2017 CSEB Conference Speaker Bios

KAYLEE BYERS

Kaylee Byers is a PhD Candidate at the University of British Columbia and a passionate science communicator. Kaylee's research is part of the Vancouver Rat Project where she studies urban rats, their parasites, and the diseases they carry. When she's not trapping rats in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, she co-organizes Nerd Nite Vancouver a local outreach initiative that combines seminar-style lectures with beer. Kaylee is a Vanier Scholar, UBC Public Scholar, and recipient of the Gilles Brassard Doctoral Prize for Interdisciplinary Research. Kaylee is also a "pretend" scholar of wine.

RAYWAT DEONANDAN

Raywat Deonandan is an Assistant Professor with the Interdisciplinary School of Health Sciences at the University of Ottawa, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics. He is the former Chief Science Advisor to the Canadian federal government on the topic of assisted reproduction, and consults globally on epidemiological design, program evaluation, and higher education in the international health and development sector.

ANA DIEZ ROUX

Ana V. Diez Roux MD, PhD, MPH is Dean of the Dornsife School of Public Health and directs the Urban Health Collaborative at Drexel University. She is internationally known for her research on the social determinants of population health and the study of how neighborhoods, particularly urban neighborhoods, affect health. Her work on neighborhood health effects has been highly influential in the policy debate on population health and its determinants. The programs she has led on neighborhood health effects have spanned physical environments (including air pollution as well as built environment factors), social environments, and policy effects. She has had a particular interest in methodological aspects of special relevance to urban health research including multilevel analysis as well as the application of the tools of complex systems methodologies to urban health problems.

She has led large NIH and foundation funded research and training programs in the United States and in collaboration with international partners. Most recently she convened the Network for Urban Health in Latin America and the Caribbean which focuses on promoting research, training, and policies to promote urban health throughout the region. Dr. Diez Roux has served on numerous editorial boards, review panels and advisory committees relevant to urban health

including most recently the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) of the Environmental Protection Agency (as Chair), the Committee on Health and Wellbeing in the Changing Urban Environment of the International Council for Science (ISCUS) and the NASEM Roundtable on Sustainability.

She was awarded the Wade Hampton Frost Award for her contributions to public health by the American Public Health Association. She is an elected member of the American Epidemiological Society, the Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research, and the National Academy of Medicine.

REBECCA HAINES-SAAH

Dr. Rebecca Haines-Saah is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary and the O'Brien Institute for Public Health, where she co-leads the Population Health and Prevention Interest Group. Her research focuses on adolescent mental health and substance use, in particular tobacco and cannabis use. Trained as a Health Sociologist, her work employs critical theoretical approaches and qualitative, arts-based and feminist methods for engaging youth participants and their communities.

Rebecca is a core committee member of Alberta Health Services' Addiction and Mental Health Strategic Clinical Network and an Associate Faculty Member in the Mathison Centre for Mental Health Research and Education, Hotchkiss Brain Institute. Since joining the University of Calgary as Faculty in early 2016, she has focused her research program on the public health policy implications of cannabis legalization in Canada, working with partners in community and government at the municipal, provincial and federal levels. Beyond her current academic position, she has a longstanding history of work in policy research and development in child and adolescent mental health through collaborations with health systems and community stakeholders Ontario and British Columbia.

NATHANIEL KENNEDY-NOBLE

Nathaniel Kennedy-Noble hails from Montreal where he studied Industrial engineering at Concordia University. Having transitioned into the world of analytics, he is taking on projects in text analytics, predictive modelling, data visualization, and much more. He is currently a Data Science solution specialist at SAS engaging with clients across multiple industries. He is so immersed into this role that at times he wakes up in a cold sweat yelling ANALYTICS! How did he end up here with this condition you ask? Well his analytical mind and insatiable hunger to learn has destined him to this life.

Passionate about solving problems and working with people, he saw the Hadoop lake-like of an opportunity in analytics and dove right in. A tinkerer at heart, he dabbles in everything at work and home from Robotics to 3D printing, to programming to gadgets. Nathan loves the challenges and possibilities that new technologies and innovations bring. More importantly, he loves sharing his knowledge and learns by doing so. Ever the academic, he is always learning so don't be afraid to approach him say hi and share an insight or even just a smile.

