



## Presenter & Panelist Biographies



### **Dr. Bonnet**

Dr. Bonnet is the Director of the pulmonary hypertension research group, Director of the 3CPR Council of the American Heart Association, and on the Leadership Board of the World Symposia on Pulmonary Hypertension Association. Additionally, Sebastien Bonnet PhD, FAHA, is Distinguished Research Scholar, and Chair of the FRQS.



### **Lindsay Forsyth Brochu**

After a long two years of waiting to finally confirm a diagnosis of Pulmonary Hypertension in 2018, then receiving a double lung transplant in June of 2020, Lindsay decided she was ready to share her knowledge and experience by giving back and helping others. Since her diagnosis, Lindsay has made it her mission to raise awareness and be the voice for those who need it most.

Lindsay lives in Almonte, Ontario, a small town outside of Ottawa with her high school sweetheart Husband, Jason and their two dogs, Callie & Toby. They enjoy being outside and Family & Friends are a big importance in our lives.



**Dr. Brunner**

Dr. Brunner obtained his degree in medicine from the University of Alberta in 2006. He subsequently trained in Internal Medicine and Cardiology at the University of British Columbia from 2006-2012. He received additional training in the field of pulmonary hypertension at Stanford University in California from 2012-2013.

Dr. Brunner is now a Clinical Associate Professor. His research interests include the clinical management of pulmonary hypertension and the assessment of pulmonary hypertension through hemodynamics and non-invasive imaging.



**Jennifer Bryson**

Jennifer was diagnosed with pulmonary hypertension in September 2012, at the age of 28, while pregnant with her first child. Jennifer has now been living with pulmonary hypertension for almost nine years, and has discovered a lot within that time about herself, health and wellness — what it's like living with an “invisible” chronic disease, and how complete strangers can knock you down or help pick you back up.

Jennifer is passionate about advocating for herself and others living with pulmonary hypertension and chronic disease. She has taken peer support courses, continues to get involved with PHA Canada initiatives when possible, and strives to make a difference in everything that she's involved with.



**Dr. Christiansen**

David Christiansen is an Assistant Professor in the Section of Adult Respiratory Medicine at the University of Manitoba and is based at St. Boniface Hospital in Winnipeg. He practices in the areas of pulmonary hypertension and general respirology.

He completed training in respirology and pulmonary hypertension at the University of Toronto. He is the Medical Director of the Pulmonary Function Laboratory and enjoys being involved in research and in all levels of medical training, especially in the mentoring of future respirologists.



### **Dawn Clarke**

Dawn is a 49-year-old female living in Southern Ontario, Canada. She previously worked as a home care nurse, specializing in palliative care, before she had to stop working in July 2019. Dawn keeps her nursing designation with the hope to combine her medical background with creative arts and help people on their healing journeys. Growing up in a military life Dawn has lived in various places and settled in Southern Ontario when she was 24. Dawn loves to sing, paint, write, instruct paint parties and classes, garden when she's up for it, and likes to learn and attempt many new things. Dawn loves jets and airshows. Her cultural background is Anishinaabe of Ojibwe (maternal Grandfather) and Mohawk (maternal Grandmother) descent and Cape Bretoner (Scottish & English). She has 2 adult sons, ages 25 & 27 who both live with her.

Dawn started getting noticeable shortness of breath in 2016, blood pressure went up and weight gain started. Pulmonary hypertension was suspected by the end of 2018 and the actual diagnosis came June 2019. She started receiving oxygen in October 2018 but didn't start using it regularly until she stopped working. There is much more to this story, but Dawn chooses to look positively at her future.



### **Janice & Jurgen Czechowsky**

Janice and Jurgen are professors, therapists and addictions specialists who work with individuals, couples, and families to help them create the healthy and happy relationships they desire despite living with chronic illnesses. Their doctoral degrees are in psychotherapy from Wilfrid Laurier University – Waterloo Lutheran Seminary.

Their lived experience outside of clinical training, has been learning to navigate the obstacles chronic illnesses pose for themselves and extended family members. Jurgen's interests and hobbies outside of work include fishing, hiking with our dog Nikki, computers and reading. Jan's hobbies include gardening, knitting, sewing and being seasonally enthusiastic.





