

CANHEART SPOR Investigators



CANHEART SPOR Co-Principal Investigators

***Dr. Jack Tu** is the Principal Investigator of the CANHEART initiative. He holds a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Health Services Research and a Career Investigator Award from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario. A senior scientist at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) in Toronto, Dr. Tu leads the cardiovascular research program. Dr. Tu holds academic appointments as Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine and Professor, Institute of Health Policy, Management, and Evaluation at the University of Toronto. He also serves as a staff physician in the Division of Cardiology, Schulich Heart Centre, at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto. His research interests include cardiovascular health services research and population health research, quality of care, outcomes research, ethnic disparities in CVD disease, acute myocardial

infarction, heart failure, and international comparisons. Dr. Tu previously served as team leader for the [Canadian Cardiovascular Outcomes Research Team \(CCORT\)](#) (2001-2010) and as PI of the Enhanced Feedback for Effective Cardiac Treatment (EFFECT) study. Dr. Tu has published over 400 peer-reviewed articles in top general medical and specialty journals.

***Dr. Michael E. Farkouh** is the Peter Munk Chair in Multinational Clinical Trials at the Peter Munk Cardiac Centre, Director of the Heart and Stroke/Richard Lewar Centre of Excellence in Cardiovascular Research, Professor and Vice-Chair, Research, Department of Medicine at the University of Toronto. He is a graduate of the Schulich School of Medicine at Western University. Dr. Farkouh completed his internal medicine and cardiology training at the Mayo Clinic and the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai New York respectively and holds an MSc in Clinical Epidemiology from McMaster University. Prior to his current appointments, he served as the founding director of the Mount Sinai Cardiovascular Clinical Trials Unit in New York City. Dr. Farkouh is internationally known for his work on the management of acute coronary syndromes in the emergency room. He has a special interest and expertise in the field of cardiovascular disease in diabetic patients. He is currently the project officer for numerous clinical trials on questions related to diabetes and heart disease including the NIH-sponsored FREEDOM trial. He chairs the committee on diabetes and heart disease at the Banting and Best Centre and at the University of Toronto. Dr. Farkouh has received the Gold Medal from John Paul II Hospital in Krakow, was elected Teacher of the Year at the Mayo Clinic, and was awarded the Jan J. Kellermann Memorial Award for Cardiovascular Disease Prevention from the International Academy of Cardiology. Dr. Farkouh serves as Associate Editor of the Journal of the American College of Cardiology.

***Dr. Jacob Udell** is a Cardiologist and Clinician-Scientist at Women's College Hospital and the Peter Munk Cardiac Centre of the University Health Network; and an Assistant Professor of Medicine at the University of Toronto. He has a research focus on the cardiovascular benefits and risks of cardiovascular preventive therapies and his team's work is leading to alterations in national and international practice guidelines and impacting clinical practice.

***Dr. Patrice Lindsay** is currently the Director of Stroke at the Heart and Stroke Foundation, Canada, where she leads strategic directions and activities for stroke nationally. Her primary areas of focus and research are healthcare systems change, public awareness and promotion of FAST, the development and

implementation of stroke best practice guidelines, geospatial analysis of resource distributions and patient access to time-sensitive care, and ongoing stroke quality monitoring and surveillance using administrative data combined with resource inventories. She is a respected expert member of several international stroke related committees, including the World Stroke Organization Board of Directors and the International Alliance for Paediatric Stroke Board of Directors. Dr. Lindsay is a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee medal for her efforts to improve stroke care and outcomes in Canada and internationally; and the 2016 University of Toronto Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation Leadership Award. Dr. Lindsay has a bachelor's degree in nursing from the University of Western Ontario and completed her PhD in Health Services Research/Evaluation and Outcomes at the University of Toronto.

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Dr. David Alter is a Senior Scientist at the University Health Network-Toronto Rehabilitation Institute and with the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences. Dr. Alter is a Clinician Scientist, clinical epidemiologist, practicing cardiologist and an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Toronto. Dr. Alter's research spans across many disciplines including cardiovascular health services and outcomes, population health, cardiac rehabilitation and prevention, and music and medicine. He has over 165 scholarly peer-reviewed publications, in addition to several scientific abstracts, and book chapters. Dr. Alter has expertise in the use of large observational data and quantitative research methods. Dr. Alter holds a university appointed Chair in Cardiovascular and Metabolic Research at the University Health Network-Toronto Rehabilitation Institute. Dr. Alter is excited to build on his experience in health outcomes research and cardiovascular preventative medicine as part of the CANHEART initiative.

