

Accelerating Randomized Trials

Workshop Speaker Bios

Erika Basile

Erika Basile is the Director of Research Ethics and Compliance at Western University. She is currently working towards a Master of Professional Education - Educational Leadership. She also holds a Bachelor of Science in Genetics and Cell Biology from the University of British Columbia.



Ms. Basile ensures research conducted at Western University and its affiliates is accomplished at the highest level of compliance with all applicable institutional, local, provincial and federal regulations. With more than 15 years of experience in academic and research environments, she provides senior expertise, guidance and leadership for researchers regarding research compliance. She also has extensive experience in partnership development, compliance, organizational restructuring, and optimization.

Her work at Western University ensures that key institutional stakeholders are informed of research compliance matters and that staff, committee members, and researchers obtain sufficient training and professional development regarding research compliance and ethical research conduct. Her work has also enhanced the operational framework for research and built bridges across research areas and service units.

Dr. Glenn Bauman

Dr. Glenn Bauman is a radiation oncologist specializing in Genitourinary and Central Nervous System Malignancies. He is also a professor and former Chair/Chief (2005-2020) of the Department of Oncology in the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry at Western University and is an Associate Scientist with the Lawson Health Research Institute. Dr. Bauman obtained his undergraduate and medical degrees from Western, where he also completed his residency in Radiation Oncology. He completed a clinical fellowship in Radiation Oncology focused on adult and pediatric brain tumor treatment at the University of California, San Francisco.



Dr. Bauman's primary areas of clinical practice are in genitourinary and central nervous system tumors and his areas of research interest include multi-modality image-guided radiotherapy and cancer imaging. He is a leading international expert in multi-modality image-guided radiotherapy and cancer imaging; research areas strongly intertwined with his primary areas of clinical practice in genitourinary and central nervous system tumors.

In 2021, Dr. Bauman was recognized by Western University with the 2021 Distinguished University Professor Award for his excellence in scholarship. Through his career supporting the greater cancer research community in London, Bauman transformed oncology into a signature research area at Western, leading to substantial peer-reviewed funding from the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research for several London cancer researchers over the past 15 years.

Dr. Kristin Clemens

Dr. Kristin Clemens is an Assistant Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Western University, an Adjunct ICES Scientist, an Associate Scientist at Lawson Health Research Institute, a General Endocrinologist at St. Joseph's Hospital, and Medical Director of the Osteoporosis and Metabolic Bone Disease Program at St. Joseph's Health Care London.



As a Clinician-Researcher Dr. Clemens advances studies to improve the care and outcomes of patients living with complex endocrine diseases, particularly those with diabetes/metabolic bone disease and CKD. She has experience with diverse research methods, including observational designs, patient-oriented research, surveys, and qualitative methodology. She is currently advancing a pilot study for a randomized control trial of drug therapy embedded in routine care dialysis units.

Dr. Clemens has more than 50 peer-reviewed publications, has supervised more than 25 trainees in health research, and has acquired research grants from CIHR, the Kidney Foundation of Canada, AMOSO, Research Western, and the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry. She has received awards for both administrative leadership, and research (Diabetes Canada Junior Investigator Award 2017).

Dr. Stephanie Dixon

Dr. Stephanie Dixon is an Adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Western University and a biostatistician with the ICES Kidney, Dialysis & Transplantation (KDT) Program, located at ICES Western in London, Ontario. She is also an ICES Staff Adjunct Scientist in the KDT Program and an Associate Graduate Faculty in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Guelph.



She trained at Western University under Dr. Allan Donner (Post-Doctorate in Biostatistics), the University of Guelph in Guelph, Ontario (MSc and Ph.D.) and at McMaster University (Honours BSc in Mathematics and Statistics).

Dr. Dixon's research is supported by a multi-year grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research - Innovative Clinical Trials. She is developing and applying methods for the design and analysis of cluster randomization trials. To date, Dr. Dixon's efforts have focused on supporting research within KDT and for the Ontario Renal Network (ORN) - a key knowledge user of ICES. This multi-disciplinary work has motivated her statistical research plan, which concentrates on methods for administrative health data involving time-to-event and correlated data.