### **Nicole Dempsey**

Nicole was diagnosed with idiopathic pulmonary arterial hypertension (IPAH) in 2013. She recently transitioned from IV therapy (Caripul) to Upravi. At this time, she benefits from triple therapy to help manage her PH symptoms: Upravi, Tracleer and Adcirca.

Nicole served as a PHA Canada Ambassador from 2014-16, before being elected to the Board of Directors in 2017 and Board Chair in 2020. She is active on social media where she uses every opportunity to raise awareness and educate others about PH. She is also a passionate advocate for access to PH treatments and has participated in media conferences and meetings with Ontario politicians and decision-makers. Prior to her diagnosis, Nicole worked as an elementary school teacher for 12 years. She resides in Cambridge, Ontario with her husband, Darren, and two young daughters, Carys and Paisley. She enjoys spending time with her family, including her four dogs.



### **Darren Dempsey**

Darren Dempsey is a caregiver for his wife Nicole, diagnosed with PH in 2013. For the last nine years, along with their 14 and 12-year-old, they've seen many changes in their lives while navigating the waters with Nicole's disease. Darren is a business analyst, that's been fortunate to work from home for the last three years, allowing him to take some time out of his day to help Nicole when needed. That flexibility has certainly come in handy! He is looking forward to sharing some of his PH experiences during the upcoming PHA Canada conference.



### **Dr. Dorasamy**

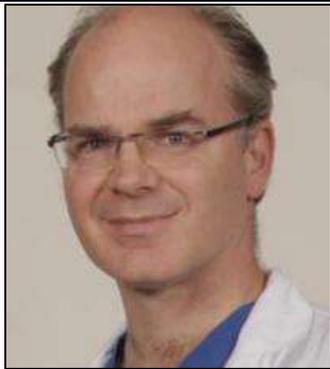
Dr. Dorasamy is an Internist and Respiriologist and Attending Physician and Clinician Educator at McMaster University and the Hamilton Health Sciences, based at the Hamilton General Hospital at the rank of Associate Professor. Dr. Dorasamy has had a long-term interest in Pulmonary Hypertension and has been with the Pulmonary Hypertension Clinic at the Hamilton Health Sciences since 2006. He has also trained previously in Clinical Pharmacology and has an interest in the mechanisms of pulmonary hypertension, particularly PAH. Other interests in Respirology include Respiratory infections, particularly pneumococcal disease, Asthma, Obstructive Sleep Apnea and Cardiovascular risk. Dr. Dorasamy was also an educator in End-of-life care.



**Carolyn Doyle-Cox**

Carolyn began her career working in Critical Care Units in both New York and Boston. Upon moving to Canada in 1999, she joined the University of Ottawa Heart Institute where she worked in the Cardiac Surgical Unit; she was one of the clinical nurse educators, and worked as an Advanced Practical Nurse (APN) for heart transplant, ventricular assist devices (VAD), and heart failure.

In 2007 Carolyn became the APN for pulmonary hypertension when the Ottawa PH Clinic was founded. Carolyn has since hired and educated new nurses across PH programs in Canada, written articles for PHA Canada's newsletter, and has published three academic articles relating to her work in PH. She is an Executive member of the Canadian PH Professionals Network and a previous Board Member of PHA Canada.



**Dr. de Perrot**

Marc de Perrot is the Director of the Toronto CTEPH Program at the University Health Network, Toronto General Hospital. The Toronto CTEPH Program is a multidisciplinary program providing care for patients with CTEPH from across Canada.

Dr de Perrot's surgical activity covers pulmonary endarterectomy, lung and heart-lung transplantation as well as extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), which are an important component in the management of CTEPH and other causes of pulmonary hypertension. As a Senior Scientist at the Toronto General Hospital Research Institute, Dr de Perrot's research is focused on the role of the immune system in different pathologies such as pulmonary hypertension and mesothelioma.



**Dr. Donahoe**

Laura Donahoe completed her undergraduate degree in Health Sciences at McMaster University and received her M.D. from Queen's University. She did general surgery training at Dalhousie University and thoracic surgery training at the University of Toronto, with a one-year fellowship specializing in CTEPH, mesothelioma and lung transplantation.