***Dr. Todd J. Anderson** is a Professor of Medicine at the University of Calgary, Head of the Department of Cardiac Sciences and the Director of the Libin Cardiovascular Institute of Alberta. He is the current Merck Chair for Cardiovascular Research. Dr. Anderson was awarded his medical degree from the University of Calgary in 1985 and then undertook residency training in Internal Medicine, Cardiology and Interventional Cardiology in Calgary. He pursued further research training in coronary physiology at the Brigham and Women's Hospital at Harvard Medical School and then returned to Calgary. He has been on staff since 1995.

***Dr. Clare Atzema** is a Senior Scientist at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES), an Associate Professor at the University of Toronto, and a staff emergency physician at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. Dr. Atzema received her medical doctorate from the University of British Columbia, and followed this with a year as a visiting scholar at the University of California, Los Angeles. She completed her residency in the Royal College Emergency Medicine Program at the University of Toronto, during which time she also obtained a Master's Degree in Clinical Epidemiology. After residency she completed a Fellowship with the Canadian Cardiovascular Outcomes Research Team, under Dr. Tu. She is currently supported by a New Investigator Award from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada. Dr. Atzema won the Canadian Cardiovascular Society's Young Investigator Award in Clinical Sciences in 2012. Her research focuses on cardiovascular disease as it presents in the emergency department, and continuity of care following discharge from the emergency department. Dr. Atzema is interested in supervising MSc and PhD students.

Dr. Peter Austin is a Senior Scientist at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES), Toronto and a Professor in the Institute for Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, University of Toronto. His research is supported in part by a Career Investigator Award from the Heart and Stroke Foundation. His research interests are in statistical methods for the analysis of large observational databases. In particular, he is interested in the use of propensity score methods for estimating the effects of treatments and interventions, analysis of survival data in the presence of competing risks, predictive models for cardiovascular outcomes, and statistical methods for hospital report cards and provider profiling. He has published over 480 peer-reviewed articles in medical and statistical journals.

Dr. R. Sacha Bhatia is the FM Hill Chair in Health Systems Solutions and the Founding Director of the Institute for Health System Solutions and Virtual Care (WIHV) at Women's College Hospital. He is also a staff cardiologist and UHN and WCH. He is the national evaluation lead of the Choosing Wisely Canada campaign, a scientist at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences, and an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto. He has been published in international peer reviewed journals like the New England Journal of Medicine and JAMA Internal Medicine. He has been a commentator on Bloomberg News, CTV News and the CBC, and has been asked to give over 80 presentations internationally, nationally and regionally since 2013.

He is a recipient of the American College of Cardiology's Young Investigator Award, the American Society of Echocardiography's Arthur E. Weyman Young Investigator Award, and most recently the Goldie Award for Quality and Innovation at the University of Toronto. He sits on the boards of the Heart and Stroke Foundation and DREAM Global REIT, a publicly traded company listed on the TSX.

Previously he worked as a clinical and research fellow in cardiology at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard University. Dr. Bhatia received his medical degree and MBA at McGill University and his internal medicine and cardiology training in Toronto.

***Dr. Gillian Booth** is a Scientist in the Centre for Urban Health Solutions, located at the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute of St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto. Dr. Booth is also an Adjunct Scientist at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) and an Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine and the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation at the University of Toronto. She has received numerous awards for her research including a Mid-Career Investigator Award from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario. Dr. Booth's research focuses on environmental, socioeconomic, and health care factors influencing the risk of diabetes and related chronic diseases, with a major interest in the role of the built environment in perpetuating obesity-related diseases – for which she has received a 7-year CIHR Foundation grant. Dr. Booth has made major contributions to diabetes policy and practice at both the national and provincial levels. She has served on advisory committees for the Public Health Agency of Canada's Canadian Chronic Disease Surveillance System and was the Methods Chair for the 2008 and 2013 Canadian Diabetes Association Clinical Practice Guidelines.