EDDY LANG

Eddy Lang is the Academic and Clinical Department Head for Emergency Medicine in the Calgary Zone. He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Calgary and holds the position of Senior Researcher with Alberta Health Services. His areas of interest are knowledge translation, evidence-based medicine and operations research. 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 as well as with the International Liaison Committee for 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 Editor for the Canadian Journal of Emergency Medicine, Associate Editor for both ACP Journal Club and the International Journal of Emergency Medicine. He also writes a monthly column for the Calgary Herald on EBM as it relates to the public.

LISA LIX

Dr. Lisa Lix is a Professor of Biostatistics and Manitoba Research Chair in the Department of Community Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba. She is also Director of the Data Science Platform within the George and Fay Yee Centre for Healthcare Innovation. Dr. Lix's areas of research expertise include health services research methods, statistical methods for assessing quality of administrative health databases, the analysis of repeated measures and longitudinal data, and robust statistical methods for patient-reported outcomes. She collaborates widely on projects about population health and the association between chronic disease and quality of life.

LEAH PHILLIPS

Dr. Phillips is the Director of Research for the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Alberta (CLPNA) and an Adjunct Professor in the School of Public Health and the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine at the University of Alberta. Dr. Phillips has held several positions with Alberta Health Services and the University of Alberta, including Assistant Scientific Director for the Primary Health Care, Kidney and Bone and Joint Health Strategic Clinical Networks and was the Epidemiologist for the Alberta Provincial Trauma Program. During her PhD she served as the Project Manager for the WHO Collaborating Centre's Task Force on Neck Pain and Its Associated Disorders and Program Manager for the Western Regional Training Centre for Health Services Research. Early in her career, she worked as a front line service provider as a Licenced Practical Nurse in post-operative orthopedic surgery and psychiatry. Over the past 10 years, Dr. Phillips has served on several research advisory committees, supervised graduate students, published and reviewed scientific articles and taught Evidence Based Practice for Health Care Professionals. Building on her 20 years of health care experience, Dr. Phillips has recently completed the University of Alberta's School of Public Health Fellowship in Health Systems Improvement.

DAVID MEYRE

David Meyre completed a MSc and PhD in quantitative plant genetics (CNRS, Gif-sur-Yvette, France) and a postdoctoral fellowship in human genetics (Institut Pasteur, Lille, France). He has been successively promoted junior researcher, senior researcher and research director at the INSERM research institution (the French equivalent of NIH in USA). Since 2010, he is an associate professor at McMaster University (Hamilton, Canada) and the recipient of the Canada research chair in genetics of obesity. He is also a visiting professor at the University of Lorraine (Nancy, France) since 2016. With 155 peer-reviewed articles published to date and 16,500 citations, Dr Meyre is an international expert in genetic epidemiology of obesity. Dr Meyre is developing an ambitious and multidisciplinary research program at McMaster University to provide an exhaustive picture of the etiology of obesity and its complications and to equip the decision makers with the appropriate tools in order to tackle this complex disorder worldwide. His current research topics include: 1) gene identification in diverse ethnic groups; 2) gene x environment interactions; 3) epigenetics; 4) evolutionary genetics; 5) molecular physiology; 6) systems biology; 7) health research methodology and guidelines; 8) knowledge synthesis; 9) transversal medical research; 10) knowledge translation.

KATRINA MILANEY

Dr. Katrina Milaney is an Assistant Professor in Community Rehabilitation and Disability Studies at the University of Calgary. She has an interdisciplinary academic background that includes sociological and gender-disability theory frames and has several years in community-based research. Her work history includes multiple positions in senior leadership in the not-for-profit sector and many administrative roles including an advisory committee on housing and homelessness to the Premier of Alberta. Correspondingly, her research track record was established in communities where she spent ten years on projects related to public policy development. Katrina is a qualitative researcher with a particular interest in participatory action designs and she uses critical theory frameworks to study social determinants of health including disability, homelessness, gender, culture, domestic violence, and mental health. Part of her critically driven research revolves around her interest in political and economic ideology and their impact on public systems and service delivery. Katrina currently serves as an Executive Steering Committee member for the Canadian Observatory on Homelessness.

