

Lori-Snyder MacGregor, winner of OPHA's Award of Excellence 2015

OPHA is pleased to recognize Lori-Snyder MacGregor as the 2015 recipient of OPHA's Award of Excellence for her contributions to public health, her leadership and commitment to innovation, health equity and capacity building.

Lori Snyder MacGregor is a public health nurse in the Reproductive Health and Family Dynamics Division of the Region of Waterloo Public Health and Emergency Services. She's been described by her peers as a pioneer, leader, policy developer, innovator and collaborator and someone who truly exemplifies OPHA's mission.

Early on, Lori's peers could see that she was focused on the big picture of public health and now she is a part of that big picture! Through her daily work in reproductive health, Lori showed deep caring in her interactions with prenatal clients. It was this compassion and her tenacity that inspired Lori to become an advocate for violence prevention and a leader at the local, provincial, national and international levels.

Lori has been an OPHA member for almost 15 years and was an early member of OPHA's Violence Prevention Workgroup. Through Lori's involvement with this group, she was instrumental in developing a position paper and resolution on violence prevention passed by OPHA's AGM in 2003. She then got to work with others on getting a similar resolution passed at CPHA in 2004 and creating the first Town Hall on Violence Prevention as part of CPHA's conference.

She worked with colleagues from across the country to develop Prevention of Violence Canada which she co-chaired in 2007. She then went on to represent POVC at the WHO Violence Prevention Alliance Meeting in 2008. As a member of this Alliance, Lori is shaping the direction of the Alliance's work while continuing to assist with CPHA's annual Town Hall, including the recent creation of a National Violence Prevention Charter.

At the local level, Lori Co-Chairs the Central West Perinatal Mood Disorder Networking Committee and contributes to violence prevention activities as a member of the municipality's Domestic Assault Review Team (DART).

OPHA is pleased to be able to recognize this ground breaking and exceptional work and honor Lori by conferring her with OPHA's Award of Excellence.

Anjum Sultana, winner of Dr. Sheela Basrur Scholarship

OPHA created the Dr. Sheela Basrur Scholarship Award to honour the vocation and life work of Dr. Sheela Basrur, a champion of public health and former Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario.

OPHA is pleased to present the Dr. Sheela Basrur Scholarship to Anjum Sultana. Anjum is in her second year of her Masters of Public Health degree at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health. Anjum's peers describe her as a passionate, visionary and results oriented leader dedicated to promoting greater health equity for marginalized populations.

Most recently, Anjum has been Co-Chairing the 8th Annual Student-Led Conference at the University of Toronto under the theme of Racial Justice Matters: Advocating for Racial Health Equity. Under her leadership, the conference has brokered for the first time a unique partnership with the Wellesley Institute to shed light on interpersonal and institutional racism and develop action-oriented workshops that can put values and ideas in action.

Anjum also serves as the Executive Co-Director of IMAGINE, a student-run clinic affiliated with the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto. The clinic provides free access to medical and social services for downtown Toronto's underserved communities, such as those that are chronically homeless as well as immigrants and refugees. She has also contributed to research projects at Women's College Hospital, University of Toronto and The Hospital for Sick Children focused on the health and well-being of racialized populations.

Anjum is also a prolific writer on the topic of public health and has written about housing, global health, racial health equity and more.

As a practicum student at the Association of Ontario Health Centres, Anjum spearheaded efforts to increase the impact and reach of the Campaign for National Drug Coverage and strategized on ways make national drug coverage a federal election issue.

No doubt we will be hearing more about Anjum's contributions in the years to come.

Congratulations Anjum!

Carol Timmings, OPHA's Lifetime Membership Award 2015

The OPHA Lifetime Member award was created to recognize outstanding contributions to the Association by an OPHA member. This year, OPHA presented this award to Carol Timmings.

Carol is currently the Chief Nursing Officer and Director of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention with Toronto Public Health and a long-time member of OPHA – over twenty years. Carole readily took on leadership roles within OPHA, serving as Board Secretary, President Elect and then President for two years through 2008 and 2009.

As this period included OPHA's 60th Anniversary, Carol used this milestone to profile OPHA's contributions to public health in Ontario. Under Carol's leadership, OPHA's governance was strengthened as well as advocacy efforts to promote health, equity and social justice. OPHA expanded its connections to a broad base of partners and external stakeholders to increase its impact. The close collaboration with alpha , for example, led to a more effective advocacy. New communications vehicles were used to keep members informed and bring more attention to public health issues. The Public Health Today magazine, for example, was launched, a first in Ontario. New projects were also undertaken such as Towards Evidence-Informed Practice to build capacity in the public health sector.

Carole has also promoted OPHA's mission through her extensive involvement with both national and provincial nursing professional associations and advisory boards, including RNAO's Board of Directors Community Health Nurses of Canada, the Provincial Chief Nursing Officer Nursing Network and ANDSOOHA - Public Nursing Management in Ontario. Carole is also the organizational lead for the RNAO's Best Practice Spotlight Organization initiative and nursing quality practice and is now their President-Elect.

Carole has always been a strong champion of OPHA's mission and the value of OPHA membership; she has encouraging many others to get involved and take on leadership roles. She speaks eloquently about how association with OPHA can help public health professionals have more influence in shaping public policy, tackle health disparities, enhance their skills, knowledge and competencies and stay connected and in the know.

As someone who takes great pride in her profession, she is highly committed to developing the next generation of talent and readily shared her insights through OPHA's Mentoring Webinar Series. Her role as an adjunct faculty member at McMaster University, Queen's University and the University of Toronto also speaks to this commitment.

Carol, we want to honour and thank you for your outstanding contributions to OPHA by bestowing you with OPHA's Lifetime Membership Award.

Dr. David Mowat, winner of OPHA's Honorary Membership Award 2015

OPHA is pleased to be able to recognize and honour Dr. David Mowat as the 2015 recipient of OPHA's Honorary Membership Award for his outstanding contributions to public health in Ontario.

With a career spanning over 35 years, Dr. Mowat has left his mark on the public health sector not only in Ontario but at the national level as well.

Some of you may know Dr. Mowat from his role as Medical Officer of Health for Peel Region. There he created a strong organizational culture for evidence-informed decision making and broke new ground on many fronts. The report he prepared with colleagues across the region in 2014, for example, called Improving Health by Design, brought much needed attention to the role that transportation and community design can play in influencing people's health. As noted by one of his colleagues "Dr. Mowat's influence shaped Peel Public Health to its core" and "placed it in a leadership position within the public health community".

Throughout his career, Dr. Mowat has been committed to furthering public health education. He serves as an adjunct faculty member at McMaster University, Queen's University and the University of Toronto where he's helping to shape the next generation of public health talent.

As Deputy Chief Public Health Officer at the Public Health Agency of Canada, he strengthened public health practice, knowledge translation and the development of the public health workforce. This included, for example, the creation of core competencies, graduate programs, Chairs of Applied Public Health and the National Collaborating Centres for Public Health.

You may not know that much earlier in his career Dr. Mowat was also a Medical Officer of Health in Kingston and served in the role of Chief Medical Officer of Health twice. More recently, as A/CMOH, Dr. Mowat ensured the needed policies and procedures were in place for containing and treating potential cases of Ebola.

We're pleased to know that Dr. Mowat has recently returned to the national scene as Scientific Leader, Population Health at the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer. No doubt he will continue be a champion of prevention and find innovative ways to reduce health disparities and promote health for all.

Dr. Mowat, through OPHA's Award of Honorary Membership, we recognize you and thank you for your exceptional contributions.