

Biography of Speakers

Prof. Josephine Pui-Hing Wong 黃佩卿教授 (Nominated Principal Investigator of PROTECH) is a professor at the Daphne Cockwell School of Nursing at Ryerson University. She has extensive experience in critical public health. She specializes in community-based action research, stigma reduction interventions, and implementation science to promote health equity among racialized and marginalized communities. During the 2003 SARS outbreak, Dr. Wong worked at the Toronto Public Health SARS Control Centre, and volunteered with Toronto's Coalition Concerned About SARS, to establish and co-lead the SARS Support Line in response to community needs.

Dr. Kenneth P. Fung 馮浦倫醫生 (Co-Principal Investigator of PROTECH) is a cultural psychiatrist and Clinical Director of the Asian Initiatives in Mental Health (AIM) at Toronto Western Hospital, University Health Network. He is also an associate professor with the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto. Dr. Fung is the current president of the Society for the Study of Psychiatry and Culture (SSPC). He is highly sought after, both nationally and internationally, for his expertise as a trainer, consultant, and researcher in applying Acceptance and Commitment Therapy to promote mental health across diverse communities. He was also co-founder and co-lead of the SARS Support Hotline alongside Dr. Wong in 2003.

Dr. Alan T. Li 李大為醫生 (Co-Principal Investigator of PROTECH) is a primary care physician at Regent Park Health Community Centre with over 30 years of experience working with diverse and marginalized communities to advance health equity and social justice. As the past president of the Chinese Canadian National Council, founding president of Asian Community AIDS Services and the Committee for Accessible AIDS Treatment, Dr. Li has worked closely with community stakeholders on many research projects that directly resulted in the creation of innovative services and informed policy changes. These include: the establishment of a compassionate medication program at the Toronto People with AIDS Foundation, immigration legal services at the HIV Legal Clinic of Ontario, multiple health literacy and community mentorship training programs, as well as policy change in health cost threshold for immigration economic exclusion eligibility.

Dr. Mandana Vahabi (Co-Principal Investigator of PROTECH) is a Professor at the Daphne Cockwell School of Nursing at Ryerson University. Dr. Vahabi is a social epidemiologist with expertise in population-based assessment, planning and evaluation in population health programs, and infectious disease surveillance and outbreak management. She held the position of senior epidemiologist and policy consultant at the Toronto District Health Council (TDHC), and Ministry of Health Long Term Care (MOHLTC) for over a decade. During the SARS outbreak, Dr. Vahabi was seconded to the SARS Epi Centre (MOHLTC) to support the SARS response.

Bonnie Wong 黃吳淑芳 is the Executive Director of **Hong Fook Mental Health Association**, an ethno-specific community mental health agency. Hong Fook has a mandate to improve the lives of Asian and other communities. For the past decade, Bonnie has led Hong Fook to live their commitment by providing seamless, person-centred care with a strong equity, health promotion, mental health and community health approach. Bonnie has a wide range of clinical and management experiences. Hong Fook is a leader in championing culturally competent care in engaging and training service providers from the health and settlement sectors in the province of Ontario.

Kate Shao 邵高华 (representing **Chinese Canadian National Council Toronto Chapter**), works as a Human Rights Consultant at the City of Toronto and sits on the Board of Directors for the Chinese Canadian National Council (Toronto Chapter). Prior to working at the City, she practiced employment and human rights law. Kate received a Juris Doctor from the University of Toronto and a Bachelor of Arts (Honours with Distinction) from Queen's University in Political Studies and Global Development. She has completed exchange programs in London, Shanghai, and Osaka, and enjoys visiting art galleries, drinking coffee, and travelling.