

# Ontario Surgical Quality Conference 2016

Keynote Speaker

Dr Karl Bilimoria, MD, MSc



Dr. Bilimoria is a board-certified surgical oncologist and researcher at Northwestern Memorial Hospital and the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center. He is the Vice Chair for Quality and on the faculty in the Department of Surgery at the Feinberg School of Medicine of Northwestern University.

Dr. Bilimoria obtained his undergraduate degree from Northwestern University and his medical degree from the Indiana University School of Medicine. He also obtained a Master's degree in outcomes research from Northwestern. Dr. Bilimoria was a research fellow at the National Institutes of Health and at the American College of Surgeons. He completed his General Surgery residency training at Northwestern. To earn advanced training in treating patient with cancer, he then went on to a prestigious Surgical Oncology Fellowship at the M.D. Anderson Cancer Center.

Dr. Bilimoria's clinical practice focuses on patients with melanoma and skin cancers, sarcoma and soft tissue cancers, and breast cancer. He is known to take a great deal of time with his patients to educate them about their diagnosis and discuss treatment options. He consistently receives high marks from patients and referring providers.

He is particularly focused on patients with complex melanoma, and he has introduced two novel procedures at Northwestern. First, he developed an isolated limb infusion program for patients with in-transit melanoma, and Northwestern is the only hospital in the area to offer this complex procedure. In addition, Dr. Bilimoria introduced minimally invasive inguinal lymphadenectomy for melanoma, an innovative procedure offered at only about 10 centers in the U.S. He is on the American Joint Committee on Cancer Task Force for Melanoma. He also has a research focus in melanoma and has published more than 170 scientific articles.

At Northwestern Memorial Hospital, Dr. Bilimoria serves as the Medical Director of Surgical Quality and is the Chair of the Surgical Oversight and Quality Committee. Dr. Bilimoria is also the Director of the Surgical Outcomes and Quality Improvement Center of Northwestern University (SOQIC) and co-Director of the Northwestern Institute for Comparative Effectiveness Research in Oncology (NICER Onc). His research has focused on examining and improving the delivery and quality of healthcare for surgical and oncology patients. He has published more than 170 scientific articles, commentaries, and book chapters. He is the Principal Investigator on multiple major trials and research initiatives Dr. Bilimoria's research is funded by the National Institutes of Health, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, the American Cancer Society, the National Comprehensive Cancer Network, the American College of Surgeons, the American Board of Surgery, and the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University.

Dr. Bilimoria is an active member and leader in many national surgical and oncology societies including the American College Surgeons, the Society of Surgical Oncology, the American Society of Clinical Oncology, the Commission on Cancer, the American Joint Committee on Cancer (Executive Board member), and the Surgical Outcomes Club (President elect). He also serves on several national advisory committees.



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## Guest Speakers



### **Judith John**

Judith John's career spans all aspects of communications, marketing and public affairs, with an extensive background in arts, culture, not-for-profit, health and social services.

Ms. John is active within the health care sector. She was Vice President of Communications and Public Affairs at the Hospital for Sick Children and Vice President of Communications and Marketing at Mount Sinai Hospital and Foundation. She works with Toronto Western Hospital, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, University Health Network, Michael Garron (Toronto East General) Hospital and Sinai Health System Sinai, concentrating on the patient experience, partnerships and

communications.

As a patient advocate, Ms John has extensive speaking experience, including as keynote presenter for Health Quality Ontario, the Michener Institute convocation, University of Toronto, Schulich School of Business, the Ontario Brain Institute, several LIHNs, Addiction and Mental Health Foundation, McMaster Health Forum and the Acquired Brain Injury Society. A patient advisor for UHN's Partners in Care program, Ms. John is a trained Patient Partner. She was part of the Province of Ontario's Phoenix Project on education and patient care, and Patients Canada. She was on the awards selection committee for The Change Foundation regarding initiatives around patient and family-centred care.

Ms. John has extensive community experience, having served as Vice-President, Marketing and Communications, at United Way of Greater Toronto and Harbourfront Centre. She handled government and stakeholder relations for the Council of Academic Hospitals Ontario.

A writer and communications / marketing consultant, executive coach, facilitator and media coach, Ms John has taught public relations, communications, ethics and marketing at universities and colleges across Ontario and has been a guest speaker for institutions worldwide, including England's National Health Service.

Other community affiliations include the boards of ABC Life Literacy Canada and Theatre 20, Public Affairs Advisory Committee for the Ontario Trillium Foundation, and the Marketing Advisory Board for the Rotman School of Management. Ms John is on the Advisory Board for the Ryerson City Building Institute, as well as The V Generation, an organization promoting meaningful volunteerism for retirees and senior citizens.



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## **Deputy Minister Dr. Bob Bell**

Dr. Bob Bell was appointed Deputy Minister of Health and Long-Term Care, effective June 2, 2014. Prior to this role, he served as President and Chief Executive Officer of University Health Network for nine years. He was previously the Chief Operating Officer at Princess Margaret Hospital and Chair of both Cancer Care Ontario's Clinical Council and the Cancer Quality Council of Ontario.

Dr. Bell received his Doctor of Medicine from McGill University and a Master of Science from the University of Toronto. He also completed a Fellowship in Orthopaedic Oncology at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard University. Dr. Bell is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, the American College of Surgeons and an Honourary Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

An internationally recognized orthopedic surgeon, health care executive, clinician-scientist, and educator, Dr. Bell brings more than 30 years of health care experience to his current role.



## **Lee Fairclough**

Lee Fairclough is HQO's Vice-President, Quality Improvement. She has a diverse background, with experience in health delivery as a radiation therapist, health research and informatics, systems planning and policy, leadership and institutional board membership.

Previously, Lee was Vice-President of Strategy, Knowledge Management & Delivery at the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC) and member of the executive team that established the organization in 2007. She served as Director of the Toronto Regional Cancer Programme, and Director of Informatics and Administration, Clinical Research Unit at Princess Margaret Hospital, UHN. Ms Fairclough was also a member of the Advisory Board of the Institute of Health Services and Policy Research (IHSPR), and a Board member with a number of community agencies. She is an adjunct professor with the Institute for Health Policy Management and Evaluation (IHPME) at the University of Toronto.



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