Her research interests are varied and include surgical education, specifically curriculum development and assessment, and clinical outcomes in CTEPH, mesothelioma and germ cell tumours.



Don's wife Kathy started noticing issues with being out of breath in December 2015, although her issues probably date back even further. After over four years of going back and forth for appointments with her GP and specialists with no diagnosis of what the cause was, Kathy had an episode where she ended up in the ER. While there, the ER doctor showed her a lab report that was on her file from September 2017. She sent a copy of it to Don to have a physician friend look at it. Don asked the physician if there were any questions Kathy should ask the ER doctor. He looked at it for less than a minute and said, "Ask him why you have pulmonary hypertension."

This triggered several tests being done and very shortly thereafter, Kathy received a firm diagnosis of severe idiopathic pulmonary arterial hypertension. Don and Kathy can't know if a diagnosis in 2017 would have prevented her case being as severe as it was at diagnosis in March 2020, however, the realization that a lot of doctors don't necessarily know to look for PH as a possible cause of a patient's symptoms made Don want to investigate a way to change it so that, hopefully, others don't go undiagnosed for long periods of time, even when the signs are all there.



### **Kathy Downey**

After attending numerous doctor's appointments for more than five years, Kathy's increasing worry of being branded a hypochondriac was finally laid to rest in March 2020 when she was officially diagnosed with severe idiopathic pulmonary arterial hypertension (IPAH). Since her diagnosis, Kathy has been feverishly educating anyone who will listen about PH and its symptoms through word of mouth, social media, and radio/TV interviews. She is now quite well known for her purple hair. Kathy lives in Calgary, Alberta with a full household that includes husband Don, two adult children, Robbie and Melyssa, her parents, two cats, and Kipper the dog. Though her diagnosis has changed her life quite a bit, she enjoys getting together with friends and, weather permitting, sitting on her back deck (her "happy place") knitting when she's not doing her full-time job of going to doctors, having tests, etc. It is very important to Kathy to be a part of the PH community, and to stay in touch with everyone, especially those who are having a difficult time or in the hospital.



### **Brad Dueck**

Brad lived a pretty normal life till the age of 34 when he had emergency surgery for colon cancer. 30 years later Brad is still dealing with various forms of cancer and was also diagnosed with CTEPH just over 18 years ago. Brad is thankful that he is still been able to enjoy a full life with the support of his wife, family, and friends. They live in southern Manitoba and are looking forward to having a large garden this summer.



### **Line Ducharme**

It all started in April 2000, when Line had a surgery for a new hip replacement. When she left the operating room, she felt breathless. No one could determine what she had. So, after being hospitalized, Line went back home.

During the three years after this surgery, and after meeting dozens of doctors, no one knew what Line had. She stopped talking, she stopped walking, and stopped doing activities because of her shortness of breath.

At the onset of the illness Line took Bosentan, but it affected her liver, so the doctors decided to give her Flolan, which was then changed to Caripul over the years. Line participated in several research studies, which allowed her to add Viagra, and now Upravi. Upravi replaced Caripul that she has been using for more than 17 years. Therefore, Line has had pulmonary hypertension for 21 years.



### **Anne Fagan**

Living in a small rural town called Richibucto in New Brunswick, Family is everything to Anne. She has 2 children, Breanna 20 and Kalan 16, they are her lifeline. Currently legally separated from her husband, she finds herself single, living with Arterial Pulmonary Hypertension on oxygen 24/7.

Diagnosed 4 ½ years ago, she feels she is now fortunate enough to be stable and feeling good for the first time since her diagnosis. She believes she will always need to be on oxygen and the way she looks at it: "It makes me feel better so bring it on!"



### **Joan Gibson**

Joan's daughter, Jane, was diagnosed with idiopathic pulmonary arterial hypertension in 2016 when she was 26 years old. Joan is so thankful Jane is supported by the fabulous medical team at the PH Clinic at the Ottawa Heart Institute, her extended family, and the Ottawa PH Support Group. Joan considers myself to be one of her biggest fans!

