and a social-work degree from Ryerson University and a master of social work from the University of Toronto; she has completed the corporate directors program at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management and is the immediate past-president of the Employee Assistance Society of North America.

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Karine Levy, registered dietitian and clinical manager, **NDC-Nutrition at Work**

Karine Levy is a registered dietitian and clinical manager at NDC-Nutrition at Work. She's developed an expertise in wellness promotion in the workplace. Levy delivers high-quality workplace nutrition solutions and services and participates in the planning and implementation of services, including program design, customized nutrition services and training programs. Through her different media interventions and corporate presentations, Levy loves to communicate that healthy eating should be fun and simple, one bite at a time. A graduate of McGill University in dietetics, she's a member of *l'Ordre professionnel des diététistes du Québec* and of Dietitians of Canada.

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Alex Abitbol, endocrinologist and assistant medical director, **LMC Healthcare**

Dr. Alex Abitbol is an endocrinologist and assistant medical director at LMC Healthcare. He joined LMC in 2015 after relocating to Toronto. Abitbol completed medical school, residency and subspecialty training in endocrinology at McGill University. He received certifications in internal medicine and endocrinology and metabolism from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and the American Board of Internal Medicine. Abitbol is committed to treating patients in all areas of endocrinology. He strives to support the relevance of primary-care education and remains an avid speaker locally and abroad. Abitbol also has a particular interest in applying technology towards improving diabetes care and management and some of his recent research focused on developing automated insulin therapy.

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Tyler Amell, adjunct faculty, **Pacific Coast University for Workplace Health Sciences**

Dr. Tyler Amell is an internationally recognized thought leader on the topic of workplace health and productivity. He is chief health and strategy officer at MediKeeper, a workforce wellness technology company. He also serves on the executive board of directors of the Work Wellness Institute and the National Wellness Institute. In the past, Amell served on the executive board of directors of the Integrated Benefits Institute and the Canadian Association for Research on Work and Health. He's a past chief relationship officer, chief health officer and advisor at a well-being technology company, partner and vice-president at a global human resources consulting and technology company, chief executive officer of a human resources technology company and vice-president of Canada's largest independent health-care, occupational rehabilitation and return-to-work company. Amell has consulted directly for employers and health-technology companies on their strategies and holds an adjunct faculty position at Pacific Coast University for Workplace Health Sciences. He has given seminars and presentations at more than 200 events globally.

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Lyn Guenther, professor, dermatology, Western University

Dr. Lyn Guenther is a professor of dermatology at Western University in London, Ontario, a fellow of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and is board-certified in the United States. She received her MD from the University of Western Ontario and completed her dermatology residency training at the University of Michigan. Guenther's been involved in more than 180 research projects since 1980 and is the president of Guenther Research Inc. She's also a past-president of the Canadian Society for Dermatologic Surgery. Guenther chaired the Canadian expert panel for the treatment of moderate-to-severe psoriasis in 2004 and was a member of the expert panel for the 2009 and 2016 *Canadian Psoriasis Guidelines*. She was also a member of the 2015 Canadian non-melanoma skin cancer guidelines committee. Guenther has more than 300 peer-reviewed articles, is a reviewer for a number of journals and has been the medical editor of *Dermatology Times of Canada* since 1998. Guenther's acted as an advisor to Health Canada, the drug quality and therapeutics committee for Ontario, the Canadian Medical Protective Association, the Canadian Cancer Society and many pharmaceutical companies. She enjoys teaching and lectures locally, provincially, nationally and internationally. Guenther's won a certificate of appreciation for excellence in undergraduate medical education and since 2007 has been voted "best doctor" by peers.

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Tim Clarke, president, tc Health Consulting Inc.

Tim Clarke founded tc Health Consulting in early 2017 after more than 20 years with international human resource consulting firms Aon and Hewitt Associates. His vision is to work with all industry stakeholders to cost-effectively improve the health of Canadians by bringing the next generation of health, benefits and insurance solutions to Canadian employers. Leveraging 25 years of employer-health experience, tc Health works with health and technology innovators from around the world to bring new solutions to the Canadian health and benefits ecosystem. Clarke is a regular speaker at Canadian benefits, insurance and technology industry events and is a writer for industry publications. He has a bachelor of mathematics degree from the University of Waterloo and is a fellow of the Canadian Institute of Actuaries and the Society of Actuaries.