The individuals listed below have indicated they are willing to supervise a summer student, however, any Women's Health Program member is eligible to serve as a supervisor.

See https://www.uhn.ca/Medicine/Womens_Health_Program/our_members for a full list of members.

# 2024 List of Supervisors
# UHN Women's Health Program

### Alexandra Boasie

Alexandra is a healthcare leader with experience in both hospital and policy sectors. She holds a MSc from Queen's University and an Executive MBA from the Smith School of Business at Queen's University.

Alex is currently a Senior Manager within the largest surgical program in Canada – the Sprott Department of Surgery at University Health Network – where she leads transformation, business operations, system improvements and innovations in care delivery. Alex has a strong understanding of the healthcare landscape and has overseen acute ambulatory care programming as well as provincially led access, quality-of-care and funding programming. Alex is passionate and committed to providing exceptional patient care and has demonstrated excellence in strategic and operational management, quality improvement, and patient experience.

She has been recognized for her work through a number of publications and awards, including Valedictorian of her graduating eMBA class.

She currently serves on the Board of Directors and is the Board Chair of the Quality & Performance Committee for the Rexdale Community Health Centre and is a Member at Large for the Artworks for Cancer Foundation.

### Michael Hoffman, PhD

Michael Hoffman creates predictive computational models to understand interactions between genome, epigenome, and phenotype in human cancers. His influential machine-learning approaches have reshaped researchers' analysis of gene regulation. These approaches include the genome annotation method Segway, which enables simple interpretation of multivariate genomic data. He is a Senior Scientist in and Chair of the Computational Biology and Medicine Program, at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre and Associate Professor in the Departments of Medical Biophysics and Computer Science, University of Toronto. He was named a CIHR New Investigator and has received several awards for his academic work, including the NIH K99/R00 Pathway to Independence Award, and the Ontario Early Researcher Award.

## Amy Kirkham, PhD

Dr. Amy Kirkham is an Assistant Professor of Clinical Cardiovascular Health in the Faculty of Kinesiology & Physical Education at the University of Toronto and an Affiliate Scientist at the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute. She is also an Associate Member of the Cardiovascular Sciences Collaborative Specialization at the University of Toronto. Dr. Kirkham's research program aims to characterize the intersection of cancer, cardiovascular, and metabolic disease in women and to develop lifestyle interventions including exercise, diet (e.g., intermittent fasting, ketogenic diet), and multi-modal rehabilitation, to prevent or ameliorate underlying cardiometabolic dysfunction. A primary goal in developing effective interventions for women with or at risk for these conditions is consideration of feasibility and potential for implementation, including barriers common among women and minorities. Dr. Kirkham's assessment approach is comprehensive and holistic, encompassing the use of biological samples, real-time biosensors (e.g., continuous glucose monitors, physical activity trackers), validated patient-reported outcomes, cardiopulmonary exercise testing, and state-of-the-art imaging magnetic resonance and ultrasound imaging techniques.

## Ana Konvalinka, MD, PhD, FRCPC

Dr. Ana Konvalinka was recruited in 2015, as a transplant nephrologist and a Clinician Scientist at Toronto General Hospital, University Health Network. She is an Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto. Dr. Konvalinka completed medical studies at the University of Ottawa in 2003. She then completed internal medicine and nephrology training in Toronto in 2008. She subsequently embarked on a PhD in basic science at the University of Toronto. Her PhD thesis addressed the effect of angiotensin II on the proteome of primary human proximal tubular cells, and the relevance of this effect in vivo. Following completion of her PhD in 2013, she went on to complete the clinical kidney transplant fellowship at Toronto General Hospital. Her main clinical and research interests are in antibody-mediated rejection and kidney allograft fibrosis. She utilizes systems biology approaches and proteomics to enhance the understanding of the mechanisms, derive novel markers and repurpose drugs for the treatment of kidney disease. Dr. Konvalinka is the director of the Multi-Organ Transplant biobank for kidney, pancreas and liver transplant programs. She is also the co-director of the Drug Discovery research group. She has received international research awards (the Human Proteome Project (2016), the American Society of Transplantation Faculty-Development Research Grant (2016) and the Advances in Organ Transplantation Award (2015)) and national research awards (Canadian Society of Nephrology New Investigator Lectureship (2017) and the KRESCENT New Investigator Award (2016)).

## Sophia (Yue) Li, PhD

Dr. Li is a Staff Scientist and Strategic Partnerships Manager at the KITE Research Institute of the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute-University Health Network. She holds a Ph.D. in Biomedical

Engineering from the University of Montreal - Ecole Polytechnique of Montreal. Dr. Li's research focuses on assistive technologies, the impact of weather and building environment on safety and accessibility, and human factor aspects of fall prevention. Dr. Li has accumulated over twenty years of expertise in rehabilitation and biomedical engineering research and has contributed significantly to solving practical problems for an ageing population and people who struggle with different forms of disability. Dr. Li is the Co-Chair of the International Ergonomics Association (IEA) Slips, Trips and Falls Technical Committee. She is also a member of the following committees: 1) TCMSBEA (Technical Committee for a Model Standard for the Built Environment – Accessibility) of Accessibility Standards Canada; 2) the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Standards Committee (Z195 Protective footwear); 3) the ASTM Standards Committee (F13 Pedestrian/Walkway Safety); 4) the Accessibility Advisory Panel Transportation Services of the City of Toronto.

## Mathieu Lupien, PhD

Dr. Mathieu Lupien is a Senior Scientist at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre (PM), a Professor at the University of Toronto (Canada) and holds a cross-appointment with the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research (OICR). He serves on the Senior Advisory Group and the Research Council on Oncology at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre.

Dr. Lupien's research in chromatin & epigenetics has pioneered the study of the non-coding genome to identify determinants of oncogenesis and accelerated the development of chromatin & epigenetic-based precision medicine against cancer.

Dr. Lupien earned his Ph.D. in experimental medicine at McGill University under the leadership of Dr. Sylvie Mader and carried out postdoctoral training in medical oncology as an Era of Hope Fellow at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute under the mentorship of Dr. Myles Brown followed by an executive education at Harvard Business School Alumni. He joined the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre and the University of Toronto in 2012.

Among other honours, Dr. Lupien is a recipient of the Canadian Cancer Society Bernard and Francine Dorval Award for Excellence, is a two times recipient of the Till and McCulloch Discovery of the Year award, the Investigator Award from the OICR and the Allan Slaight Collaborator of the Year Award.

## Susan Marzolini, R. Kin, PhD

Dr. Marzolini is a Scientist at KITE, as well as an Exercise Physiologist and Registered Kinesiologist located at Toronto Rehabilitation's Cardiac Rehabilitation program. She is an associate graduate faculty member at the Rehabilitation Sciences Institute at the University of Toronto. The focus of her research is to determine ways to optimize health in males and

females with cardiac disease and stroke while also eliminating sex disparities in access to exercise and risk factor modification programs. Using novel exercise training methods her aim is to determine an exercise treatment aimed at promoting long-term health, repairing the brain and restoring lost mobility after stroke. She designed and developed Toronto Rehab/UHN's Exercise and Risk Factor Modification Program for People following Stroke (TRI-REPS) and the resistance training program for cardiac patients which are now core components of the program delivery model.

She was recently recognized as one of the top 10 productive authors globally and 3rd in Canada for cardiac rehabilitation and related research publications over the last 20 years and one of 24 people globally selected as a World Heart Federation Emerging Leader.

## Rinat Nissim, MD, FRCPC

Dr. Nissim is a staff psychologist and the co-director of the Caregiver Clinic at the Department of Supportive Care of the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, an assistant professor in the Department of Psychiatry and an associate member of the Institute of Medical Science, University of Toronto. Her research program aligns with her clinical focus on the psychosocial needs of family caregivers of individuals with cancer, utilizing qualitative and mixed-method research approaches.

## