

Biographies

VASCULAR HEALTH PLANNING FORUM



Walter Cooke

Traditional Healer

Walter Cooke (Star Watcher) presently resides in Winona, Ontario and was originally born in Berens River, Manitoba. He works as an Elder/Counselor for De dwa da dehs nye's Aboriginal Health Centre in Hamilton, Ontario. Walter has been doing traditional healing work for approximately 20 years. His teachings come from listening to elders and in large, from his own way of life and that of his parents. He is from the Ojibway - Cree nation and is from the Bear Clan. Walter facilitates a Healing Journey Program at the Aboriginal Health Centre. He obtained his counseling certificate through Mohawk College.

Walter has also been involved with the 'Outdoor Adventure Camp', a community health initiative offered by the Aboriginal Health Centre's Health Promotion and Education Services. At camp, he provides cultural teaching/story telling to youth and parents and begins each day with a Sunrise Ceremony. He has also been involved with many Aboriginal Agencies/Organizations in Hamilton in addressing their own healing journeys.

Dr. Sheldon Tobe, MD, FRCPC, FACP

Sheldon Tobe has been on staff at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre since 1993. As an academic Nephrologist he focused on dialysis research in the 1990's to improve the quality of care of his patients, but shifted focus to blood pressure management as the best way to reduce the need for dialysis. He is the Chair of the Recommendations Task Force for the Canadian Hypertension Education Program (CHEP) that provides the annual Canadian hypertension recommendations, one of the most successful knowledge translations projects in the country.

Dr. Tobe has combined his position as Staff Nephrologist at Sunnybrook with that of Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Toronto to provide a mix of clinical care, teaching and research as well as an interest in administration as it relates to improving health care outcomes. Dr. Tobe is an active researcher in Health Services Sciences, conducting many clinical trials.

He is a researcher and spokesman in the area of hypertension for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario and is a mentor for the HSFO Hypertension Management Initiative program. Dr. Tobe is a member of various professional and volunteer organizations. Dr. Tobe has served as Medical Director of the Kidney Foundation of Canada, Central Ontario Branch, the Executive Committee of the Ontario Association of Nephrology, has served also on the board of directors of the Canadian Hypertension Society and the Education Committee of the Canadian Society of Nephrology. He is also a member of the Canadian Diabetes Association.

Dr. Andrew Mente, PhD, MA

Assistant Professor, Department of Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics

Dr. Mente is interested in examining novel gene variants and their interaction with dietary components or patterns associated with cardiovascular disease outcomes (e.g., myocardial infarction, sudden cardiac death, heart failure, and stroke) and key intermediate phenotypes (e.g., dysglycemia, dyslipidemia, abdominal obesity, and hypertension). Dr. Mente is also involved in the Population Urban and Rural Epidemiological (PURE) study, a large multi-national prospective cohort study investigating lifestyle behaviors, cardiovascular risk factors, and incidence of chronic diseases. He is particularly interested in identifying dietary constituents and patterns associated with obesity, diabetes, hypertension, and cardiovascular disease in different ethnic populations.

Margaret Moy Lum-Kwong

Director, High Blood Pressure Strategy, The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario

The High Blood Pressure Strategy includes the Hypertension Management Initiative and the Aboriginal Hypertension Management Program, which is currently being piloted in 2 First Nation communities in Ontario; research in two emerging areas in hypertension. Her portfolio also includes professional education. She completed her BScN at the University of Toronto and her MBA at the Schulich School of Business. Her experience in leading systems changes in healthcare includes the development and implementation of web-based Public Reporting on Long-Term Care Homes for the government of Ontario.