Dr. Chi-Ming Chow is a cardiologist at St. Michael's Hospital, associate professor in the Department of Medicine, University of Toronto. He specializes in non-invasive cardiac imaging, in particular echocardiography and stress echocardiography. He is the Director of the Echocardiography Laboratory at St. Michael's Hospital. His academic interests include medical informatics and he has authored many popular medical education software programs (e.g. CardioMath, ECG Made Simple, iCCS for the Canadian Cardiovascular Society, iASE Guidelines App for the American Society of Echocardiography, CDA Clinical Practice Guidelines, iSVU Guidelines for the Society for Vascular Ultrasound, and Choosing Wisely Canada). These medical software programs are being used by healthcare professionals and students worldwide. His other current areas of research include

ethnic differences in cardiovascular disease, investigating new technologies in non-invasive imaging and using medical informatics to improve patient care.

***Dr. Shaun Goodman** is a Staff Cardiologist and Associate Head in the Division of Cardiology, Department of Medicine, at St. Michael's Hospital. He is a Professor and Heart & Stroke Foundation of Ontario (Polo) Chair in the Department of Medicine at the University of Toronto. He is a consultant to the Canadian Heart Research Centre (CHRC). He is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of Alberta and a Co-Director of the Canadian VIGOUR Centre (CVC). He completed his Doctor of Medicine (1987) at McMaster University (Hamilton, Ontario) and a Masters of Science in Clinical Epidemiology in the Faculty of Medicine and Graduate Department of Community Health at the University of Toronto (1998). He completed his training in Internal Medicine and Cardiology at the University of Toronto. He pursued a three year Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada-funded research fellowship before joining the Division of Cardiology at St. Michael's Hospital in 1995. Dr. Goodman has continued to pursue the following lines of research aimed at developing and supporting evidence-based, guideline-recommended approaches to individuals at risk for, and patients with, cardiovascular disease. Specifically, these activities have included: (1) facilitating clinical trials in cardiovascular disease in Canada; (2) diagnosis, prognosis, and management of coronary artery disease, including acute coronary syndromes (e.g., acute myocardial infarction) and stable ischemic heart disease; (3) optimal stroke prevention management in atrial fibrillation; and, (4) secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease, including the treatment of dyslipidemia and diabetes mellitus. In addition, Dr. Goodman has focused his activities on: (1) promoting collaborative cardiology research nationally; and, (2) assisting, mentoring, supporting and advising Cardiology faculty members in the early year stages of their career in the establishment and maintenance of their research programs.

***Dr. Noah Ivers** is a scientist at Women's College Research Institute (WCRI) and adjunct scientist at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES). He is also a family physician at Women's College Hospital (WCH) and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine and at the Institute for Health Policy, Management and Evaluation at the University of Toronto. Noah's research focuses on the use of data to drive decision making in healthcare and draws on a foundation in clinical epidemiology and health services research. He is involved in numerous large scale initiatives aiming to improve quality of care for patients. His

expertise in design and evaluation of health system quality improvement initiatives has led to increasing advisory roles for health system decision makers in Ontario, and internationally. He also is the co-chair of the national Dissemination and Implementation Committee for the Diabetes Canada Guidelines. He has also received New Investigator Awards from CIHR and a Clinician Scientist award from the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Toronto.

***Dr. Cynthia Jackevicius** is a Professor of Pharmacy Practice at Western University of Health Sciences, an Associate Professor with the Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto, a Senior Adjunct Scientist at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences, and a Clinical Pharmacotherapy Specialist in Cardiology at the VA GLA Healthcare System and the University Health Network. Dr. Jackevicius completed a baccalaureate Pharmacy degree at the University of Toronto, a Hospital Pharmacy Residency at Toronto General Hospital, a Master's Degree in Clinical Epidemiology at the University of Toronto, and a Doctor of Pharmacy Degree from Shenandoah University in Virginia. Dr. Jackevicius' cardiovascular outcomes research focuses on evaluating the quality of use of cardiovascular medications in clinical practice. This primarily includes the study of cardiovascular medication adherence, and impact of clinical trial evidence, drug policy and pharmaceutical marketing on cardiovascular drug use.

