



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO



Institute for
Pandemics

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Table of Contents

Message from the Director	2
Overview of IfP	4
Membership	5
Funding Competitions	8
Phase 1 Catalyst Grants	8
Phase 2 Catalyst Grants	9
Knowledge Mobilization Grants	10
Training and Studentship Awardees	13
Graduate Student Training Program	15
IfP 2024 by the Numbers	16
Knowledge Mobilization	17

Message from the Director

The Institute for Pandemics (IfP) Institutional Strategic Initiative was launched in 2023 to address the complex, multidimensional challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Centering on the themes of READINESS, RESILIENCE, RECOVERY and the cross-cutting EQUITY, our goals are to power interdisciplinary research, strengthen our health systems and preparedness, inform equitable public health policies, and equip future health leaders with a broad skillset necessary for effective response. While the world is still grappling with the broader impacts of COVID-19 and waves of variant resurgence, new public health threats such as avian influenza H5N1, Mpox and climate-sensitive diseases continue to emerge, alongside menaces that are accidental or deliberate in nature. Tackling the perpetual challenges of public health emergencies, pandemics included – which can cause disastrous population health consequences and widespread socioeconomic disruption – requires coordinated preparedness efforts and rapid response across disciplines, sectors and governments. IfP is leading these efforts through its interdisciplinary expertise, highly adaptive research framework, training, and a wide range of knowledge mobilization programs emphasizing cross-sector and community engagement.



IfP has engaged over 200 faculty members and post-doctoral fellows from 12 academic Divisions across the 3 U of T campuses, a 33% increase in membership from last year. Integrating a wide array of expertise from public health, epidemiology, communicable disease modeling, artificial intelligence; health systems, health policies, global health; medicine, pharmacy, engineering, nursing; social, history & philosophy, and political sciences; health economics, management, social work, education; to computer and information sciences and others, IfP's unique, 'emergency-ready' ecosystem has accelerated impactful pandemic-related applied research within Canada and globally. We actively collaborate with government, public health, professional, and community organizations, provincially and nationally, to provide scientific inputs on policy and guidance, and research expertise (e.g., Health Canada, Public Health Agency of Canada; Ministry of Health, Public Health Ontario; World Health Organization, World Bank), and establish partnership with academic institutions across continents and industries.

To date, IfP has provided \$1.1 million to support pandemic and public health emergency-related research and training.

In 2024, we have successfully rolled out our Phase 2 Catalyst and Research Development Grant program. 11 interdisciplinary research teams from 8 Divisions were awarded the funding to initiate their high-impact projects, from health system resilience, misinformation, data response, AI-enabled healthcare, supply shortages, health inequities, and mental health in a public health crisis. Research findings will be shared with our members in the coming year. Our grant program has already leveraged \$518k in external grant funding and counting. Our second Graduate Studentship Award program has funded 7 students co-supervised by faculty members from multiple disciplines, to support their work on waste-water surveillance, drug shortages, avian influenza, respiratory protection, and remote learning, amongst others. IfP's year-round training program has engaged over 220 graduate students across Divisions to broaden their skills in pandemic research and preparedness.



IfP also hosted its first interdisciplinary symposium 'Reimagining Response & Preparedness for future Public Health Emergencies' to discuss critical issues and our way forward, and 10 webinars and public events that had engaged over 1000 attendees. In addition, IfP has launched a new Knowledge Mobilization Grant program. 6 research teams from 5 Divisions received the award to support the dissemination of knowledge generated

from recent research, and the engagement of knowledge users, stakeholders, and decision-makers to impact policy and practice. Our website, quarterly newsletter and strong social media presence have reached thousands.

Leveraging our interdisciplinary research network, IfP is positioned to conduct large-scale, impactful projects and apply for research funding at provincial, federal and international levels. IfP is leading a research team across 6 Divisions, joined by 3 other universities and community-based organizations to apply for Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) grants with aims to address misinformation, public trust and develop community partnership. IfP is also leading the application for the Centre for Research on Pandemic Preparedness and Health Emergencies grant (CRPPHE/CIHR, \$3 million) that aims to support knowledge generation and mobilization efforts of 'emergency-ready' interdisciplinary platforms. Together with academic institutions and public health organizations across provinces, as well as community partners, our proposed work will strengthen Canada's health system preparedness and resilience, and mitigate the harm of mis/dis-information in public health crisis. Other major research initiatives are being developed. In summary, 2024 has been an exciting year of growth, development and collaboration, and I look forward to building off those successes in 2025.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nelson Lee'.