Having worked in the federal government for 30 years, Joan understands how the political system works. Her professional experience helps her advocate for better and more accessible treatments for people living with PH. She has also benefitted from spending many years volunteering with Parkinson Canada and other non-profit organizations. Joan is a firm believer in not reinventing the wheel, and is always looking to learn from other well-run organizations.



### **Kelly Gould**

Born and raised in Moncton, NB, Kelly Gould is a Registered Nurse working for Horizon Healthcare at the Moncton Hospital. Kelly began her nursing career working in the U.S. before returning to her hometown to work at the Moncton Hospital in 2001. In 2004, she received her National Certification in Cardiovascular Nursing, and in 2015 earned a Bachelor of Nursing Degree with honours from Athabasca University. Kelly worked in the Coronary Intensive Care Unit, Cardiac Rehab program and Heart Function. She is currently the Inpatient Cardiac Educator at The Moncton Hospital and Pulmonary Hypertension Clinic Co-ordinator for New Brunswick.



### **Maureen Harper**

Maureen Harper was diagnosed with PH Aug 10, 2017 and was diagnosed with CTEPH a couple months later. Maureen had PTE surgery Oct 2019 and felt fantastic for a year and then had recurring symptoms. In March 2021, she was put back on Adempas and was diagnosed with PAH as well and in Dec 2021 she started on Opsumit. Maureen lives with her husband of almost 22 years. She has 3 kids, 2 21years old girls who have graduated college, 1 dual ticketed as Agricultural and Heavy-Duty mechanic and another daughter graduated from Agricultural management majoring in production. Her 18-year-old son graduated high school last weekend! Maureen works fulltime in a busy pharmacy as a Pharmacy Technician.



**Lisa Kolkman**

Lisa is the manager of the prostacyclin program for the province of British Columbia and the Yukon. Lisa facilitates urgent referrals for pulmonary hypertension patients and treats pulmonary hypertension patients both in the ambulatory care and in hospital settings. She developed and currently coordinates the genetic testing program for Familial PH, Idiopathic PAH and Pulmonary Veno-Occlusive Disease and was integral in establishing and continues to oversee an effective counselling program for patients struggling with pulmonary hypertension.

She is a member of the Canadian Pulmonary Hypertension Registry Steering Committee and has been a member of the Canadian Pulmonary Hypertension Professional Network since its inception, as a repeat member of the executive.



**Tania Larsen**

Tania Larsen graduated from Western University in 2003 with a BSc in Physical Therapy. Tania has over 19 years clinical experience working as a physiotherapist at London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) in London Ontario, with acute care experience in the areas of critical care, cardiac surgery and outpatient exercise training for individuals with chronic lung disease. Tania completed an MSc in Physical Therapy in 2006 and defended a PhD in Health & Rehabilitation Science in 2018. Her research interests to date include COPD, weaning from mechanical ventilation and investigating effective management strategies for individuals recovering from critical illness. Tania is also a Lecturer with the School of Physical Therapy at Western University, where she helps teach the cardiorespiratory components in the Physical Therapy Program.



**Ella Macleod & Delbert Hickman**

Dell and Ella have been together since 2008. Ella was diagnosed with ipah in November 2015 at which time Dell took off work for 6 months so they could figure out their new normal. As Ella's caregiver Dell has attended all of her appointments and has been a strong advocate for Ella's care.



**Kimberly Mantas**

Kimberly Mantas is a certified yoga therapist (C-IAYT), meditation, and teacher trainer (E-RYT), who works with rehabilitation teams, one on one and in group settings to support the clients' goals toward increased function, less pain, greater calm and joy.

Kimberly's view is that "Yoga is Accessible to All", and she works together with her clients and students to enable them to meet themselves where they are in the moment and move physically and mentally from there.



**Brinley Marks**

Brin considers it an honour to be called a PHighter because in her words: "I am amongst a group of "rare" and wonderful people that have embraced me and cheered me on". Brin believes she was given this for a reason and will always give back to the community that has given her so much.



**Jessica Marks - Cullum**

Being a Mom/caregiver on a journey with so many unknowns seemed so scary for Jessie. Now however, all Jessie see is all the love and support that surrounds in the PH community, and this makes the days easier.

Jessie and her family work hard to "collect the wins".



