

Speaker, Facilitator, and Panelist Biographies



Karen Albertsen

Karen Albertsen is a Researcher, Psychologist, and Consultant in the Danish company, Team Working Life. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Copenhagen in 1991, where she completed a thesis on motivation and health behaviours. From 1999 to 2011, she was employed as a Researcher and later as a Senior Researcher at the National Research Centre for the Working Environment in Denmark. She has conducted research projects on a range of topics related to psychosocial work environment, including studies of work-life balance, working time arrangements, work without boundaries, and work in the public sector. She is currently managing a research project entitled, “Relational Coordination in Everyday Rehabilitation”. Today, Karen will present her study of self-rostering among Danish workers.



Kristan Aronson

Dr. Kristan Aronson is a Professor in the Community Health and Epidemiology program at Queen’s University located in Kingston, Ontario. Dr. Aronson is part of research teams that examine the relative contribution of environmental and genetic factors as causes of disease. Current projects focus on shift work, biomarkers such as melatonin, vitamin D, sex hormones, physical activity, and genetic variants. Previous research contributions have impacted workers’ compensation, nutritional supplementation policy, and toxic reduction legislation. Kristan has held several career and research awards. For example, she is the recipient of the Golden Jubilee Medallion of Queen Elizabeth II in recognition of her volunteer service, and she has been awarded two visiting professorships in Australia and one at Dalhousie University. She is a member of the organizing committee for the symposium and will Chair the panel discussion.



Diane B. Boivin

Dr. Diane B. Boivin is an Associate Professor for the Faculty of Medicine at McGill University and Founder/Director of the Centre for Study and Treatment of Human Circadian Rhythms at the Douglas Mental Health University Institute. She completed her MD at Laval University in 1985 and has conducted research as an expert in sleep and circadian rhythms disorders since 1986. She completed her Ph.D. in neurological sciences at l’Université de Montréal in 1993. From 1992 to 1997, she completed a postdoctoral fellowship program in human chronobiology at the Brigham and Women’s Hospital, which is affiliated with Harvard Medical School. Her research interests include the problem of maladaptation to shift work, jet lag, fatigue risk management, the role of circadian rhythms in psychiatric conditions, and the interaction between menstrual and circadian cycles.

Throughout her career, Dr. Boivin has won multiple prizes and awards, including the Gold medal of the Governor General of Canada, the Young Investigator Award Distinction from the Sleep Research Society, Honorary Award Distinction for Specialized Medicine from the Association des Médecins de Langue Française du Canada, and over 15 salary awards from the FRSQ and CIHR grant agencies. In 2012, she was elected Circadian Head Section of the American Sleep Research Society.

During her career as a researcher, Dr. Boivin has written over 300 publications. She is the Associate Editor of the journal *Sleep* and a member of the editorial committee of the journals *Sleep Medicine* and *Chronobiology International*. She served as the guest editor for the 2007 special issue of circadian rhythms disorders published in the journal *Sleep Medicine*. Dr. Boivin will speak today about interventions that control exposure to light and darkness as a potential way to reduce the health effects of shift work, drawing upon examples of her own research conducted on nurses and police officers.



Patricia Boucher

Patricia has over 30 years of experience in the community and health care sector – 20 of which have been in the field of occupational health and safety and disability prevention. She has a Bachelor of Health Science in Nursing (BHSc(N)) degree and a Master of Health Service Management. She is a Canadian Certified Occupational Health Nurse, a Canadian Registered Safety Professional and a Certified Disability Management Professional.

Patricia is employed with the Public Services Health and Safety Association, Ontario, where she is Vice President of Prevention Services. She has a strong track record in developing strategic partnerships with stakeholder organizations, government ministries, and the health and safety community both provincially and nationally. She is also Co-Chair of the Behavioural Support Ontario Education Consortium.

Patricia has extensive working knowledge of the development and implementation of Health and Safety Management Systems; Employee Health Services, Disability & Injury Prevention programs; and is a subject expert in Workplace Violence Prevention. Patricia speaks at many provincial, national and international conferences. Today she will facilitate the breakout session focused on the health care sector.



Paul A. Demers

Paul Demers is the Director of the Occupational Cancer Research Centre (OCRC) in Toronto, Ontario. He is also the Scientific Director of CAREX Canada, a workplace and environmental carcinogen surveillance program. Prior to moving to Toronto in 2010, Dr. Demers held the position of Professor and Director of the School of Environmental Health at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. He is currently a Professor with the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto and a Clinical Professor with the

University of British Columbia.