***Dr. Sharon Johnston** is an Associate Professor with the [Department of Family Medicine](#) at the University of Ottawa and a Clinician-Investigator at the [CT Lamont Primary Health Care Research Centre](#) and at the [Bruyère Research Institute](#) in Ottawa, Ontario. Her research interests include primary health care services delivery research, particularly performance measurement and chronic disease management to understand and support what leads to better care and better outcomes. Her projects seek to [improve performance measurement in primary care](#) and interdisciplinary chronic disease management and patient self-management support within primary care. The studies she is involved in are generating much needed knowledge about performance indicators and performance feedback required for members of primary care teams, and investigating methods of improving patient self-management of chronic conditions. She is currently leading a research program in performance measurement in primary care and is collaborating with researchers from across the country in this vital field. She is leading studies on two large, multi-project team grants. One has

developed a performance framework for evaluating the quality of primary care provided to people living with HIV. The second project explores the performance measurement priorities of patients, policy-makers, and physicians across Canada. She has also partnered with decision-makers in the [Champlain LHIN](#) to understand the existing resources and common needs in the region to support patient self-management of chronic conditions. Dr. Johnston is interested in supervising summer or Masters-level students. She is also interested in co-supervising PhD students.

Dr. Peter Jüni is the Director of the Applied Health Research Centre (AHRC) at the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute of St. Michael's Hospital and a Professor at the Department of Medicine of the University of Toronto. He graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Bern, Switzerland, completed his training in Internal Medicine at various hospitals in Switzerland, was a Research Fellow at the Department of Social Medicine at the University of Bristol, UK, and held previous appointments as Director of the Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine and Founding Director of CTU Bern, the University of Bern's clinical trials unit. Dr. Jüni is internationally known for his methodological work and for clinical trials and meta-analyses on the management of cardiovascular and musculoskeletal disorders. He served as editor of two Cochrane Review Groups and contributed to the Cochrane Risk of Bias tools for randomized trials and for non-randomised studies. A Fellow of the European Society of Cardiology, he has had leading roles in several major cardiovascular trials, including SIRTAX, LEADERS, FAME 2 and MATRIX. He served as a member of several task forces of the European Society of Cardiology and co-authored the European guidelines on myocardial revascularization and on the management of acute myocardial infarction. Dr. Jüni has published over 300 papers and is listed as a Highly Cited Researcher by Thomson Reuters.

Dr. Moira Kapral is a Professor of Medicine and Director of the Division of General Internal Medicine at the University of Toronto. She is cross-appointed to the Institute for Health Policy, Management and Evaluation at the University of Toronto. She is a Senior Scientist at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences in Ontario (ICES) and the Toronto General Research Institute and an Adjunct Scientist at the Sunnybrook Research Institute. She is a general internist at the Toronto General Hospital, University Health Network. She holds a Mid-Career Investigator Award from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario. She is co-principal investigator of the Ontario Stroke Registry. Her research focuses on the evaluation

of stroke care and outcomes in different populations and on the development of stroke quality indicators.

***Dr. Dennis Ko** received his M.D. from the University of Ottawa and completed his postgraduate training at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation and Yale University School of Medicine. He is an Associate Professor at the University of Toronto in the Department of Medicine and the Institute of Health Policy, Management & Evaluation, a Senior Core Scientist at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) and the Sunnybrook Research Institute. He works clinically as an interventional cardiologist at the Schulich Heart Centre, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre.

Despite the dramatic advances in cardiovascular medicine in the last several decades, there remains uncertainty about the application of these advances, particularly in many subgroups of patients that are not generally enrolled in clinical trials. Dr. Ko's research has focused on determining optimal clinical strategies and identifying opportunities for improvement in the prevention, treatment and outcome of cardiovascular disease. Using big-data and innovative methods, these research efforts are intended to provide critical information to improve the quality of health care, monitor changes over time, and guide decisions about the allocation of scarce health care resources. Dr. Ko has published more than 200 peer-reviewed publications, and has received numerous awards from Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), Heart and Stroke of Canada, and the American Heart Association.