Dr. Sandra Eldridge

Dr. Sandra Eldridge was Professor of Biostatistics and Director of the Pragmatic Clinical Trials Unit at Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry until December 2021 and Associate Dean for Strategic Developments until December 2020. She has a degree in mathematics from Oxford University and an MSc in Medical Demography from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.



Following her MSc, she worked at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine for several years before accepting a teaching position at the London Metropolitan University. In 1994, Dr. Eldridge joined Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry as a lecturer in medical statistics, focused predominately in primary care. She moved to the then Department of General Practice and Primary Care in 1999, where she developed an interest in cluster randomized trials which led to

completing a doctorate focusing on these trials in 2005. Dr. Eldridge was the joint lead of the Centre for Primary Care and Public Health between 2007 and 2017 and a member of the Society for Academic Primary Care (SAPC) Executive between 2012 and 2017 and a member of the Royal Statistical Society Council between 2015 and 2019, and since 2015 has been an honorary member of the Royal College of General Practitioners.

Most of her research focuses on cluster randomized trials and complex interventions, particularly in primary care. Her research has resulted in an impressive portfolio of influential peer-reviewed publications in this focus area, including extensive research funded by the National Institute of Health Research. In addition to her methodological research, Dr. Eldridge holds primary responsibility for the statistical design and analysis aspects of many collaborative research projects. Many of these projects involve cluster randomized trials.

In 2002, Dr. Eldridge was instrumental in setting up the Primary Health Care Study Group of the Royal Statistical Society, a group that brings statisticians in primary care together for mutual encouragement, support and collaboration. To further the support of researchers and providers trying to maintain a balance between their core discipline and work in primary care, in 2012, Dr. Eldridge collaborated with Professor Christine Bond to establish the SAPC mentorship scheme and the Primary Health Care Scientists group within SAPC to support and encourage non-medical members of SAPC in their careers.

Dr. Amit Garg

Dr. Amit Garg is the Associate Dean for Clinical Research, at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry. He is also a Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology & Biostatistics at Western University and an internationally recognized nephrologist and clinical scientist. Dr. Garg serves as a staff nephrologist with London Health Sciences Centre, Scientist with the Lawson Health Research Institute, and Scientist with ICES. He is the Site Director of the ICES Western facility in London, Ontario, and Program Lead for the ICES Kidney, Dialysis & Transplantation Provincial Research Program (KDT).



In 2014, Dr. Garg was awarded the inaugural Dr. Adam Linton Chair in Kidney Health Analytics, and in 2021, he was awarded the Hellmuth Prize for Achievement in Research, Western University's highest distinction for excellence in research. Dr. Garg is the Medical Lead for the Enhance Access to Kidney Transplantation and Living Donation Project with the Ontario Renal Network, which is an agency created by the Government of Ontario that manages the delivery

of chronic kidney disease services in the province. In this role, Dr. Garg conducts clinical and health services research to improve health outcomes for patients with chronic kidney disease.

Dr. Joel Gagnier

Dr. Joel Gagnier is a clinical epidemiologist, Associate Professor in the Departments of Surgery and Epidemiology and Biostatistics in the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry at Western University.

Dr. Gagnier trained clinically as a Naturopathic Doctor (ND) and obtained an MSc and Ph.D. in Clinical Epidemiology from the University of Toronto. He then completed post-doctoral training in Clinical Epidemiologic Methods at the University of Michigan. Dr. Gagnier's research focuses on musculoskeletal conditions, specifically improving patient care outcomes, improving methods and reporting of clinical research, and more recently investigating the MSK manifestations of COVID-19.



Throughout his career, Dr. Gagnier has taught and supervised graduate students in a variety of programs as well as many junior faculty, fellows, residents and medical students. He has taught courses in clinical epidemiology, meta-analyses, psychometrics/measurement, clinical research methods, critical appraisal, evidence-based medicine and other related areas. His research interests include evidence-based medicine, randomized controlled trial methods and reporting, systematic review methods and reporting, biostatistics, health measurement scales, patient safety initiatives and generally in musculoskeletal conditions.