NELSON LEE
Director, Institute for Pandemics

Overview of IfP

The Institute for Pandemics

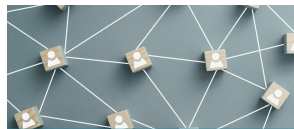
IfP launched as a University of Toronto (U of T) Institutional Strategic Initiative (ISI) in January 2023. Since our launch, we have built a membership of 200 researchers across all three U of T campuses, and mobilized over \$1.1 million to catalyze research, support training, and disseminate knowledge. .

Themes



Readiness

To prevent and track evolving pandemics and epidemics



Resilience

Of health systems and communities, and to improve public health policies and interventions



Recovery

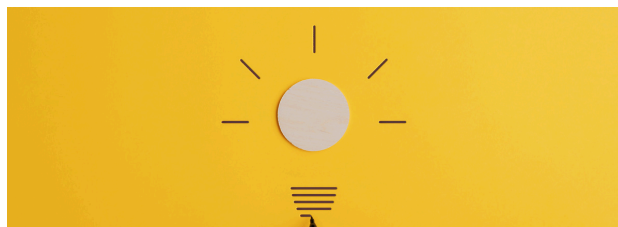
Addressing broader impacts and health disparities to build back stronger and more fairly



Equity

Cross-cutting research thrust to reduce inequities in public health crises.

Vision, Mission and Objectives



Vision

To be a global leader in helping the world respond to pandemics, overcome public health emergencies (PHE), and prepare for future threats so that everyone, regardless of background or experience, can thrive.

Mission

To power transdisciplinary research, train future health leaders in pandemic and health emergency readiness, resilience, and recovery; and strengthen responses, policies, and systems in an equitable way that advance national and global health.



Objectives

Our priorities:

- Link, coordinate, and support researchers across disciplines and divisions at the University of Toronto to confront the challenges posed by pandemics and PHEs through innovative, cutting-edge research
- Pioneer training programs to equip future health leaders with the necessary interdisciplinary skillset for effective response
- Serve as a knowledge nexus in Canada to inform and strengthen public health response, policies and health systems, advocate for health equity in public health crises, and counter misinformation through public engagement.
- Position ourselves as a global leader in pandemic and PHE management and a focal point for international partnerships

Membership

Our Members at a Glance

Our total membership increased 33% in 2024 with 200+ faculty and postdoctoral fellows across all three U of T campuses engaged in IfP programs.

Our members are based within 12 U of T divisions:

Dalla Lana
School of Public Health

Rotman

Temerty
Medicine

BLOOMBERG
LAWRENCE S. BLOOMBERG
FACULTY OF NURSING

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF INFORMATION

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF ARTS & SCIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
LESLIE DAN FACULTY OF PHARMACY

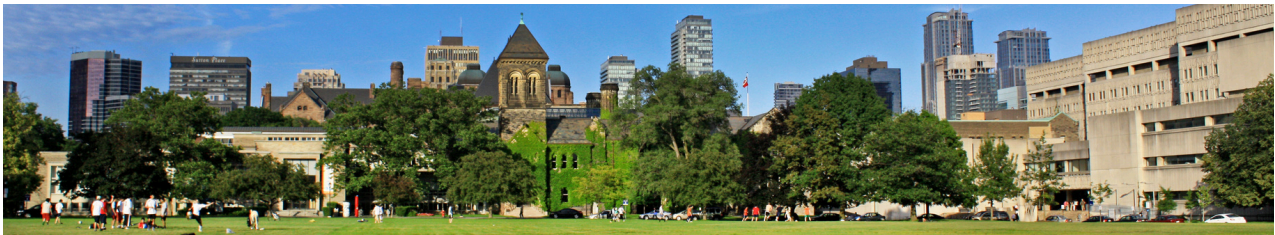
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE & ENGINEERING

FACTOR-INWENTASH
FACULTY OF SOCIAL WORK

UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO
MISSISSAUGA

UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO
SCARBOROUGH

OISE | ONTARIO INSTITUTE
FOR STUDIES IN EDUCATION



Leadership



Adalsteinn Brown
Founding Director, IfP
Dean, Dalla Lana School of
Public Health



Nelson Lee
Director, IfP
Professor, Dalla Lana School of
Public Health



Tedd Konya
Associate Director, IfP



David Fisman
Professor
Dalla Lana School of Public Health
Readiness Theme Lead



Sara Allin
Associate Professor
Dalla Lana School of Public Health
Resilience Theme Lead



