

Session 5:

Public Engagement & Health System Decision Making

Dr. Julia Abelson, B.A. & Sc. (Hons), MSc., PhD



Julia Abelson is a Professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics at McMaster University and a member of the Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis (CHEPA), which she directed from 2006-2011. She holds an MSc in Health Policy and Management from the Harvard School of Public Health and a PhD in Social and Policy Sciences from the University of Bath, U.K.

Her research interests include public engagement and values in health policy making. Through her research, education and service activities, she has worked closely with provincial, regional and local decision-makers and has held numerous career awards and research grants from CIHR and the Ministry of Health & Long-Term Care.

Dr. Yvonne Bombard



Dr. Yvonne Bombard is a Scientist at the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute of St. Michael's Hospital and an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto's Institute of Health Policy Management and Evaluation. She is an interdisciplinary genomics researcher specializing in health services and policy research. Her research focuses on the translation of personalized genomic technologies in health care and public engagement to inform health technology assessment and policy development.

She received her Interdisciplinary doctorate in Medical Genetics at the University of British Columbia and recently completed postdoctoral fellowships in Health Service Research at the University of Toronto, in Cancer Genomics at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, and in Health Policy at Yale University.

Meredith Vanstone, PhD



Meredith Vanstone is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics at McMaster University. She is also a member of the Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis.

Meredith has a PhD in Health Professional Education from Western University. Research interests include medical education, health policy, and the social and ethical implications of health technology.

Frank Wagner, B.A., M.A., MHSc



Frank Wagner is a Bioethicist for the Toronto Central Community Care Access Centre and the University of Toronto Joint Centre for Bioethics, and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine, University of Toronto. He holds degrees in physical anthropology (BA) and medical anthropology (MA), and a MHSc in bioethics from the University of Toronto.

As a senior manager with the Ontario Ministry of Health, he helped develop health legislation as well as policy, programs and services for persons with physical disabilities and acquired brain injury. An acknowledged leader in community-based ethics, Frank co-chairs the Community Ethics Network (CEN) and presents locally, nationally, and internationally on advancing the practice of ethics in the community health and support sector.