



**CAHR**  
**ACRSS**

The Canadian  
Association for  
Healthcare  
Reimbursement

L'association  
canadienne pour  
le remboursement  
des soins de santé

**Montréal Day**  
**HTA: Uncertainty, Value and the Road Ahead**  
**Thursday, April 15, 2021**

**8:30am**

**Welcome**

Emcee: Jida El Hajjar, PhD, Québec Breast Cancer Foundation

**8:45am**

**Keynote Address: Reflections on the Pandemic's Impact on Canadian Healthcare**

This session will explore the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on healthcare as a whole, attitudes towards drugs, the perception of the pharmaceutical industry, and HTA processes. The pandemic will bring a paradigm shift, notably because we developed new perspectives on the value of human life and the cost we are willing to pay to save lives. This new point of view can force HTA and gatekeepers to adopt new approaches because society has discovered the importance of biopharmaceutical innovation. How does that new perception affect more immediate issues, such as research, the role of INESSS and CADTH, the attitudes of Canadian health systems concerning drug expenditures, etc.?

Speakers: **Alain Dubuc**, HEC Montréal

**9:45am**

**Networking Break**

**10:15am**

**Panel: Cancer – Addressing the Other Raging Pandemic**

While fighting the COVID-19 pandemic is important, we cannot afford to ignore other healthcare needs, in particular cancer. Despite better screening and advances of new medicines, approximately 80,000 Canadians died from cancer in 2020. That's five times the number of Canadians who died from COVID-19. Oncologists are now warning that the pandemic is driving a "tsunami of cancer" due to more limited screening, later diagnoses and delayed surgeries. Increases in cancer among Canadians is also driven by an aging population. COVID-19 learnings will be discussed – including the pandemic-driven emphasis on virtual care – with an aim to ensuring health systems are better equipped to appropriately address the surge in cancer diagnosis, care and treatments.

Speakers: **Eva Villalba**, Coalition Priorité Cancer  
**Gerald Batist**, Medical Oncologist and Director of the McGill Centre for Translational Research in Cancer  
**Aaron Derfel**, Montréal Gazette

Moderator: Barry Stein, Colorectal Cancer Canada

**11:15am**

**Panel: Rare diseases – What's New in Québec and What's Happening at the National Level?**

Québec is moving forward on a rare disease strategy, having recently created an advisory committee on rare disorders. The province has also adopted novel approaches to evaluating and reimbursing ground-breaking therapies for rare diseases. At the same time, the federal government is moving in parallel on the development of a national rare disease drug strategy. Panelists will discuss these emerging developments at the provincial and federal levels to assess progress made and what still needs to happen to help optimize patient access to new rare disease treatments in Québec. The panel will explore the perspectives of patients and caregivers regarding existing and evolving healthcare systems and discuss

guiding principles emanating from patient-led consultations on national and provincial rare disease strategies.

Speakers:       **Alexandra Chambers**, Novartis  
                      **Gail Ouellette**, Regroupement québécois des maladies orphelines  
                      **Durhane Wong-Rieger**, CORD

Moderator:      Nathalie Ouimet, Montréal InVivo

**12:15pm**       **Lunch & Networking Break**

**1:15pm**       **Panel: Update from INESSS, CADTH & PCPA**

The path to patient access has undergone fundamental changes in the past several years, with increasing cooperation across different levels of regulation, evaluation, negotiation and funding decisions. Many of these changes are driven by the new technologies that are coming online, including combination cancer therapies that have multiple indications, innovative clinical trial designs (basket and adaptive clinical trials, for example), and evolutions in real-world effectiveness measures that could help guide funding decisions. The different levels of review are also happening in parallel or subject to new processes for speeding access to medicines that have been stuck in the PCPA queue in the context of COVID-19. Increasing demands from citizens for access to new medicines will also conflict with overarching budget constraints from public and private payers. This panel will explore and update delegates on these and other issues, with an aim to discuss forward-looking solutions to longstanding challenges and opportunities.

Speakers:       **Sylvie Bouchard**, INESSS  
                      **Brent Fraser**, CADTH  
                      **Daniel McLean**, PCPA  
                      **Frédéric Leblanc**, Industrial Alliance

Moderator:      Sébastien Dao, Synergyx

**2:15 pm**       **Keynote Address: Road Map for Achieving 10 years of Excellence**

INESSS has been at the forefront of the Québec government's COVID-19 response as a data-driven resource to inform key policy and public health decisions in the province. With a broader remit than any other similar body in Canada, this keynote will explore how INESSS has helped the province throughout the pandemic, while continuing to provide recommendations to the minister on the reimbursement of medicines and medical devices. The presentation and discussion will also touch a wide variety of key issues facing the agency, such as cancer care, companion diagnostics, artificial intelligence and combination therapies, among other challenges and opportunities in healthcare reimbursement.

Speaker:        **Luc Boileau**, INESSS

**3:00 pm**       **Closing Statement**

Emcee:            Jida El Hajjar, PhD, Québec Breast Cancer Foundation

**3:10 pm**       **Session Adjourns/Networking**

**5:00 pm**       **Networking ends**