***Dr. Douglas Lee** is the Ted Rogers Chair in Heart Function Outcomes and a staff cardiologist at the Peter Munk Cardiac Centre of the University Health Network. He is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Toronto and a senior scientist at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences. Dr. Lee obtained his M.D. and completed postgraduate training in Internal Medicine and Cardiology at the University of Toronto. Dr. Lee completed a Ph.D. in the section of Clinical Epidemiology in the Institute for Health Policy, Management, and Evaluation at the University of Toronto, and a post-doctoral fellowship at the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute's Framingham Heart Study. Dr. Lee's research interests include heart failure epidemiology and outcomes, implantable cardioverter defibrillator utilization and outcomes, cardiovascular disease risk factors and prevention, and quality of care and outcomes research.

Dr. Doug Manuel is a Senior Scientist of Ottawa Hospital Research Institute and a Senior Medical Advisor for Statistics Canada. He is a Clinical Scientist, C.T. Lamont Primary Health Care Research Centre and Elizabeth Bruyère Research Institute and an Associate Professor in the Departments of Family Medicine and Epidemiology and Community Medicine at the University of Ottawa. Doug is a Senior Core Scientist at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences, where he worked for 10 years prior to moving to Ottawa in 2008. He is a physician with a Masters in Epidemiology and Royal College specialization in Public Health and Preventive Medicine. For over 25 years, he has been a primary care clinician in rural, remote and underserved Canadian communities. Dr. Manuel's research interest is the population health impact assessment of health interventions and the assessment of population health status. He has developed performance measures and planning tools for health planning and has written on how societies with the best population health have achieved their success.

***Dr. Julia Moore** leads the Team for Implementation, Evaluation and Sustainability (TIES) at the Knowledge Translation (KT) Program in the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute of St. Michael's Hospital. She holds a PhD from the Pennsylvania State University in Human Development, where she focused on the implementation of preventive interventions. Dr. Moore has worked on over 65 knowledge translation / implementation grants and contracts in prevention, health care, education, and mental health. She manages a team of 20 research coordinators and assistants supporting the implementation, evaluation, and sustainability of evidence in practice.

***Dr. Rob Nolan** is Director of the Cardiac eHealth and Behavioral Cardiology Research Unit at the University Health Network, which he established in 2004. He is a Clinical Psychologist and Senior Scientist at the Toronto General Research Institute; Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto; and Adjunct Professor in Psychology at York University. Dr. Nolan served as a founding advisory board member and contributor to the "Guide your patients to a smoke-free future" program, which was endorsed by the Canadian Medical Association and Inter-American Heart Foundation. He co-presented the first national workshop training series offered by the Canadian Register for Health Service Providers in Psychology, which dealt with lifestyle and motivational counseling for the prevention and treatment of heart disease. Dr. Nolan was appointed by the Minister of Health to the Women's Health Council for Ontario, where he served on

the executive until 2002.

Dr. Nolan's research focuses on evidence-based e-counseling to promote heart health and quality of life among individuals with high blood pressure or heart failure. His program uses Internet-based self-help services to bridge the gap between hospital-based clinics and home-based health promotion. The second area of Dr. Nolan's research uses cognitive skills training with heart rate variability biofeedback to evoke therapeutic change in heart rate and blood pressure among persons with high blood pressure. Among his current activities, Dr. Nolan is Principal Investigator for two multicenter clinical trials that are helping to establish a Pan-Canadian e-counseling platform for persons with cardiovascular conditions.

Dr. Michael Schull is president and chief executive officer at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences, and professor in the Department of Medicine at the University of Toronto. Dr. Schull's research focuses on health service utilization, quality of care and patient outcomes as they relate to emergency care, and the study of interventions designed to reduce emergency department waiting times. His studies use administrative datasets and linkages with clinical data, and examine the causes and consequences of emergency department overcrowding, variations in patient waiting times and pre-hospital care. He is currently working with other researchers and health system decision-makers to evaluate policy interventions designed to reduce emergency department waiting times, and innovative ways to better integrate health care between hospital and community providers. Dr. Schull practices as an emergency medicine specialist at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto.

