

Data and Sample Access Committee (DSAC)

Mark Oremus – DSAC Chair

Associate Professor, School of Public Health and Health Systems, University of Waterloo

Mark Oremus is an Associate Professor in the School of Public Health and Health Systems, University of Waterloo, and an Associate Professor (part-time) in the Department of Health Research Methods, Evaluation, and Impact, McMaster University. He is Chair of the International Network for Epidemiology in Policy, Chair of the CLSA's Data and Sample Access Committee, and Past President of the Canadian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Dr. Oremus specializes in chronic diseases and aging, and systematic reviews. He has a particular interest in Alzheimer's disease and cognitive function. Dr. Oremus teaches introductory and advanced epidemiology at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Theodore (Teddy) Cosco

Assistant Professor of Mental Health & Aging at the Department of Gerontology, Simon Fraser University

Theodore D. Cosco is an Assistant Professor of Mental Health & Aging at the Department of Gerontology, Simon Fraser University and Research Fellow at the Oxford Institute of Population Ageing, University of Oxford. Dr. Cosco is a Chartered Psychologist (British Psychological Society) trained in applied social research methods (MSc, Trinity College Dublin), and epidemiology (PhD, University of Cambridge). At age 12 Dr. Cosco began volunteering at a long-term care facility, beginning what would become a life-long passion for gerontology. Using both qualitative and quantitative approaches, Dr. Cosco examines a range of factors that promote healthy aging and resilience in older adults, from physical activity to digital interventions.

Theone Paterson

Assistant Professor, Psychology, Visiting Researcher at Baycrest Health Sciences Centre & the Rotman Research Institute, University of Victoria

Theone Paterson is an Assistant Professor in psychology at UVic, a Visiting Researcher at Baycrest Health Sciences Centre & the Rotman Research Institute and is a registered psychologist in the Province of BC with declared competence in clinical neuropsychology across the lifespan. Her focus is on neuropsychological research with clinical applications, with interest in improving our understanding of the interplay between neurocognition and psychosocial functioning and predicting real-world health outcomes in aging and chronic illness groups. Her research examines outcomes such as medication adherence in individuals with chronic illnesses and explores the utility of emerging cognitive measures for assessment and diagnosis of cognitive impairment. Aims of this work are to translate basic research to clinical settings through design and implementation of screening measures with utility in diverse groups, as well as to develop psychological and cognitive programs aimed at improving real-world outcomes. She is the chair-elect of the Neuropsychology Executive of the Canadian Psychological Association (CPA) and is currently a Co-Locally Responsible Investigator (Co-LRI - Victoria) and member of the Psychology Working Group in the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA).

Paul Mick

Associate Professor, Department of Surgery, College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan

Andrea Gruneir

Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine, University of Alberta

Andrea Gruneir is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Alberta and holds adjunct appointments with the Institute of Clinical Evaluative Sciences and the Women's College Hospital in Toronto. She is an epidemiologist and health services researcher who specializes in the use of secondary data sources to study the health service use patterns of older adults.

Shahin Shoostari

Professor, Department of Community Health Sciences, University of Manitoba

Dr. Shahin Shoostari is a Professor in community health sciences at the University of Manitoba. She is also a researcher with St. Amant Research Centre, and an affiliate researcher with the Centre on Aging of the University of Manitoba. More recently she was appointed as the academic director of Manitoba Research Data Centre (RDC) in Winnipeg.

Dr. Shoostari received her PhD in Community Health Sciences from the University of Manitoba in 2003. She completed her postdoctoral training in Health and Aging under Dr. Betty Havens' mentorship using data from the Aging in Manitoba (AIM) Longitudinal study. Dr. Shoostari's program of research is focused on health and well-being of persons with neurodevelopmental disabilities, providing population-based evidence aimed at improving the lives of these individuals. She has extensive research experience with large datasets including data from the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA).

Divya Joshi, PhD

Research Associate Academic, Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact, McMaster University

Dr. Divya Joshi obtained her PhD in Epidemiology from McMaster University. Dr. Joshi's overarching areas of interest including examining the associations between exposure to adverse childhood experiences and health outcomes including multimorbidity, mental health, disability, functionality, social participation, and biological age acceleration in individuals across the life course and generations.

Jennifer Kuk, PhD

Associate Professor in the School of Kinesiology and Health Science at York University

Dr. Jennifer Kuk has published over 125 scientific papers, reports and chapters related to obesity, health and lifestyle behaviors, and is an author of the Canadian Adult Obesity Clinical Practice Guidelines. Currently, her laboratory is investigating the relationship between obesity and health through clinical human studies and epidemiological approaches. In particular, she is interested in the characterization of the metabolically normal obesity phenotype and is currently working on factors that identify successful weight management in adult and pediatric patient populations. This work will help to clarify the most optimal weight management strategies for maintaining and improving health.

Plinio Morita

Assistant Professor - School of Public Health and Health Systems, University of Waterloo

Dr. Plinio Morita is a leading researcher in the use of AI and IoT for public health and global health initiatives. At the UbiLab, his research team focuses on the use of big data and AI to improve current public health surveillance mechanisms and support countries in the monitoring of health indicators (e.g., physical activity, sleep, sedentary behavior), as well as environmental factors (e.g., heatwaves, extreme air pollution). Dr. Morita's research team has developed large-scale data collection ecosystems for supporting local initiatives in Canada and LMIC in their efforts to better understand the impact of extreme air pollution on child and maternal health in LMICs (in partnership with UNICEF Mongolia), as well as the impact of heatwaves on seniors around the globe (in partnership with Health Canada and the Public Health Agency of Canada). Through the development of data ecosystems and AI solutions, the UbiLab has been pushing the envelope in the development of predictive models that can help public health officials around the world to better understand their data, as well as creating real-time indicators to support risk mitigation initiatives aimed at minimizing the impact of uncontrolled urbanization and climate change on health.