Geoff Anderson
Professor
Dalla Lana School of Public Health
Recovery Theme Lead

Steering Committee



Sara Allin
Associate Professor
Dalla Lana School of Public Health



Geoff Anderson
Professor
Dalla Lana School of Public Health



Brian Baigrie
Associate Professor
Faculty of Arts & Science



Shauna Brail
Associate Professor
University of Toronto Mississauga



David Fisman
Professor
Dalla Lana School of Public Health



Scott Gray-Owen
Professor
Temerty Faculty of Medicine



Rosemary Hannam
Director
Rotman School of Management



Steven Hermans
Institutional Strategic Initiatives
Officer, Division of the Vice
President, Research & Innovation



Tedd Konya
Associate Director, IfP



Nelson Lee
Director, IfP
Professor, Dalla Lana School of
Public Health



Fahad Razak
Associate Professor
Toronto Academic Health Science
Network



Jeff Siegel
Professor
Faculty of Applied Science &
Engineering



Mina Tadrous
Professor
Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy



Simone Vigod
Professor
Temerty Faculty of Medicine



IfP Benefitting Members

IfP strives to be a truly interdisciplinary institute, bringing together researchers from across the university through opportunities in grant funding, trainee supervision, and networking activities. Members from many divisions across the U ofT campuses are seeing benefits to these efforts.

I appreciate the opportunity to learn from colleagues who I might otherwise not engage with. – University of Toronto Mississauga

I have had interesting experiences and been able to build my network both locally and internationally. – Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy

A graduate student in my lab has benefited from involvement in IfP which has exposed us to research directions we would not have otherwise considered. – Temerty Faculty of Medicine

The experience working on two grants has been an exceptional learning experience for me. As a faculty member of the Faculty of Arts & Science, opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration are scarce. – Faculty of Arts & Science

“I am truly impressed by the innovative programs and collaborative spirit of the IfP, and I look forward to contributing to its continued impact on both the University of Toronto and the wider public health community. – Dalla Lana School of Public Health

The initial support we received from IfP initiated a new national-level project within our group, fostering new collaborations to address a significant issue in our healthcare system. I believe IfP has cultivated a culture of research through its events, collaborations, and support, which aligns closely with the present needs of our healthcare system. – Dalla Lana School of Public Health

Achieving interdisciplinary discourse around pandemics (or anything!) is really challenging. The symposium was very well aimed in that regard. – Faculty of Information

Thanks to the IfP I have been able to collaborate with faculty on research that would have been otherwise very difficult to organize. I have appreciated the opportunity to work across disciplines and academic units. – Faculty of Arts & Science

IfP events have been a really great way of meeting researchers from different departments and faculties. I really appreciate its interdisciplinarity. – Faculty of Arts & Science

Funding Competitions

Catalyst Grants

Phase 1: Overview

The [IfP Catalyst and Research Development Grant competition](#) was launched in March, 2023 in partnership with the Emerging & Pandemic Infections Consortium (EPIC), with 21 projects awarded in July.

The [awarded principal investigators](#) represent nine U of T divisions spanning all three campuses.

“Having investigators from so many different fields within U of T truly exemplifies the interdisciplinary research being performed by IfP and highlights its value as an Institutional Strategic Initiative,” said Nelson Lee, IfP’s Director.

These catalyst grants are a step towards larger, more comprehensive external funding opportunities. Investigators have funding for one year to demonstrate progress that can be used to apply for additional funding to complete more fulsome projects.

[Read about all the projects here.](#)

Phase 1: Impact on Policy and Practice

With the Phase 1 program now complete, the grant recipients have produced work that has/will have an impact on policy and practice in Ontario and across Canada.

A few highlights include:

- Creation of a web-based system with an interactive visual dashboard that is ready for pilot testing by stakeholders, the public, and decision-makers. This platform aims to become the first national intelligent hospital system designed to enhance resilience and recovery in public health crises. (<https://ijb.utoronto.ca/the-patient-files-what-is-it-like-for-patients-at-your-local-hospital/>)
- Findings and infographic from the gender-based violence (GBV) roundtable meeting published on the Institute for Gender and the Economy website and shared with 12k stakeholders through the Institute’s mailing list. Launched a [social media campaign](#) during the 16 Days of Activism against GBV with the support of, and a video recording from, Mayor Olivia Chow.
- Drug shortage results shared with Health Canada
- Presented to Peel Public Health on using a Machine Learning surrogate model for local decision-making and practice-level input

Phase 2: Overview

In May 2024, we launched the [second phase of our catalyst and research development grant competition](#), again in partnership with [EPIC](#), received 15 applications and awarded [11 projects](#).

