

SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHIES

Dr Allison Sekuler

Dr Sekuler (FSEP, FPsyS, FAPS) is the President and Chief Scientist at the Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation (CABHI). A graduate of Pomona College (BA, Mathematics and Psychology) and the University of California, Berkeley (PhD, Psychology), Dr Sekuler is also the President and Chief Scientist and the Sandra A. Rotman Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience at the Baycrest Academy for Research and Education, Professor at the University of Toronto and Professor Emerita at McMaster University. Dr Sekuler has a notable record of scientific achievements in aging, vision science, cognitive neuroscience and neurotechnology; and her translational research aims to develop methods to prevent, detect and treat age-related sensory and cognitive decline.

She has won numerous research and innovation leadership awards, including being the first Canada Research Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience (2001-2011) and one of WXN's Top 100 Most Powerful Women in Canada (2019). Dr Sekuler has a long record of executive leadership, and currently chairs the Natural Science and Engineering Research Council's Public Impact Value Proposition committee; serves on the Board of Governors for Hamilton Health Sciences and BrainsCAN; is a founding Steering Committee member of the Canadian Brain Research Strategy; is a Scientific Mentor in CDL's Neuro stream; and is an advisor for SXSW Pitch. In her spare time, she proves that you're never too old to learn: Dr Sekuler picked up her first set of drumsticks a few years ago and recently earned her Professional Drums Certificate from the Berklee College of Music.

Dr Nicole Anderson

Dr Anderson is a registered clinical neuropsychologist and Associate Scientific Director at **Baycrest's Kimel Family Centre for Brain Health & Wellness** and Director of the Ben & Hilda Katz Interprofessional Research Centre in Geriatric and Dementia Care at BARE. Dr. Anderson has an extensive publication record with 140 research papers and book chapters in international journals covering aging, cognition, and neuropsychology. Her research primarily focuses on memory, attention, and lifestyle interventions aimed at reducing the risk of dementia in both healthy older adults and those with mild cognitive impairment.

"My research program answers two questions: how are memory and attention affected by healthy aging and mild cognitive impairment (MCI), and what can we do to help maintain brain health and reduce dementia risk among older adults? To answer the first question, I am studying how feelings of familiarity and the ability to inhibit irrelevant information are affected by aging and MCI, and how early life trauma (e.g., the Holocaust) affects people's memory for their childhood. These studies advance our understanding not only of normal cognitive aging and MCI, but also more fundamentally of how memory and attention work. To address the second aim, I am running interventions involving exercise, nutrition, cognitive training and cognitive and social engagement with colleagues in the Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging (CCNA; ccna-ccnv.ca). Many of these interventions will move into the new Kimel Family Centre for Brain Health and Wellness, where I am Associative Scientific Director. We aim to discover how these interventions affect cognitive functioning and brain health to reduce the risk of dementia." – Dr Anderson

Bonnie Bagnulo

Bonnie Bagnulo, Executive Director of Niagara Palliative Care, has over 20 years of practical business experience and 25 years working in social services.

She brings with her a background which includes Funeral Home services, Child Psychology, Thanatology, working with children in Ministry, Fundamentals in Bereavement Counselling Skills and Palliative Care.

Bonnie is an excellent facilitator, possessing incredible attention to detail, and most importantly, has an unequivocally compassionate nature. Personally, she has suffered tremendous loss, ultimately guiding her to her true calling so many years ago. She is a self-motivated individual, driven by her passion for nurturing and educating others on a full scope of practice in the Palliative Care approach. Her goal is to bring dignity and quality to end of life healthcare.

Sharry Flett

A multiple award-winning stage and screen artist and a Shaw Festival ensemble member for 33 seasons, **Ms. Flett** will share one of her most challenging roles yet - her story as caregiver for her mother who lived with dementia for years. This deeply personal story offers a rare glimpse into a part of Ms. Flett's life most audiences have never seen.

Shaw Festival Artists

Led by embedded Shaw Artist and improv specialist, **Kristopher Bowman**, members of the Acting Ensemble will facilitate the experiential learning sessions during the public presentation.