



# CAHSR ACRSPS

Canadian Association for Health  
Services and Policy Research

L'Association canadienne pour la  
recherche sur les services et les  
politiques de la santé



**VIRTUALLY CAHSR: A COVID  
INFORMED VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF  
HEALTHCARE AND HEALTH SERVICES  
AND POLICY RESEARCH**

May 27-28, 2020

## COVID19: WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED & HOW HAS HEALTHCARE & RESEARCH CHANGED?

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2020  
11:00am to 12:30pm EDT**

Presented by:

*Michel Grignon, Professor, Departments of Economics & Health Aging & Society, McMaster University*  
*Sacha Bhatia, Chief Medical Innovation Officer, Women's College Hospital*  
*André Picard, Health Reporter and Columnist, The Globe and Mail*

*With the declaration of COVID19 as a pandemic, the demands on the healthcare system changed virtually overnight. The dramatic changes that have taken place in the delivery of care related to the novel corona virus have led to meaningful lessons for us: lessons that if we learn from them will inform how the future of healthcare and health services and policy research will evolve now and into the future.*



Efficiency and equity are often presented as opposing forces in Canada's healthcare system. Serving more people better just intuitively seems as though it would cost more. But health economist Michel Grignon has found in his research that healthcare equity can increase efficiency by allocating resources more effectively to where they are needed. Through his research, Grignon tries to answer questions about how, exactly, to measure equity, and how to measure health itself. Working with colleagues at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia, he is exploring how to assess health and provide healthcare among older people comparing Canada's aging population with countries like Japan, whose population is even older. These issues are urgent not just because older people tend to get sick more often, but also because the nature of those illnesses are different. Currently, Canada's healthcare system - like almost every other country - is constructed to serve acute conditions. Someone gets sick or injured, sees a doctor or nurse for treatment, and is released. Older people, though, are more likely to have permanent chronic conditions such as diabetes, arthritis, and asthma. A healthcare system looks very different when a large percentage of the population it serves will never return to full health. In addition to publishing in traditional academic journals, Grignon also serves as a public commentator on issues of aging and health equity and is helping Canadian policymakers improve how they serve our aging population.



Dr. R. Sacha Bhatia is the FM Hill Chair in Health Systems Solutions and the Chief Medical Innovation Officer of Women's College Hospital (WCH). He is also the Division Head of Cardiology at WCH, as well as a staff cardiologist at University Health Network (UHN). A scientist at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (IC/ES) and an Associate 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. In 2013, he founded the Institute for Health System Solutions and Virtual Care (WIHV) and served as its Director until 2019. He has been a commentator on Bloomberg News, CTV News and the CBC, and has been asked to give over 100 presentations internationally, nationally and regionally over the past 6 years. 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 and the Louise Lemieux Charles Emerging Leader award 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.



André Picard is the health columnist at The Globe and Mail and the author of five books, including *Matters of Life and Death: Public Health Issues in Canada*, and *The Path to Health Care Reform: Policies and Politics*. He also has a large Twitter following at @picardonhealth. André has received much acclaim for his writing, including the Michener Award for Meritorious Public Service Journalism and the Centennial Prize of the Pan-American Health Association, awarded to the top health journalist in the Americas. He is also an eight-time finalist for the National Newspaper Awards - Canada's version of the Pulitzer Prize. He is a seasoned communicator who employs a conversational style to reach his audience. He enlivens his research and commentary with personal stories to provide context for his audience, including anecdotes from patients and health professionals the front lines. André will enlighten and peak a sense of curiosity of audience members from all educational backgrounds. His work as one of North America's top health journalists reflects his personality: Behind the placid exterior lies an inquisitive, perceptive and industrious scribe for whom the work only begins with the official story. André is a graduate of the University of Ottawa and Carleton University, and has received honorary doctorates from six universities, including the University of Toronto, UBC and the University of Manitoba.

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