The principal investigators represent eight U of T divisions. “Once again, having investigators from so many different fields within U of T continues to exemplify the interdisciplinary research being performed by IfP and highlights its value as an Institutional Strategic Initiative,” said Nelson Lee, Director of IfP.

The 2024 Phase 2 Catalyst and Research Development Grant Principal Recipients:

[Chavon Niles](#)

Temerty Faculty of Medicine:
Addressing Health Inequities for Black and Racialized Immigrants with Disabilities During and Beyond COVID-19 in Ontario

[Lance T. McCready](#)

Ontario Institute for Studies in Education:
Empowering Recovery: Enhancing Health Literacy and Social Networks for Black Gay, Bisexual, MSM (BGBM) in Ontario

[Kuan Liu](#)

Dalla Lana School of Public Health: Evaluating Equity-Focused Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic on Childhood & Youth Mental Health in Canada: A novel application of spatial causal inference methods

[Karim Keshavjee](#)

Dalla Lana School of Public Health:
Flexible, Rapidly Configurable Health Information Technology for Pandemic Response

[Mina Tadrous](#)

Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy:
Global Impact of Drug Shortages on Infectious Disease Treatments and Vaccines

[Shaun Morris](#)

Temerty Faculty of Medicine:
Leveraging Data Science to Improve Vaccine Equity and Pandemic Preparedness among Children Who are Newcomers to Canada

[Li Shu](#)

Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering:
Overcoming the harmful effects of confirmation bias, entrenched misinformation, and social conformity

[Andr as Tilcsik](#)

Rotman School of Management: Pandemic Impact Statements: Addressing Workplace Inequities to Facilitate an Equitable Recovery (PHASE 2)

[Teresa Kramarz](#)

Faculty of Arts & Science:
Social Outcomes Partnerships for resilient health systems: What can Canada learn from cross-sector partnerships with private, nongovernmental, and charitable providers?

[Quinn Grundy](#)

Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing: Systematic gap mapping and evidence syntheses to inform policy decisions on the role and impacts of plastics in health products for pandemic planning and response

[Zahra Shakeri](#)

Dalla Lana School of Public Health:
Transforming Patient and Provider Experiences into Actionable Insights for Pandemic Readiness, Resilience, and Recovery with an AI-Enabled Hospital System

[Click here to read about the awarded projects on our website.](#)

Knowledge Mobilization Grants

Knowledge Mobilization (KMb) Grants

In March 2024, IfP launched our inaugural Knowledge Mobilization Grant competition. The purpose of these grants was to support the dissemination of knowledge generated from pandemic-focused research and the engagement of knowledge users, stakeholders, and decision-makers to impact policy and practice.

The six recipients represent five U of T divisions (Arts & Science, Education, Medicine, Public Health, and Scarborough). Details about their exciting projects are described below.

