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**SENIOR COLLEGE**

17<sup>th</sup> Annual Senior College Symposium, April 20, 2022, 8:45am - 4:30pm  
U of T Faculty Club, 41 Willcocks (or by Zoom)

## What Have We Learned from the Pandemic?

Co-Chairs: Bill Logan and Margaret Procter

Committee: Linda Hutcheon (ex officio), Daphne Maurer (ex officio), Carl Baar, Cornelia Baines, Ian Burton, Deanne Bogdan, Larry Bourne, Suzanne Hidi, Giuliana Katz, Merrijoy Kelner, Helen Lenskyj, Scott Rogers, Peter Russell

**8:45**            **Welcome: Michael Hutcheon, Principal of Senior College**

**Session 1: Chair, Margaret Procter**

**8:50-9:50**    **Allison McGeer**  
**“Grading Canada’s pandemic response in healthcare: How have we done?”**

When the pandemic was first declared, it rapidly became obvious that if we could not control transmission, large numbers of people would develop serious illness, and our healthcare systems would be completely overwhelmed. There was also a critical need to understand the disease, to develop vaccines and therapy. This talk will provide a perspective on Canada’s successes and challenges, and on what work is left to be done.

Dr. Allison McGeer is a Professor in Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology and at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto, and an Infectious Disease Specialist and Senior Clinician Scientist at the Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute of the Sinai Health System in Toronto. Her research interests are in adult immunization, emerging infections, and antimicrobial resistance. Since February, 2020, she has been working on research related to the prevention and management of COVID-19.



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**9:50-10:50 Adalsteinn (Steini) Brown**  
**“The challenges of science advice during a pandemic”**

Translating scientific evidence into policy has always been a challenge. The COVID-19 Pandemic has shown some of the opportunities and challenges facing those who attempt to use science to shape policy during a crisis. This talk will explore these challenges and suggest ways to avoid or at least reduce them in future crises.

Adalsteinn (Steini) Brown is Dean of the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. He has filled senior leadership roles in policy and strategy within the Ontario Government and done extensive work on performance measurement. He received his undergraduate degree in government from Harvard University and his doctorate from the University of Oxford, where he was a Rhodes Scholar. He is a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.

**10:50-11:10 Refreshment break**

**Session 2: Chair, Daphne Maurer**

**11:10-12:10 Andrew Boozary**  
**“COVID-19 and the pathologies of poverty”**

In 2022, a postal code remains a better predictor of health outcomes than a genetic code. The COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated these long standing health inequities and exposed the mirage of universality in our health system. The pandemic has also forced policymakers and the public to re-examine our notions of health. The policy solutions to address the pathologies of poverty have long been known, and ultimately, we are now faced with choices of political will.

Dr. Andrew Boozary is a primary care physician and Executive Director, Population Health and Social Medicine at the University Health Network (UHN). He holds academic appointments at U of T in Health Policy, Management and Evaluation and at Columbia in Public Health, and is Founding Editor of the *Harvard Public Health Review*. At UHN he works to develop new models of healthcare delivery for patients with complex health and social needs. He currently serves as co-lead of the Toronto Region COVID-19 Homelessness Response and as a member of the CMA’s Post-Pandemic Expert Advisory Group.

**12:10-1:10 Dawn Bowdish**  
**“COVID-19 vaccinations in vulnerable populations: Tales from a scientist turned science communicator”**

COVID-19 vaccines have performed better than other types of vaccines in older adults and vulnerable populations; however, the roll-out of these vaccines has highlighted issues with science literacy, social cohesion and the ubiquity of misinformation. This talk will show the results of my research on vaccine effectiveness in vulnerable populations and share stories and insights on how these results are interpreted by people who are vaccine hesitant and resistant and what strategies work and don't work to communicate research results to a skeptical public.

Dr. Dawn Bowdish is the Canada Research Chair in Aging and Immunity at McMaster University and the Executive Director of the Firestone Institute for Respiratory Health. She studies how the aging immune system contributes to respiratory infections and alters vaccine responses.

**1:10-2:15 Lunch Buffet, Main Lounge**

**Session 3: Chair, Bill Logan**

**2:15-3:20 Linda Hutcheon, moderator**  
**“Creative adaptation: Arts organizations learn from COVID-19”**

The pandemic posed serious challenges to performing arts organizations. How they adapted—economically and creatively—is the topic of this panel discussion that will range from the trials to the hidden benefits of the public health restrictions and will consider the new altered perspectives on the companies, the art forms, and the future of both.

**Antoni Cimolino**, actor and director, has served as General Manager, General Director, Executive Director and now Artistic Director of the Stratford Festival. He is the co-creator of the *Stratford Festival on Film*, an ambitious project to capture all of Shakespeare's plays on film. This season he will direct *Richard III* and *The Miser*, both featuring Colm Feore in their title roles.

**Joel Ivany** is the Artistic Director at Edmonton Opera, is the Founder and Artistic Director at Against the Grain Theatre and serves as Artistic Director of Opera at Banff Centre. He lives in Edmonton, with his wife, soprano Miriam Khalil and their two young sons.

**Barry Hughson** is the Executive Director and co-CEO of The National Ballet of Canada. A former professional ballet dancer, Mr. Hughson is deeply engaged with the international arts community and has served as Executive Director at a variety of arts institutions in the US, including The Warner Theatre, Complexions Contemporary Ballet, American Repertory Ballet, Atlanta Ballet and Boston Ballet.

**Linda Hutcheon**, University Professor Emeritus, English/Comparative Literature, U of T, author of 9 books on contemporary culture and co-author of 4 books on opera with Dr. Michael Hutcheon.

**3:20-4:20 Peter Russell**

**“What the pandemic taught us about governance—Global and local”**

From a global perspective we must recognize the inadequacy of the international system of sovereign nation-states and of the United Nations to deal effectively with a world-wide pandemic. The only path I see for overcoming this inadequacy, and its inadequacies in dealing with other existential threats to our species and our planet, is for the United Nations to move towards becoming a world federation with an independent and democratic central government exercising a few essential powers.

Peter Russell is an Emeritus Professor of Political Science at the University of Toronto. He has published widely in the fields of constitutional, judicial and Indigenous politics. His talk draws from his recently published book, *Sovereignty: The Biography of a Claim* (U of T Press, 2021).

**4:20-4:30 Final Remarks**

**4:30 Reception**