MARK OREMUS

Mark Oremus, PhD, specializes in chronic diseases and aging. He has conducted studies on willingness-to-pay for Alzheimer's disease medications, measuring quality-of-life in Alzheimer's disease, and the use of outcome measurement instruments in Alzheimer's disease drug trials. Mark's other research interests include social determinants of cognitive function, systematic reviews, population and public health from a life-course perspective, health policy and economics, and knowledge transfer. He teaches epidemiology at the graduate and undergraduate levels.

Mark is an Associate Professor in the School of Public Health and Health Systems at the University of Waterloo and he holds a part-time appointment at McMaster University as an Associate Professor in the Department of Health Research Methods, Evaluation, and Impact (formerly Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics). Mark is President of the Canadian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics and the Communications Officer and Chair Elect for the International Joint Policy Committee of the Societies of Epidemiology.

Mark earned his PhD in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from McGill University and he held a Career Scientist Award from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. He also held the inaugural Bernie O'Brien Postdoctoral Fellowship at McMaster University.

LARRY SVENSON

Larry Svenson is the Provincial Health Analytics Officer and Executive Director for Analytics and Performance Reporting at Alberta Health. He is responsible for working collaboratively with internal and external stakeholders to strengthen the analytic capacity of Alberta's health sector and the promotion of evidence-based decision-making.
In addition to his role with Alberta Health, he is also an Associate Professor with the Division of Preventive Medicine at the University of Alberta, and holds Adjunct Professor appointments with the University of Alberta School of Public Health and the University of Calgary Cumming School of Medicine. He holds a PhD from Manchester Metropolitan University and is a Fellow in the Royal Society for Public Health.

He has over 25 years of experience working in public health playing a leadership role in strengthening public health surveillance systems provincially and nationally. Larry is a member of the Public Health Agency of Canada expert surveillance advisory committees for cardiovascular disease, arthritis, chronic respiratory disease, neurological conditions, and diabetes. He is also recently chaired the National Surveillance Infrastructure Task Group of the Public Health Network Council of Canada, that developed a public health surveillance blueprint for Canada

JAMES TALBOT

Dr. James Talbot has a B.Sc. and Ph.D. from the University of Alberta and an M.D. from the University of Toronto, and is a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. He has worked in Public Health for more than 25 years as the Director of the Public Health Laboratory, a Medical Officer of Health in Edmonton, the Chief Medical Office of Health in Nunavut and most recently CMOH of Alberta. He is currently an Adjunct Professor at the School of Public Health and a Lecturer in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Alberta. For most of his career he has been devoted to understanding the evidence for what keeps us truly healthy and applying it to the communities in which we live.

MICHAEL UNGER

Michael Unger is the Program Coordinator at the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre in Vancouver, where he's been as astronomy educator for 8 years. Amongst the many programs he manages is the popular adult-only evening series called Cosmic Nights, which provides a party type atmosphere to science shows and lectures.

Kaylee Byers (above) and Michael Unger are the co-bosses of Nerd Nite Vancouver, a science-based lecture series held at the Fox Cabaret, which encourages science communication in an informal setting. There they have given a stage to a variety of passionate practicing scientists and nonscientists and have worked with them to develop presentations for the general public. Under the guidance of Dr. Jennifer Gardy, a Senior Scientist at the BC Centre for Disease Control, and an Assistant Professor in UBC's School of Population and Public Health, they have developed a number of open-access science communication modules geared at making science communication more accessible.

RONG-CAI YANG

Rong-Cai Yang obtained his PhD degree in statistical genetics (1989) from the University of Saskatchewan, Canada. Dr. Yang has been a Research Scientist—Biostatistics with Alberta Agriculture and Forestry (AF) since 1997. He has also held a co-location appointment as AF Professor of Statistical Genomics at the Department of Agricultural, Food and Nutritional Science, University of Alberta (UofA), since 2002.

Dr. Yang has maintained a very active research program in statistical genomics and its applications to crop and livestock improvement, and he has published extensively in these areas. In addition, he has been responsible for providing high-level advice and support in statistical design and analysis of research experiments conducted by AF and UofA scientists and their partners in other research organizations.

Dr. Yang is a long-time SAS user for his research and statistical consulting activities. Over the years, he has built a tremendous amount of knowledge and experiences with the use of SAS for statistical analysis of agricultural and biological research experiments. In particular, he has developed many innovative applications of SAS procedures for analysis of large-scale genetics and genomics data. These applications have implemented some of commonly used statistical methods for genome-wide association studies (GWASs) or genome-wide prediction.