Outcomes and Impact

KMb Grant Outcome: Policy Impact

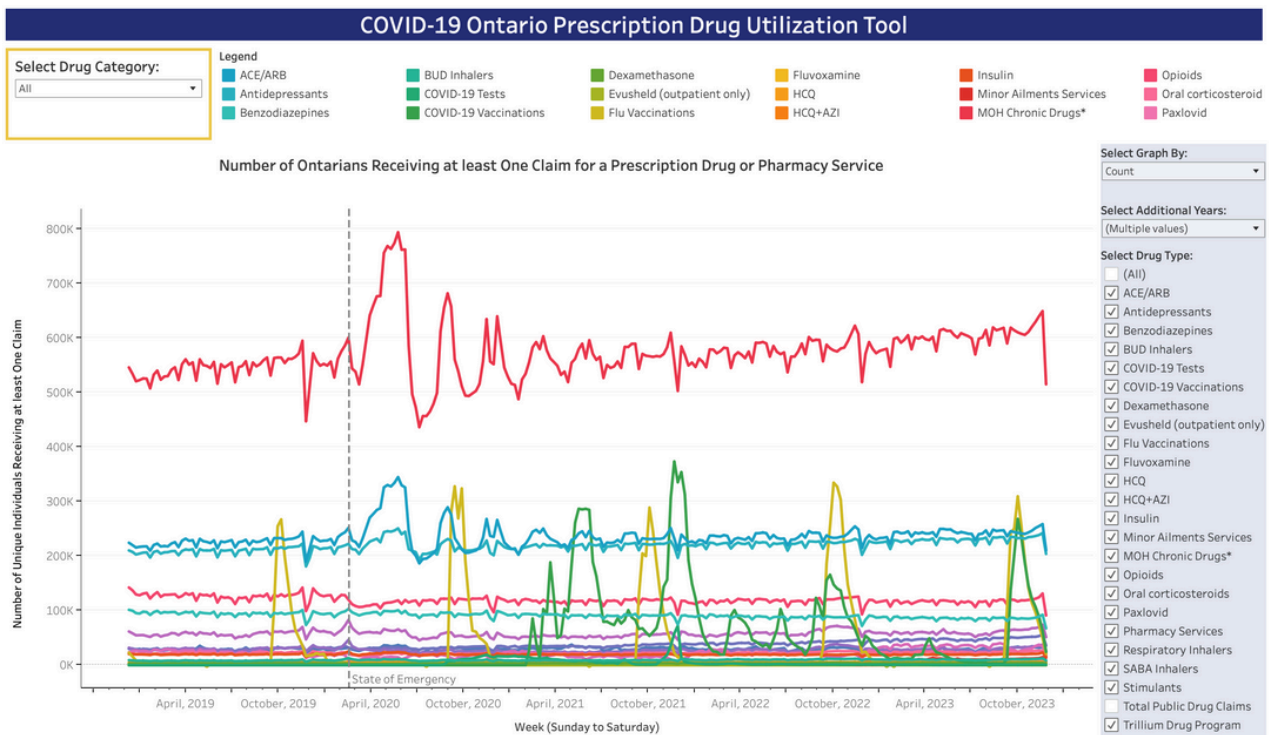
Two awardees ([Erica Di Ruggiero](#) (Public Health) and [Amanda Raffoul](#) (Medicine) used funds to develop papers to impact policy. 2023 IfP graduate studentship awardee, [Daniel Eisenkraft Klein](#), worked with Di Ruggiero to write a paper on intellectual property and inequities in global access to medicines. This year, they will disseminate this to federal policymakers and non-governmental organizations, including Médecins Sans Frontières and Knowledge Ecology International.

Raffoul conducted community consultations on their work on the cost of the COVID-19 pandemic on eating disorders across Canada. The information gained allowed Raffoul to develop two policy briefs that are currently being used in discussions with Statistics Canada to add eating disorder and disordered eating surveillance items to forthcoming Canadian Community Health Survey cycles, which have not measured eating disorders since 2012. Two provincial governments have expressed interest in coordinating a strategic approach to communicate policy and funding needs and have requested modified briefs that highlight our recommendations to improving care in their systems.



KMb Grant Outcome: Products for better stakeholder engagement

[Mina Tadrous](#) (Pharmacy) used his grant to build on his Phase 1 Catalyst Grant work to implement the third phase of his team's [Drug Shortages Initiative](#) project by developing a platform to disseminate the work on drug shortages in Canada and gather insights from the public.



Screen capture of the Prescription Drug Utilization Tool, developed by Tadrous' team, an interactive system to provide public access to data on drug utilization in Ontario.

They also hosted a productive final meeting with their expert panel to discuss feedback from the public consultation process and refine next steps in this work. They received feedback from 25 representatives across various sectors, including the pharmaceutical industry, procurement companies, universities, hospital and clinician organizations, patient groups, manufacturers and distributors.

The Drug Shortages Initiative has been highlighted as an integral component in developing Health Canada's proposed [Critical Drug and Vulnerable List \(CVDL\)](#). This tool is helping explore new regulations leveraging the tool for the governments' buffer stock policy, enables hospitals in prioritizing key drugs, reducing negative effects of shortages on patient care, enables strategic procurement and inventory management, with the potential to save millions in avoided shortages, and can be used by pharmaceutical companies to improve demand forecasting, proactive supply management and pipeline selection.



[Michal Perlman](#) (Education) developed a user-friendly website with accessible content to make their [Child Care Matters](#) (CCM) study accessible to a diverse range of stakeholders. The website shares findings from the CCM study in easy-to-understand language, focusing on how vulnerable families with young children in Toronto coped with the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the website created, Perlman’s team will use it to present findings and engage with The Conversation, Psychology Today, Institute for Research on Public Policy (Policy Options), the Childcare Resource and Research Unit, the City of Toronto, practitioners and policymakers.

KMb Grant Outcome: Enabling knowledge mobilization engagement

Anne-Emanuelle Birn (Scarborough) utilized KMb grant funding to invite international trainees to her two-day conference “Exploring International Pandemic Responses through a Social Science Lens: Decolonial Paradigms and Solidarity Networks,” as well as allowing for a virtual option for participation.