Paul Demers has a Ph.D. in epidemiology and a M.Sc. in industrial hygiene, both from the University of Washington. His research has focused on occupational and environmental cancer, lung disease, and heart disease. His recent epidemiologic studies include retrospective cohort studies of firefighters, paramedics, aluminum smelter workers, and sawmill workers, as well as studies on the impact of air pollution and noise. In addition, he has an interest in both occupational carcinogens and cancer surveillance. He has served as a member of many national and international expert panels dealing with occupational and environmental cancer as the organizations include: the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC), the U.S. National Toxicology Program, the U.S. Institute of Medicine, the Canadian Cancer Society, and the Council of Canadian Academies. Dr. Demers was a member of the IARC Expert Working Group that evaluated shift work in 2007. Today he will share some of the latest evidence regarding the health effects of shift work.



Desre Kramer

Dr. Desre Kramer is the Associate Director of OCRC. She is an Adjunct Professor at the University of Waterloo and the School of Public and Occupational Health at Ryerson University, and an Adjunct Scientist at the Institute for Work & Health. She held the position of Associate Director of the Centre of Research Expertise for the Prevention of Musculoskeletal Disorders (CRE-MSD) at the University of Waterloo until the end of 2011. Dr. Kramer holds a MES from York University, a MSc in Public Health Sciences from the University of Toronto and a Ph.D. in the Sociology of Knowledge from the University of Toronto. Her research interests include knowledge transfer, knowledge mobilization, social network analysis, qualitative research, diffusion of innovation, and workplace intervention research. During the past seven years, she has led a research study in the diffusion of innovation to improve the health of construction workers. Her present research is looking at ways to facilitate access to compensation for workers with occupational cancer, and investigating the gap between awareness of occupational carcinogens and achieving change in workplace policies and practice. She has conducted research in the construction, transportation, electrical utilities and manufacturing sectors. Today she will facilitate the breakout session focused on the manufacturing sector.



Kim A. McClelland

Kim has served as the Wellness Coordinator at Toronto Police Service for almost 10 years. She is a Registered Nurse with 35 years of experience in emergency, community nursing and corporate occupational health and safety nursing. She is Canadian Certified in Occupational Health Nursing, Certified in Brief Therapy Counseling and she is a Certified Coaching Practitioner. Kim has worked with wildlife for over 20 years and spends time with her horses and canine pack. Today she will facilitate the breakout session focused on the public safety sector.



Ron Saunders

Dr. Ron Saunders is a Senior Scientist at the Institute for Work & Health, as well as the Director of Knowledge Transfer & Exchange (KTE). He has a BA in Economics from the University of Toronto and a Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard University. Prior to joining the Institute, he spent 17 years in the Ontario public service, most notably as the Assistant Deputy Minister of Policy, Communications and Labour Management Services in the Ministry of Labour. There, he was instrumental in developing policies related to employment standards and labour relations. He also served as the Vice-President of Research at the Canadian Policy Research Networks (CPRN).

His current research interests include: worker health in non-standard employment relationships; literacy and worker health and safety; the implications of demographic trends (such as an aging workforce and the increased participation of newcomers in the labour force) on occupational health and safety; and the impact of KTE activities/programs. He is also involved in identifying and disseminating the policy implications of IWH research for decision-makers. He currently holds an appointment as Associate Professor in the School of Public Policy and Governance at the University of Toronto. Dr. Saunders is a member of the organizing committee for the symposium. Today he will be the Master of Ceremonies and a panelist at the meeting.



Robert Whiting

Dr. Robert Whiting holds an MSc and Ph.D. in Medical Biophysics from the University of Toronto. He joined the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) in 1980 as a toxicologist. At CCOHS he has worked on the development and delivery of a wide range of products and services in occupational health and safety. Much of his work has focused on the design and development of chemical databases that are widely used and respected throughout the world. He has managed programs for the production of publications, training products, and related information services in all aspects of occupational health and safety. Robert is the senior technical editor for the highly successful program of health and safety e-courses developed by CCOHS. As the Senior Scientific Adviser at CCOHS, Dr. Whiting has participated in national committees for the development of Canadian legislation and has prepared reports for federal and provincial departments on topics ranging from health and safety interventions to effective labeling of chemical products. He has participated in international projects in several countries, most recently on the protection of health and safety of migrant laborers in China. Today, he will speak about opportunities for changing shift schedules in order to optimize the health of shift workers.