**Vanda McLean**

Vanda is a wife, mom and grandma. She has had four careers from ECE, elementary school teacher to PSW and a nurse specializing in gerontology. Her career was stopped in 2017 when walking became difficult because of PH. Vanda was diagnosed in 2016 with Idiopathic Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension, with the investigations into her health beginning a year prior. In 2019 she started on full time oxygen in April and at the beginning of October Vanda was listed for a double transplant. By the end of that year her heart improved with the exercise routine she was on. Vanda is presently on the side-line for a transplant. When things worsen again she will be immediately on the call in list.



**Dr. Mehta**

Dr. Mehta graduated from McGill Medical School in 1988 and completed further training in Internal Medicine and Respiriology at McGill. He also pursued Respiriology and PH research at McGill and Harvard. His current positions include Professor of Medicine, Consultant Respiriologist with Western University in London, Ontario and Director of the Southwest Ontario PH Clinic, London Health Sciences Center. Dr. Mehta is also a Founding Board Member, Past-Chair of the Board of Directors, and an Eternal PHriend of PHA Canada.

Dr. Mehta has been looking after PH patients for 30 years, since he was a resident at McGill in 1989, and as a PH specialist in London since 1996. He has also participated in many clinical PH research studies and is very active in the education of physicians and healthcare providers about PH, including many Canadian and international PH guidelines.



**Dr. Mielniczuk**

Dr. Mielniczuk is a Professor of Medicine at the University of Ottawa and the Director of the Advanced Heart Diseases Program at the Ottawa Heart Institute, as well as Vice-Chair of Patient Safety and Clinical Care for the Department of Medicine. She is also cross-appointed to the Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine.

She is a translational scientist and currently holds a position at the University of Ottawa as Chair in Heart Function Research; she has more than 100 peer reviewed papers, and has built a multi-disciplinary right heart failure research program at the University of Ottawa. Provincially and nationally, Dr. Mielniczuk is an active leader for the heart function and pulmonary hypertension communities and is Vice-Chair for the Pulmonary Hypertension Association of Canada.



**Tarya Morel**

Tarya was diagnosed with PAH in 2012, shortly after the birth of her son. Since then, she has been involved with PHA Canada as staff, as a patient Ambassador, and as a volunteer. She works in health systems research and is happy to have the opportunity to lend her skills to this important work.



**Jamie Myrah**

Jamie joined PHA Canada as the organization's first Executive Director in January 2016. She is responsible for overseeing all our operations, including providing support and guidance to the staff in delivering our programs and services. She also works closely with the Board of Directors on governance, strategic planning, public and government relations, and fund development.

Jamie is grateful for the opportunity to work closely with Canada's PH community to create change that improves the lives of all those affected by pulmonary hypertension.



**Joan Paulin**

Joan's daughter Brooke was diagnosed with severe PAH in March 2014 at the age of 24. She has always considered herself to be Brooke's primary caregiver. Because Brooke remains very independent, her support has probably been more emotional than physical - one is no less important than the other!

So, she thinks a better descriptor of her role in Brooke's journey would be as an advocate. In 2017, Joan became a PHA Canada Ambassador and served as an Ambassador until her election to the Board of Directors in December 2021.



**Isabelle Platnar**

Isabelle is 16 and was diagnosed with Pulmonary Hypertension in 2005. She enjoys playing piano, reading and drawing. Isabelle attends high school and enjoys volunteering in her community.



**Dr. Provencher**

Dr. Provencher is the director of the PH program at Laval University. His main research interests are the exercise pathophysiology and mechanisms leading the pulmonary vascular remodelling in PH. Over his short career, Dr. Provencher has published over 185 scientific papers and was invited to speak at over 200 provincial, national or international congresses or symposiums.

Dr. Provencher also received the *Prix reconnaissance Marc Julien*, awarded by the internal medicine residents in recognition of outstanding work done in teaching hospitals, dedication to his patients, clinical skills and quality of care.



**Janette Reyes**

Since starting in the Pulmonary Hypertension Program at The Hospital for Sick Children in July 2000, Janette developed her role of paediatric PH Nurse Practitioner where she collaborates with the PH Medical Directors and is the primary contact for patients/parents when they are admitted, when they are seen in the PH Clinic and when they have health concerns at home. Thus, reassuring continuity of care.