The conference allowed for scholars, community researchers, and community leaders from Canada, Peru, Germany, and Brazil to share their findings on community mobilization during COVID-19 and to develop community preparedness for future public health emergencies. The trainees also received knowledge mobilization experience by developing a [summary article posted on the IfP website](#).



Brian Baigrie (Arts & Science) held a workshop on a developed conceptual framework for public trust and strategies to measure the trust relationship between the public and public health. The event brought together an interdisciplinary group of academics and the broader community to share insights on the framework with the results of the discussion building a consensus on the framework to improve efforts to (re)build public trust moving forward.

Training and Studentship Awardees

The first IfP [Graduate Studentship Award competition](#) was launched in April 2023 with [eight students selected](#) for the \$10,000 awards. Our second competition launched in March of this year and [awarded seven students](#) the \$10,000 award.

The purpose of the awards is to foster interdisciplinary research training in pandemic readiness, resilience and/or recovery. All awardees work on projects that are co-supervised by faculty from different disciplines. The studentship program provides the opportunity to participate in IfP programming and activities, attend workshops and seminars, present their research at the IfP Symposium, and network with IfP members across divisions and campuses at the University of Toronto.

2023-2024 Awardees



Daire Crawford
PhD Candidate
Faculty of Applied
Science & Engineering



Daniel Eisenkraft Klein
PhD Candidate
Dalla Lana School of
Public Health



David Jones
Master's Candidate
Munk School of Global
Affairs & Public Policy



Kuganya Nirmalarajah
PhD Candidate
Temerty Faculty of
Medicine



Mete Yuksel
PhD Candidate
Faculty of Arts &
Science



Oliver Gatalo
PhD Candidate
Dalla Lana School of
Public Health



Stephanie Mayell
PhD Candidate
Faculty of Arts &
Science



Yasmin Aboelzahab
PhD Candidate
Leslie Dan Faculty of
Pharmacy

2024-2025 Awardees



Araniy Santhireswaran
PhD Candidate
Leslie Dan Faculty of
Pharmacy



Emily Somerset
PhD Candidate
Faculty of Arts &
Science



Juliette Blais-Savoie
Master's Candidate
Temerty Faculty of
Medicine



Naaz Sibia
PhD Candidate
Faculty of Arts &
Science



Olivia Mann-Delany
PhD Candidate
Faculty of Arts &
Science



Priyonto Saha
Master's Candidate
Dalla Lana School of
Public Health



Rachel Tyli
PhD Candidate
Temerty Faculty of
Medicine

Highlighting Two Awardees

[Naaz Sibia, PhD Candidate, Faculty of Arts & Science](#)



Naaz Sibia’s online learning experience as an undergraduate student during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic sparked her passion for creating resources that provide a more equitable educational experience. Her research aims to design tools that better support students in the event of another pandemic, as the existing ones struggled with lack of engagement and inadequate assistance.

Sibia is working toward these goals as a doctoral student in the Department of Computer Science in the Faculty of Arts & Science. Her work involves designing interventions to make participation in computing help-seeking forums more comfortable, using self-explanations to encourage conceptual understanding, and creating psychological interventions to foster a sense of belonging among computing students.

The goal is to provide opportunities for students to test their understanding and avoid the pitfalls of simply watching videos at double speed or not paying attention. Leveraging LLMs, such as ChatGPT, Sibia intends to offer students rapid feedback, providing better support when they struggle to understand concepts or are challenged with Socratic questioning. “Artificial Intelligence (AI) can support educators by ensuring that students receive high-quality education and equitable resources, without replacing the essential human element of monitoring and mentoring student progress,” says Sibia.

[Rachel Tyli, PhD Candidate, Temerty Faculty of Medicine](#)

Rachel Tyli is a fourth year PhD student in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology. Tyli’s thesis studies how respirators fit emergency service workers (paramedics & firefighters) while they do simulated work tasks.



Tyli’s thesis has three current goals: (1) Looking at sex differences in respirator pass and fail rate, (2) Quantifying facial geometries using the 3D facial scan and seeing if any facial geometries lead to better or worse respirator fit, and (3) Looking at how respirator comfort is affected during the simulated work fit tests.

Her thesis involves an experimental study of 200 Ontario paramedics and firefighters to investigate respirator fit during simulated work tasks. The study emerged from the heavy reliance on respirators as protection against infectious bioaerosols during the COVID-19 pandemic. In Ontario, those who are mandated to wear a mask at work must undergo a respirator fit test. However, these tests are not rigorous—and therefore do not adequately test for emergency service workers’ more physically demanding workplace tasks like cardiopulmonary resuscitation or carrying persons. As such, respirators may fail in these scenarios, which puts emergency service workers’ protection and health at risk.

