

conference chairs



Dr. Marissa Joseph

Dr. Marissa Joseph is a board-certified pediatrician and dermatologist in Canada and the U.S. and is full-time academic faculty at the University of Toronto. She has received and has been nominated for teaching awards in both undergraduate and postgraduate medical education. She has also completed an MSc in Community Health at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health.

Dr. Joseph is the Medical Director of the Ricky Kanee Schachter Dermatology Centre at Women's College Hospital. She also works at the Hospital For Sick Children where she manages children with complex dermatologic disease in outpatient and inpatient settings, as well as a pediatric laser treatment program.

Dr. Joseph enjoys her diverse practice in general adult, pediatric, and surgical dermatology. Her clinical and research interests include inflammatory skin disorders such as psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, and hidradenitis suppurativa; genodermatoses; and equity, diversity and inclusivity.



Dr. Neil Shear

Dr. Neil Shear was Head of Dermatology at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and is Professor Emeritus at the University of Toronto. He retired from active practice in June 2021 and continues to provide mentorship and education in dermatology. His primary academic research was in drug safety, including basic mechanisms that lead to increased risk for drug-induced harm.

Dr. Shear's practice was considered advanced medical dermatology, with diseases of focus include atopic dermatitis, psoriasis, auto-immune blistering disease, drug-induced diseases, hidradenitis suppurativa, cutaneous lymphomas and auto-immune skin disease.

Past positions Dr. Shear has held include: President of the Canadian Dermatology Association, President of the Canadian Society of Clinical Pharmacology, President of the Canadian Professors of Dermatology, President of the Canadian Dermatology Foundation and Head of Dermatology at University of Toronto.

conference faculty



Dr. Michele Ramien

Dr. Michele Ramien is a hospital-based academic pediatric dermatologist at the University of Calgary. Her clinical practice is focused on clinical care of medically or dermatologically complex children. She is active in the university-based clinics as well as in resident teaching, in particular as a co-chair for the national exam preparation program for dermatology residents.

Dr. Ramien's main research interests are atopic dermatitis education and severe cutaneous adverse reactions (SCARs) in children. She leads a North American multicenter pediatric retrospective cohort study on SCARs and recently started a collaborative prospective study on patients who experience recurrent SCARs with US collaborators. She is also interested in quality improvement and resident education and mentorship.



Dr. Zainab Abdurrahman

Dr. Zainab Abdurrahman is a graduate of the University of Toronto Medical School and completed both her Pediatrics training and subspecialty training in Clinical Immunology and Allergy at McMaster University. She is an assistant clinical professor adjunct in the Department of Pediatrics at McMaster University and works primarily at Q & A Allergy in Mississauga.

At McMaster she is the allergy lead in the Special Immunization Clinic focusing on vaccine allergy and is an active member of the clinical immunology and allergy specialty training program. Dr. Abdurrahman is a member of the Black Scientists Taskforce on Covid-19 Vaccination Equity, the Black Health & Vaccine Initiative in association with BPAO (Black Physicians of Ontario) as well as a past member of the OMA Civility, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee. On a national level, she is also the co-supervisor of the Fellow in Training (FIT) curriculum at the Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (CSACI).



Dr. Danielle Marcoux

Dr. Danielle Marcoux is a dermatologist at CHU Sainte-Justine and Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics, University of Montreal. She completed her medical degree at the Université de Montréal and residency at Stanford Medical Center, University of California and University of Montréal.

Dr. Marcoux is the past President of the Canadian Dermatology Association, of the Montreal Dermatology Society, and of the Camp Liberté Society, a camp for children with dermatologic disorders, for which she was awarded the L'Oréal International Prize for Caring to Inspire Skin Confidence and the SKINPACT award from Galderma.



Dr. Rachel Asiniwasis

Dr. Rachel Netahe Asiniwasis is a board-certified dermatologist currently operating her own practicing in her hometown of Regina, and seeing a wide base of patients in southern Saskatchewan. Since 2015, she and her small team have expanded to service several remote and northern First Nations communities around Saskatchewan through a mixture of in-person and teledermatology clinics.

She is passionate about addressing health care challenges in remote and First Nations populations and developing proactive approaches to these challenges through a Truth and Reconciliation framework. She is the founder of Origins Dermatology Centre based in Regina.



Dr. Gurbir Dhadwal

Dr. Gurbir Dhadwal is an associate dermatologist at SkinfitMD. He attended Simon Fraser University before studying medicine at the University of British Columbia, where he graduated with honours. He then completed his dermatology residency at the University of British Columbia before joining the dermatology practice of Dr. Chih-ho Hong and SkinfitMD.

Dr. Dhadwal has lectured nationally to other physicians on dermatology topics and has served as an international examiner for dermatology qualification examinations in the Middle East.



Dr. Jaggi Rao

Dr. Jaggi Rao is a board-certified dermatologist licensed in both Canada and the United States. He is a certified cosmetic and laser surgeon, having completed an accredited fellowship in 2004 with the American Academy of Cosmetic Surgery in southern California. Dr. Rao has a very busy and popular practice in the Alberta DermaSurgery Centre in Edmonton. He specializes in medical, aesthetic, surgical and research dermatology.

Dr. Rao serves as a Clinical Professor of Medicine and was a previous Dermatology Residency Program Director at the University of Alberta. He is an accomplished author, peer reviewer and associate editor for a number of prominent medical journals, and has won numerous clinical, leadership and academic awards.

As an active researcher in the field of dermatology and pharmaceutical testing, Dr. Rao currently conducts over 15 industry-sponsored and investigator-initiated clinical trials.



Dr. Melinda Gooderham

Dr. Melinda Gooderham is a dermatologist and serves as Medical Director at the SKiN Centre for Dermatology in Peterborough, Ont. and the Principal Investigator for the SKiN Research Centre.

Currently, Dr. Gooderham is an Assistant Professor at Queens University, and also works as a Consultant Physician at the Peterborough Regional Health Centre (PRHC). She is a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and Vice President of the Dermatology Association of Ontario. Actively involved in teaching, Dr. Gooderham provides medical students, medical residents, nurse practitioners, and physicians with both didactic lectures and hands-on clinical training.