In 2007, Janette liaised with the Transition Team at SickKids and developed a PH-Specific Transition to Adult Care Workshop and Guidelines which has resulted in positive outcomes over the years. Janette has been a member of PH Association in the U.S. and Canada; as well as, the PH Pediatric Network, where she has contributed in the development of multiple PH Resources for patients and families. In 2018, Janette was appointed on the Board of Directors of PHA Canada. She continues to be involved in research and publications.



**Sylvia Rinaldi**

Sylvia Rinaldi is a registered dietitian in London, Ontario with a passion for supporting individuals living with rare and chronic lung disease. She completed her PhD in 2020, at the University of Western Ontario, during which time she studied the connection between nutrition status, body composition and disease in people living with interstitial lung disease and pulmonary hypertension.

She is dedicated to researching the influence that nutrition has on chronic disease management and quality of life in order to determine the best and most evidence-based recommendations for those living with rare diseases, such as pulmonary hypertension.



**Kristine Ritchie**

Kristine is the parent/caregiver to a 14-year-old Idiopathic PH patient who has had his diagnosis almost 10 years. They live in British Columbia and travel to The Stollery in Edmonton Ab for care. Her son Brendan is on triple therapy and had the Potts Shunt surgery in 2020 to help relieve the pressure on his heart. He is currently stable and enjoys school, camping, watching hockey and baseball



**Michele Roy**

An agronomist by training, Michele pursued a career in agricultural entomology for twenty-five years. In addition to my professional activities, she did a lot of amateur sport at a competitive level, completing several marathons including Boston.

Then a hip injury forced her to stop running and she started to explore several forms of training. When Michele discovered the Essentrics technique, she quickly understood that it could be a logical follow-up to her years of amateur sport and set out to become a certified instructor. Today, she uses her knowledge and experience to maintain a balanced life. Michele was even able to resume running.



### **Kaitlyn Salonga**

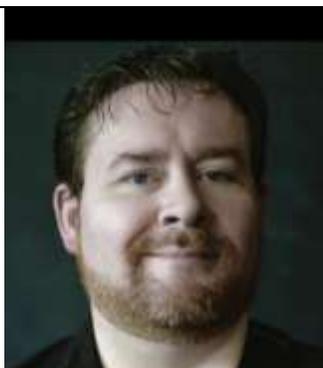
Kaitlyn Salonga was diagnosed with IPAH December 2018. She lives in Vancouver with her partner and is fortunate enough to work from home. Though the medical changes in her life initially shook her, she has found a way to make it routine and have affectionately dubbed her disease "Squishy Lung Syndrome". Kaitlyn hopes to spend her time advocating and educating for rare diseases and differently abled folks, particularly those on the pump like her!



### **Joanne Schwartz**

Joanne Schwartz has a Master's degree in Social Work from the University of British Columbia and a degree in Conflict Resolution from the University of Winnipeg. She has eighteen years of experience in a variety of roles working with people with complex needs. Joanne is a counsellor in private practice trained in cognitive behavioural therapy, mediation and motivational interviewing.

She is an instructor in the counselling skills program at Vancouver Community College, where she teaches aspiring counsellors. Joanne works at St. Paul's Hospital as a social worker with experience in mental health, addictions, emergency and in other departments. She has supervised and mentored graduate-level students and presents at various conferences on issues faced by people with mental health and addictions issues.



### **Jay Scraba**

Jay was diagnosed with extreme PAH in 2018 at the age of 39. He lives and works in Calgary Alberta as a musician and educator and shares his life with his partner of 5 years and her two children.



### **Birdeen Selzer**

Birdeen Selzer is a certified Holy Fire Reiki & Animal Reiki Master and the creator of love. light. reiki. She is a naturally intuitive healer whose personal mission is to make Reiki more widely understood and accessible.

Eager to assist others on their journey toward positive changes, she is dedicated to helping human and animal clients improve their mental, emotional, physical and spiritual wellness.



### **Carl Selzer**

Carl grew up on the prairies and moved to the Fraser Valley in BC in my teen years. His career background is mostly in sales and marketing living and working throughout Western Canada.