Dr. Gagnier has had funding for clinical and methodologic research from the NIH, CIHR, FDA, AHRQ, PCORI and various foundations, has more than 150 peer-reviewed publications and sits on various committees and editorial boards. He serves as the Chair-Elect of the Orthopaedic Research Society Strategies in Clinical Research Section and is the Editor-in-Chief of the Sage Publishers journal Research Methods in Medicine & Health Science. He is also actively involved with the international research groups OMERACT, Cochrane, and the Equator Network/CONSORT Group.

Dr. Vipul Jairath

Dr. Vipul Jairath is a Gastroenterologist and Professor of Medicine in the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry and holds the John and Susan McDonald Endowed Chair in Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD) Clinical Research at Western University. He has a cross-appointment in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Western, is a Lawson Scientist, and a Scientist in the Program of Experimental Medicine.



His research interests are centered around: (a) design, conduct and execution of investigator-initiated clinical trials; (b) outcome measure and index development and validation for use in clinical trials, including patient-reported outcome measures; (c) prediction modeling for outcomes and response to therapy; and (d) methodological research in the design and analysis of clinical trials.

Dr. Jairath is principal investigator for several randomized controlled trials and sits on several clinical trials steering and data monitoring committees (industry and non-industry funded). He has over 300 publications and supervises several students at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Dr. Mahesh Nagappa

Dr. Mahesh Nagappa is an Assistant Professor in the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry at Western University in the Department of Anesthesia and Perioperative Medicine. Dr. Nagappa received his M.D. in India in 2008. Prior to joining Western University, Dr. Nagappa worked at University of Toronto, following a fellowship in regional anesthesia and Perioperative Medicine.

His current research focuses on digital healthcare and improving perioperative outcomes. Dr. Nagappa has published over 60 articles since joining western University in several peer-reviewed journals.



He is current academic chair of Ontario society of anesthesiologist, current chair of Canadian society of anesthesiologist, ambulatory section.

Dr. Monica Taljaard

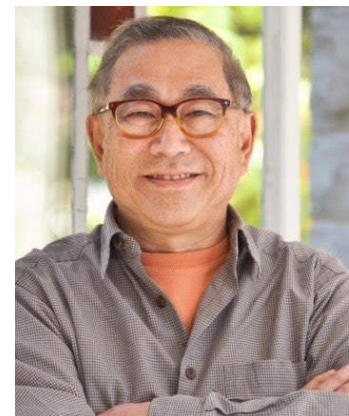
Monica Taljaard is a Senior Scientist in the Clinical Epidemiology Program at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute (OHRI) and a Full Professor in the School of Epidemiology and Public Health at the University of Ottawa. She received her Ph.D. degree in Epidemiology and Biostatistics at Western University in London, Ontario, Canada, in 2006. Her main research interests are in the design, analysis and ethics of pragmatic and cluster randomized trials.



As a methodologist with the Ottawa Methods Centre, she works with clinicians and researchers from a variety of backgrounds in the design and analysis of their studies including clinical trials and observational studies. Dr. Taljaard has 400 publications in peer-reviewed journals and has been principal investigator, co-investigator or collaborator on more than 180 funded peer-reviewed grants. She is Deputy Editor of Clinical Trials: Journal of the Society for Clinical Trials.

Dr. Anthony Tang

Dr. Anthony Tang has been a Professor in the Department of Medicine at Western University since 2013 and is an Adjunct Professor in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Ottawa. Dr. Tang is a Staff Electrophysiologist, Division of Cardiology, London Health Sciences Centre, and Chair of Cardiovascular Population Health. He obtained his MD from the University of Toronto and his clinical training in Internal Medicine and Cardiology at the University of Ottawa.



Dr. Tang obtained a Heart and Stroke Research Fellowship to receive electrophysiology research training at Duke University Medical Centre. He is a member of the Ontario Medical Association, American College of Cardiology (Fellow), Canadian Cardiovascular Society, Heart Rhythm Society (Fellow), and American Heart Association.