Marie Pigeyre, MD PhD

Clinician scientist, Population Health Research Institute and Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine, Endocrinology division, McMaster University

Dr. Marie Pigeyre's clinical and scientist training began in France (Lille University), before continuing at McMaster University. Her research program is focused on biomarkers and genetics for type 2 diabetes, to identify new biological pathways involved in diabetes and its vascular consequences. From a clinical perspective, she also aims at initiating precision medicine using genetic and biomarker information to improve care of patients with diabetes.

Suzanne Tyas

Associate Professor in the School of Public Health and Health Systems at the University of Waterloo

Dr. Tyas is a neuroepidemiologist specializing in longitudinal studies of aging and cognition. These studies have included the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging, the Nun Study, the Kuakini Honolulu-Asia Aging Study, the Manitoba Study of Health and Aging, the Canadian Study of Health and Aging, and SMART, a data harmonization project spanning 11 major North American clinico-pathologic studies of dementia. Her research focuses on early- and late-life predictors of the spectrum of cognition in aging, encompassing cognitive impairment, cognitive reserve, and healthy aging.

Jennifer Walker

Associate Professor in the Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence and Impact at McMaster University

Dr. Jennifer Walker is a member of Six Nations and an associate professor in the Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence and Impact at McMaster University. She has a PhD in Community Health Sciences with a specialization in Epidemiology from the University of Calgary. She currently holds a Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Health Data and Aging.

Sarah Gagliano Taliun

Assistant Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Neurosciences at the Université de Montréal
Sarah Gagliano Taliun is an Assistant Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Neurosciences at the Université de Montréal, and she leads a computational genetics research group at the Research Centre of the Montreal Heart Institute. Dr. Gagliano Taliun completed her PhD at the University of Toronto, and a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Michigan before starting her research group at the Université de Montréal in 2020. Her research group uses state-of-the-art computational tools and bioinformatics to identify genetic contributors for complex human traits, including neurodegenerative disorders. She holds a Junior 1 salary award from the FRQS in artificial intelligence and health, a CIHR project grant and a New Investigator Award from the Alzheimer’s Society of Canada with co-funding from the CIHR Institute of Aging.

Mark Keezer, MDCM PhD

Clinician researcher at the Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM), Associate Professor (clinical) in the Department of Neurosciences and Adjunct Professor at the School of Public Health of the Université de Montréal

Dr. Mark Keezer’s clinical and research training began at McGill University, before continuing on to University College London and Leiden University, the Netherlands. Dr. Keezer is a member of the editorial board for *Epilepsia*, the epilepsy surgery commission of the International League Against Epilepsy, and the guidelines subcommittee of the American Academy of Neurology. Dr. Keezer’s research program is focused on the somatic comorbidities of epilepsy across the lifespan, from adolescents with complex epilepsy to older adults and their large comorbidity burden.

Despoina Manousaki, M.D., PhD

Pediatric endocrinologist and assistant professor, University of Montreal

Dr. Despoina Manousaki is a pediatric endocrinologist and a clinician scientist at the CHU Sainte Justine and the University of Montreal. She received her MD from the University of Athens, Greece, her post-graduate training in pediatrics in Switzerland (University Hospitals of Geneva) and in pediatric endocrinology in Canada (Sainte Justine Hospital). Subsequently, she obtained a PhD in genetic epidemiology from McGill University. Dr Manousaki's research focuses on the genetics of complex disease in childhood. Her team uses genomics, bioinformatics, and genetic epidemiology methods to better understand the genetic architecture of type 1 and type 2 diabetes in children, youth-onset osteoporosis, pediatric obesity, growth and puberty.

Jeffrey Hébert, PhD

Professor, Research Chair in Musculoskeletal Health, University of New Brunswick

Olga Theou (on leave)

Canada Research Chair in Physical Activity, Mobility, and Healthy Aging & Assistant Professor, Physiotherapy and Geriatric Medicine, Dalhousie University

Dr. Theou is the Canada Research Chair in Physical Activity, Mobility, and Healthy Aging. She is an Assistant Professor of Physiotherapy and Geriatric Medicine at Dalhousie University. She is also an Affiliated Scientist of Geriatric Medicine with the Nova Scotia Health and an Adjunct Senior Lecturer of Medicine with the University of Adelaide in Australia. She obtained her Bachelor of Science in Physical Education and Sports Sciences at Aristotle University in Greece, Master of Science in Gerokinesiology from the California State University in Fullerton, and PhD in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences with specialization in Health and Aging from Western University. Her research interests include aging, frailty and physical activity.

Zhiwei Gao

Associate Professor, Division of Community Health and Humanities, Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University

Dr. Zhiwei Gao is an associate professor in the Division of Community Health and Humanities, Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University. He has been the academic director of Statistics Canada Memorial University Research Data Centre (MUN RDC) since 2015. Dr. Gao graduated in Medicine from Tianjin Medical University and received his MSc in clinical Epidemiology and PhD in Epidemiology from University of Alberta. He also completed his postdoctoral training in epidemiology of Tuberculosis in University of Alberta. His main research areas include epidemiology of many chronic diseases including asthma, COPD and occupational lung diseases using national survey datasets, administrative datasets, and population-based genetic datasets.

Ex-officio Member – CLSA DSAC Liaison

Lauren Griffith

Ex-officio Member – Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)

Advisor, CIHR