

SPEAKER PROFILES

POTPOURRI OF MEDICINE UPDATE 2018

BRITISH ISLES: JULY 13-25, 2018



Bradley J. Dibble, MD FRCPC, FACC

Dr. Dibble was born and raised in Barrie and attended Barrie North Collegiate, graduating top of his class and serving as valedictorian in 1984. He attended McMaster University in the Arts and Science Programme for two years before attending medical schools at the University of Western Ontario in London, where he graduated cum laude in 1990. He remained in London to complete training in Internal Medicine followed by Cardiology, and then completed a six-month position as a Clinical Assistant for the Department of Cardiology at Victoria Hospital. He started his practice in Barrie in 1996, and joined the team at Southlake in 2000 where he has worked in the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory.

He has a broad-based practice in clinical cardiology, with a particular interest in preventative medicine and risk factor modification. He has been the regional spokesperson for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario, and is often on radio and television discussing cardiovascular issues. He was the Physician Lead for the Division of Cardiology and the Clinical Director of the Cardiovascular Program at RVH from 2012 to 2017, helping to bring advanced cardiac care to the region's own Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory which officially opened in January 2018.

Outside of Cardiology, he also has an interest in the climate crisis, and was appointed by the federal Minister of the Environment (the late Jim Prentice) as one of 25 members to the Sustainable Development Advisory Council, a membership he still maintains. He has written a book on the subject entitled 'Comprehending the Climate Crisis' which has won awards and been endorsed by former Canadian astronaut Col. Chris Hadfield, and has received training from former Vice President and Nobel Laureate Al Gore in San Francisco in August 2012, allowing him to provide versions of Mr. Gore's climate talk to Canadians. He now serves as a Mentor for Climate Reality Canada.



Sophia Thomas BSc MD CCFP ABEM

Completed MD at university of western Ontario in 1996. I travelled to Ottawa Ontario to complete family medicine residency in 1998. I then ventured home to southwestern Ontario and completed emergency medicine residency in Detroit Michigan 1998-2001. I currently practice full time emergency medicine in Windsor Ontario at level 2 trauma center, and fulfill role of trauma team leader and critical care assistant. I have held offices in hospital administration as Chair of the Ethics and credentials Committee, President of the medical staff and medical director of the emergency department. Currently I fulfill an active role in teaching as an adjunct professor of emergency medicine with the Schulich school of medicine and dentistry, university of western Ontario, Windsor program. I had the pleasure in being the undergraduate director for emergency medicine for 6 years but stepped down in 2016 to allow for more time for my family.



Benjamin Burko, MD

Dr. Benjamin Burko is a graduate of McGill University (BSc. 1984, MDCM 1988) and completed his General Pediatrics Residency/Emergency Fellowship at The Montreal Children's Hospital in 1993. He is an assistant professor of medicine at the McGill University Health Centre in the department of Pediatrics and Family Medicine, and clinician teacher, supervising 50 students per year. He is the practice manager and medical director of Tiny Tots Medical Centre, the largest (non-hospital) pediatric ambulatory facility in Canada, which features the services of 41 Physicians and 11 therapists in two locations – servicing the needs of 130,000 patient visits annually. He has been on the forefront of using technology to enhance medical office administration and clinical encounters, driving operational expenses and office overhead to record lows while creating efficiencies enjoyed by the Physicians, Support Staff and Patients alike. He is a regular speaker on a national and international level in Pediatrics and on issues dealing with Practice Management. He is married and has two sons.

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Abu Obeida A. Hamour MBBS, MSc, MRCP(UK), DTM&H, CCST(UK), FRCP(Edin), FRCPC

Dr. Hamour qualified as a physician at the University of Khartoum, Sudan (1981). He continued his training in Internal Medicine, Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine in Sudan and United Kingdom between 1981-90. From 1991-98, Dr. Hamour was a Clinical Lecturer in Communicable Diseases at the University of Manchester and North Manchester General Hospital. This role included day-to-day care of patients (including those with chronic hepatitis), teaching and assessment of students, and organization of the teaching program. Between 1998-2005, he was a Consulting Physician in Infectious Diseases in two Armed Forces Hospitals in Saudi Arabia where he was involved in developing treatment guidelines for common infections, HIV care/prevention, TB clinics/screening, chronic hepatitis clinics and infection control procedures.

Dr. Hamour has been an Infectious Disease Physician in Prince George since 2005, providing the majority of hepatitis C and HIV care in the North. From 2012-15 he served as the Department Head of Medicine at University Hospital Northern BC.

In 2009, Dr. Hamour joined the University of British Columbia's Northern Medical Program as a Clinical Assistant Professor. He supervises residents on elective in his practice, teaches endocrine and infectious disease courses at UNBC, and provides a number of CME lectures each year to students, residents, and nurses.

As Medical Director for HIV and HCV care since 2014, Dr. Hamour leads implementation of HIV prevention, testing for early diagnosis, and improved access and quality of HIV/HCV care and support services within Northern Health, guided by the Northern Health HIV/HCV strategy and the Hope to Health document. The aim is to reduce HIV/HCV incidence and mortality, and provide the highest quality of care to patients living with these chronic diseases in Northern BC communities.

In 2014, Dr. Hamour became Prince George Medical Director for the Northern Health Authority where he is responsible for all physicians and is actively involved in health care planning, strategy, and direction for Prince George. A major initiative currently underway is creation of interdisciplinary health teams (including nurses, counselors, physicians, and others) in virtual networks to support primary care homes. Prince George is the pilot site for this team-based, holistic care model aimed at improving quality of care and preventing hospitalizations. Central Interior Native Health – a downtown clinic serving Indigenous people, where Dr. Hamour provides HIV and HCV care – is a successful example of this approach.

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Dr. Marni Brooks

Dr. Marni Brooks began her education at McGill university where she completed her Bachelor of Science degree, majoring in psychology and focused her thesis in the area of pediatric pain. She was then sponsored by a physician in Sydney, Australia to assist in his pediatric pain research.

Upon her return to Canada, she completed a Master of Social Work degree where she spent years of training studying women's health and addiction as field placements. This interest continued after she completed her medical degree and family medicine residency at the University of Toronto.

She is now a Fellow in Family Medicine and, until now, has explored working in the areas of family medicine, sleep medicine, addiction medicine and cannabinoid medicine. Dr. Brooks also sits on the OMA Executive of the Section on Addiction Medicine where she assists with negotiations with the Ministry of Health on behalf of the members in her section.

Dr. Brooks now focuses in both the areas of Addiction Medicine and Cannabinoid Medicine, her two main interests. She continues to work on collecting data for future research in her Cannabinoid Medicine practice.

Other experiences include speaking on the Northwinds panel for insurance providers and acting as an expert witness on the safety and medical uses of cannabis in a sentencing hearing.

She hopes to help educate her peers, the community and patients, as well as advocate for them, on the benefits of cannabis for a variety of health conditions, either as sole therapy or in conjunction with other treatments. Her most recent interest is in the area of cannabis use in the integration of cannabis treatment with traditional medicine practices.