Graduate Student Training Program

The IfP Graduate Studentship program consists of monthly events that allows the awardees and graduate students from across the university to learn about interdisciplinary pandemic research, practice research presentations in a small supportive environment, and hone soft-skills through training not provided by their academic programs.

The studentship events are open to graduate students from all divisions within the University of Toronto, with most participants coming from the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, Temerty Faculty of Medicine, Faculty of Arts & Science, Rotman School of Management, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, and Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy. In 2024, 220+ graduate students attended our training events.



INSTITUTE FOR PANDEMICS
SOFT SKILLS TRAINING FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

NETWORKING SKILLS AND EXPLORING CAREERS OUTSIDE ACADEMIA

GARRY CURNEW
Networking & Program Manager
gcurnew@utoronto.ca

Sectors invited:

- Pharmaceutical
- Biotech
- Consulting
- Government

19 March 2024
5:00 PM - 7:00 PM ET
Rotman Career Centre
pandemics.utoronto.ca

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO | Institute for Pandemics

INSTITUTE FOR PANDEMICS
SEMINAR FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

CLINICAL HEALTH DATA AND AI FOR RESPONDING TO PANDEMICS AND OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES

FAHAD RAZAK
St. Michael's Hospital

Internist, St. Michael's Hospital
Associate Professor, Temerty Faculty of Medicine
Canada Research Chair in Data-Informed Healthcare Improvement
Former Scientific Director, Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table

28 October 2024
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET
Health Sciences Building
pandemics.utoronto.ca

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO | Institute for Pandemics



INSTITUTE FOR PANDEMICS
SOFT SKILLS TRAINING FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

BUILDING YOUR ONLINE PRESENCE AND PERSONAL BRAND

SUZANNE WHITBY
Founder & Managing Director
Suzanne@whitby.com

16 December 2024
2:00 PM - 4:00 PM ET
Online via Zoom
pandemics.utoronto.ca

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO | Institute for Pandemics

INSTITUTE FOR PANDEMICS
SOFT SKILLS TRAINING FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

STRATEGIES FOR WRITING RESEARCH ARTICLES

FIONA COLL
Assistant Professor
Graduate Centre for Academic Communication

18 November 2024
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET
Health Sciences Building
pandemics.utoronto.ca

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO | Institute for Pandemics



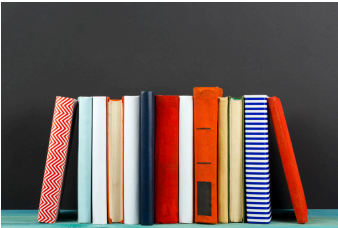
IfP 2024 by the Numbers

Membership



200+ IfP members
12 UofT divisions across 3 UofT campuses

Publications



220+ publications by IfP members in
140+ academic journals or books

Grants and Awards



\$518k awarded in research grants
\$71k provided in student awards

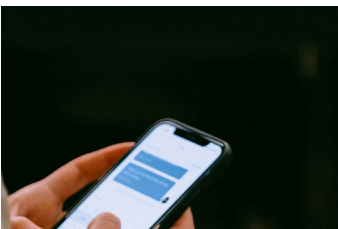
\$500k+ received in grants leveraging IfP

Public Engagement



10 webinars and events held
1000+ total participants
50+ IfP member appearances in the media

Virtual Reach



1500+ X (formerly Twitter) followers
4300+ Bluesky followers
700+ LinkedIn followers
1200+ email list contacts

Knowledge Mobilization

Symposium

The Institute for Pandemics (IfP) held our [2024 Interdisciplinary Symposium](#), on April 18th at the historic Great Hall of Hart House on the St. George campus of the University of Toronto and online via Zoom. We had 150 people attended in person (46% from UofT, 21% government, 13% other academic institutions, 7% from industry, 7% from community/non-profit) and an additional 118 attending online (online viewers from four countries (Canada, USA, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey)).

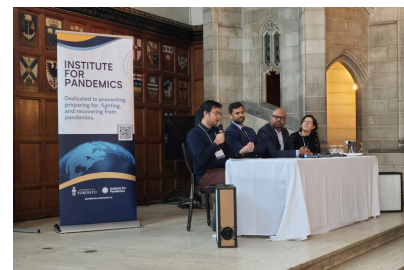


This year's theme was "[Reimagining Response & Preparedness for future Public Health Emergencies](#)." Members of the Institute, the university, government, private sector, and community members came together for presentations and discussions around IfP's themes of pandemic readiness, resilience, recovery, and equity.