Dr. Tang is a world-renowned cardiologist and researcher, who believes that research is grounded in the care provided to patients. His clinical and research expertise is in the diagnosis and treatment of patients with cardiac arrhythmia, particularly those who suffer from heart failure. He has conducted several multinational, multicenter clinical trials in the last 15 years

and is currently funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for research that examines treatment options for patients in atrial fibrillation with heart failure.

Dr. Tang is CEO and Scientific Director for the Cardiac Arrhythmia Network of Canada (CANet), which is funded by the Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE). In this role, he works with a team of national researchers to improve cardiac care and reduce negative outcomes for cardiac patients.

Dr. Charles Weijer

Dr. Charles Weijer is a Professor of medicine, epidemiology and biostatistics, and philosophy at Western University. Dr. Weijer graduated from the University of Alberta's medical school. He also holds an Honours Bachelor of Arts, Master of Science, and Doctorate in Bioethics from McGill University.



Dr. Weijer is a leading expert on the ethics of randomized controlled trials. He co-led a collaboration that produced the first international ethics guidelines for cluster randomized trials. He led the writing team for the World Health Organization guidance on “Ethical Considerations for Health Policy and Systems Research.” Recently, he served on the WHO Working Group for Guidance on Human Challenge Studies in COVID-19.

Dr. Weijer's current work explores ethical issues in pragmatic randomized controlled trials that evaluate health interventions in real-world conditions to better inform patients, health providers and health systems managers. This project, funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, brings together a research team comprising philosophers, biostatisticians, and trialists from five countries.

In 2014, he received Western's Hellmuth Prize for Achievement in Research, and, in 2016, he was elected to the Royal Society of Canada.

Dr. Merrick Zwarenstein

Dr. Merrick Zwarenstein is a Professor in the Departments of Family Medicine and Epidemiology & Biostatistics at Western University. He is a health services researcher focused on research methodology, specifically randomized trials of complex interventions in primary care. He trained at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden (Ph.D.), the London School of Hygiene in the UK (MSc in Community Health) and Witwatersrand University Medical School in South Africa (medical degree and MSc in Microbiology).



He leads collaborative research projects, bringing together partners from around the world to promote the conduct and use of health systems research, especially pragmatic randomized trials in healthcare decision-making. He is the principal investigator for a network of Canadian health services and policy research focused on overcoming the limitations of randomized trials in support of policy decision-making.

In addition to his support for the development of many research projects, Dr. Zwarenstein has also led the production of several research tools, including web-based training tools for randomized trials and widely used guidelines for the design and reporting of pragmatic randomized trials. He has also developed new uses for Ontario's administrative health databases for large-scale implementation and cluster randomized trial evaluation of quality-of-care interventions, resulting in some of the world's largest randomized trials.

Dr. John Yoo

Dr. John Yoo is internationally recognized as a pioneering head and neck surgeon who developed innovative techniques for reconstructive facial surgery. His research and clinical interests include head and neck cancer, thyroid and parathyroid, reconstructive surgery, and management of the paralyzed face.

Dr. Yoo completed his medical degree at the University of Toronto in 1991, where he also completed his residency and fellowship training in head and neck oncologic and reconstructive surgery. He joined the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry faculty in 1997 and is a Professor in the Departments of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery and Oncology.



Dr. Yoo has established a track record of driving constructive organizational change and advancing team scholarship through collaborative leadership. Before being named Dean, Dr. Yoo served as Chair/Chief of two different clinical departments over a 14-year leadership career. He served as Chair/Chief of the Department of Paediatrics from 2018 to 2020 and the Department of Otolaryngology-Head & Neck Surgery from 2006 to 2017.

A fiercely dedicated academic, clinician and leader, Dr. Yoo has served on many regional, provincial, national and international committees and societies. Currently, he is an Executive Board member of the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Asia-Pacific Society of Thyroid Surgery, and President-elect of the Canadian Association of Head and Neck Surgical Oncology.