Carl was diagnosed with PAH in September of 2018 after a successful battle with Leukaemia. He has three children and five grandchildren spread out across the west. Carl is no longer able to work because of the lingering effects of Chemotherapy and PAH. He tries to stay busy by volunteering at Vancouver General Hospital on a weekly basis and giving back to the various organizations that continue to provide me with support including PHCanada. Carl and his wife Birdeen live in Vancouver's Westend with a view of English Bay.



### **Jane Sernoskie**

After receiving a rapid diagnosis of idiopathic pulmonary arterial hypertension, in November 2016, Jane made it her life's mission to pay it forward. She is a kindergarten teacher by day and a PH advocate and awareness raiser by night.

Jane lives in Ottawa, Ontario, with her bouncy black Lab dog Penny and handsome husband, Craig and their new baby Luke. Jane enjoys connecting with her PHellow PHighters and their PHamilies at the Ottawa Support Group, at PHA Canada's Monthly Meet-ups, on the Canadian PHriends Facebook page, during PH Buddy chats, and by reading their updates in The Pulse and Connections magazine. Earlier this year Jane joined the PHA Canada Ambassador team.



**Becky Schlenvogt**

Becky Schlenvogt has been caring for her husband Bill and managing his healthcare since 2014. She is a professional urban planner and project manager and lives in Stratford, Ontario.



**Jeannie Tom**

Jeannie lives in Toronto. She was diagnosed with PH and PF, secondary to scleroderma in 2010/2011. Oxy-tu is her faithful companion for exertion. Jeannie is a retired educator, patient advocate and community volunteer. She enjoys music entertainers on Facebook, fitness, creative movement and singing. Jeannie also attends health and educational webinars and support groups. In Jeannie's words: "Knowledge is Power!"



**Dr. Swiston**

Dr. Swiston joined the Respiratory Division at the Vancouver General Hospital in 2007, and is currently an Associate Professor with the University of British Columbia. He is the Medical Director of the UBC Pulmonary Hypertension Program at VGH. He is the Chair of the Medical Advisory Committee for PHA Canada and a member of the Canadian Thoracic Society Pulmonary Vascular Disease Committee.

Dr Swiston is also the Chair of the Canadian Pulmonary Hypertension Registry. His clinical and research interests focus on pulmonary hypertension and lung transplantation.



**Dr. Thakrar**

Dr. Thakrar did his internal medicine and pulmonary training at the University of Calgary. He then completed a lung transplant fellowship at the University of Alberta in Edmonton followed by a pulmonary hypertension fellowship at Newcastle University in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, UK.

He has been member of the University of Calgary, since 2011, and he is currently a clinical associate professor there. He is the current Deputy Medical Director of the Southern Alberta Transplant Program along with the Education Subcommittee Lead at PHA Canada.



**Jyothi Venkatesh**

Jyothi is currently a lead staff of Financial Literacy at North York Community House. As a financial literacy coach, she facilitates financial resiliency workshops for partner community organizations across the greater Toronto area (GTA). She also coaches individuals based on their unique requirements and writes about financial empowerment as a guest blogger.



**Dr. Vorhies**

Dr. Erika Vorhies is a Pediatric Cardiologist who completed her Pediatric Cardiology Fellowship at the University of Michigan, followed by an additional year of training in Pediatric Cardiac Intensive Care and Pulmonary Hypertension at the C.S Mott Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan and Denver Children's Hospital in Colorado.

Since July 2014, she has been working as a Pediatric Cardiologist at the Alberta Children's Hospital and holds an appointment as an Associate Clinical Professor at the Cumming School of Medicine at the University of Calgary. Her research interests include the diagnosis and management of pediatric pulmonary hypertension.



**Dr. Weatherald**

Dr. Jason Weatherald is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Medicine, Division Respiriology at Alberta Health Services in Edmonton, Alberta. He completed his education and clinical training at McGill University, the University of Alberta, and the University of Calgary. He then completed a one-year pulmonary hypertension research fellowship in Paris, France at the Université Paris-Sud and a Master of Science in Clinical Trials from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in London, UK.

His research focusses on clinical and patient-oriented research in pulmonary vascular diseases.