The day began with a keynote presentation by [Dr. Ashish Jha](#), Dean of the Brown University School of Public Health and White House COVID-19 Response Coordinator, followed by a Q&A session.

The rest of the day consisted of:

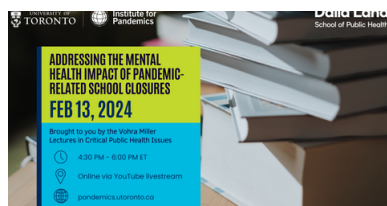
- Presentations from invited speakers on pandemic modelling, recovery in cities, and community engagement and trust in health systems
- Panel discussions with IfP experts on the above topics
- Poster session
- Networking reception



Recordings of the keynote lecture and sessions are available to view on our [website](#).

Webinars and Events

- February 13 — Vohra Miller Lecture Series: Addressing the Mental Health Impact of Pandemic-related School Closures
- March 7 — Indoor air and infectious disease transmission (in collaboration with the Canadian Public Health Association)
- June 13 — Navigating the Pandemics: Unveiling the impact of non-pharmaceutical interventions and vaccines
- June 14 — An Update on Long-COVID: Symptoms and underlying pathology
- AI and Infectious Diseases Speaker Series
 - September 16 — Strengthening Readiness & Resilience in an Era of Global Epidemics
 - October 23 — AI and Crowdsourcing for Resilient Hospitals and Enhanced Patient Care
 - November 19 — Accelerating Discoveries in Biology & Medicine Using AI
- December 11 — Priorities and Challenges in Primary Care Reform in Australia and Brazil



Ontario Science Advisory Table Science Briefs

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Ontario formed the [Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table \(OST\)](#), a group of scientific experts and health system leaders who evaluated and reported on emerging evidence relevant to the COVID-19 pandemic, to inform Ontario’s response.

The Institute for Pandemics website now holds a repository of all the Science Briefs that were published by the Science Advisory Table from 2020–2022.

[Click here to access the archive of the OST briefs](#)

Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table Science Briefs Archive

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Ontario formed the [Ontario COVID-19 Science Advisory Table](#), a group of scientific experts and health system leaders who evaluated and reported on emerging evidence relevant to the COVID-19 pandemic, to inform Ontario’s response.

The Science Advisory Table’s mandate was to provide summaries of relevant scientific evidence to public health and healthcare professionals, and the general public, by integrating information from existing scientific tables, Ontario’s universities and agencies, and the best global evidence.

The Science Advisory Table was hosted by [Public Health Ontario \(PHO\)](#) and provided credible and independent scientific and technical advice to inform the government and the broader public as Ontario transitioned to recovery and to help prepare for and respond to future public health emergencies.

This section of our website is a repository of all the Science Briefs that were published by the Science Advisory Table from 2020–2022.



Screen capture of the OST Briefs on the IfP website

Engagement with key partners & stakeholders

IfP has a strong focus on bridging science and public policy, with some examples as follows:

Fahad Razak (Medicine), Resilience Theme Co-lead served on the Government of Canada’s Review of the Federal Approach to Pandemic Science Advice and Research Coordination, led by Sir Mark Walport. Their [report](#) highlighted the urgent need for Canada to prepare for future health emergencies, better coordination of research and science across the country, a greater focus on equity, and incorporation of Indigenous health expertise into research and science advice.

Nelson Lee (IfP Director) serves as a subject matter expert on several government working groups, contributing to the “Guidance on human health issues related to avian influenza in Canada” (HHAI, Public Health Agency of Canada, the “Ontario Public Health Emergency Science Advisory Council” (Public Health Ontario) and its work on public health emergency preparedness, and the “Pandemic Agreement” of the Bureau of Intergovernmental Negotiation Bodies (World Health Organization).

IfP members are also deeply engaged with the World Health Organization through their [Initiative on Trust and Pandemic Preparedness](#) and [pandemic accord](#) development. IfP is the sole Canadian member of the Health Information Integrity Alliance, a collection of health authorities, UN agencies and International Organizations, Civil Society Organizations, including fact-checking organizations, academic and research institutions, working together to counter health-related misinformation and disinformation. IfP members Brian Baigrie (FAS), Rob Steiner (DLSPH), and Colin Furness (Information) are regular contributors, sharing expertise with global leaders in health communication.



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO



**Institute for
Pandemics**

The University of Toronto's Institute for Pandemics

<https://pandemics.utoronto.ca>

X: [@UofT_pandemics](#)

LinkedIn: [Institute for Pandemic](#)

Bluesky: [@uoftpandemics.bsky.social](#)