

Ontario Surgical Quality Conference

Keynote Speaker



Dr. Clifford Y. Ko, MD, MS, MSHS, FACS, FASCRS

Director of the Division of Research and Optimal Patient Care at the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. Clifford Ko oversees all the quality improvement programs, including the Bariatric Surgery Accreditation Program, the Cancer Accreditation program, the Trauma Verification program, the Surgeon Specific Registry, the Pediatric Surgery Verification Program, and the American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (ACS NSQIP). He also serves as the Director of ACS NSQIP, which recently was recognized with the Eisenberg Award from the National Quality Forum/Joint Commission.

Dr. Ko's work focuses on surgical quality of care, including quality measurement, process improvement, and achieving high reliability in surgical care. He has served in advisory roles to national and international efforts for achieving higher quality and safety including the World Health Organization, the Institute of Medicine, the National Quality Forum amongst others. He has received millions of dollars in grant funding to study quality of care from sources that include the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the American Cancer Society, the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, and the Veterans Administration. He has published over 300 peer reviewed manuscripts and has written more than 20 book chapters. He is frequently invited to speak nationally and internationally, and was recognized by Becker's Hospital Review as one of the top 50 experts leading the field of patient safety.

Clinically, Dr. Ko is a double board-certified surgeon with a practice currently focusing on patients with colorectal cancer. At UCLA, he is the Robert and Kelly Day Professor of Surgery, has won the Faculty Teaching Award three times, and is recognized as one of the Best Doctors in America. He is also professor of health services at the UCLA School of Public Health.

Dr. Ko received his B.A (Biology), M.S. (Biological/Medical Ethics), and M.D. from the University of Chicago. He also received a Masters of Science Degree (Health Services/Outcomes Research) from the University of California, Los Angeles during his time as a Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars Fellow at UCLA and RAND. Dr. Ko completed his General Surgery Residency at UCLA Medical Center, and obtained specialty training at the Lahey Clinic in Boston in Colon and Rectal Surgery.

Guest Speakers



Dr. Bob Bell, CM, MSc, MD, FACS, FRCSC

Ontario Deputy Minister of Ministry of Health and Long Term Care

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.



Dr. Joshua Tepper, MD, FCFP, MPH, MBA

President and Chief Executive Officer, Health Quality Ontario

Dr. Tepper is a family physician and the President and Chief Executive Officer of Health Quality Ontario (HQO).

Previously, Dr. Tepper served as the first Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) at the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Health Human Resources Strategy Division. He was also the inaugural Vice President of Education at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, a senior medical officer for Health Canada, an adjunct scientist at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES), and a research consultant for the Canadian Institute of Health Information (CIHI).

Dr. Tepper has a degree in Public Policy from Duke University, a Masters of Public Health from Harvard, and an MBA from the Richard Ivey School of Business