Dr. Dawn Stacey holds a Research Chair in Knowledge Translation to Patients and is a Professor in the School of Nursing at the University of Ottawa. She is a Senior Scientist and Scientific Director of the Patient Decision Aids Research Group at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute. She was inducted as a member of the College of the Royal Society of Canada in recognition of her research. She leads the Cochrane Review of Patient Decision Aids, co-chairs of the Steering Committee for the International Patient Decision Aid Standards Collaboration (IPDAS), and collaborates on the Cochrane Review of Interventions to Improve the Adoption of Shared Decision Making. More specifically, her research program focuses on: a) patient decision aids; b) decision coaching; c) implementation of evidence into practice; d) telephone-based care, and e) interprofessional approaches to shared decision making. She has given over 100 invited national and international

presentations. For more information visit her research program website <http://decisionaid.ohri.ca>.

***Dr. Sharon E. Straus** is a geriatrician and clinical epidemiologist who trained at the University of Toronto and the University of Oxford. She is the Director of the Knowledge Translation Program and Deputy Physician-in-Chief, St. Michael's Hospital; Director, Division of Geriatric Medicine, University of Toronto; Vice Chair, and Professor, Department of Medicine, University of Toronto. She holds a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Knowledge Translation and Quality of Care and has authored more than 400 publications and 3 textbooks in evidence-based medicine, knowledge translation and mentorship. She is in the top 1% of highly cited clinical researchers as per Web of Science. She holds more than \$57 million in peer reviewed research grants as a principal investigator. She has received national awards for mentorship, research and education.

Dr. Thérèse A. Stukel is a biostatistician focusing on health services and health policy research. She was statistical director of the Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care and co-authored two influential publications on the U.S. healthcare system demonstrating that higher healthcare spending did not lead to better outcomes, and a publication showing that in Canada, higher spending hospitals was associated with better outcomes for acute care patients. Other research interests are the analyses of observational studies, particularly the use of instrumental variables to remove unmeasured confounding and survival bias.

Current research interests are on the effects of health system resources and organization on delivery of care and outcomes in Canada and the U.S., including international comparative studies. She created Ontario Multispecialty Physician Networks, virtual physician networks that mimic U.S. Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs), and has evaluating their efficiency (quality vs. costs) in managing patients with chronic disease. She was an inaugural recipient of a Canadian CIHR Foundation Grant to fund work on predicting high need, high cost patients, prospectively identifying these patients and evaluating their quality of care. Methods will compare traditional statistical prediction models with modern machine-learning methods. She has published over 200 peer-reviewed articles in medical and statistical journals. She was nominated Fellow of the American Statistical Association in 2007.

***Dr. Sheldon Tobe** is a Professor of Medicine at the University of Toronto. He

practices nephrology at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and cares for patients with chronic kidney disease, and hypertension. Dr. Tobe conducts clinical and health services research focused on the implementation of practice guidelines to improve the lives of patients with hypertension and kidney disease. He is the co-Chair of the Canadian Cardiovascular National Guidelines Endeavor (C-CHANGE) has harmonized guidelines between nine of Canada's foremost cardiovascular focused guidelines groups, and contributes to both the Hypertension Canada and Diabetes Canada clinical practice guidelines. He is completing a Heart and Stroke Foundation Chair in Aboriginal and Rural Health Research at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine. He currently supervises students at all levels of their training.

Dr. Karen Tu is a Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at University of Toronto, with a cross appointment in the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation at the University of Toronto and a staff family physician at University Health Network-Toronto Western Hospital Family Health Team. She founded the **Electronic Medical Record Administrative data Linked Database (EMRALD)** and has unique insights into the analysis of primary care electronic medical record (EMR) data. EMRALD is a collection of family physician EMR data of over 350 physicians and 500,000 patients distributed throughout Ontario. She has extensive experience and expertise in the use of primary care EMR data, administrative data and the validation of administrative data algorithms for the identification of common chronic diseases using EMRALD as a reference standard. Dr. Karen Tu is also experienced in the feedback of information to family physicians and the measurement of family physician adherence to guidelines. She also developed the System for Audit and Feedback to Improve caRE (SAFIRE). A web based platform for family physicians to be able to identify their patients with common chronic diseases, receive feedback on their performance on quality indicators for the management of their patients with chronic diseases and receive Main-Pro+ credits for their attention to quality of care. Essentially SAFIRE cleans and analyses family physician data and puts it back into their hands to assist them in providing high quality care for their patients.

*Steering Committee Member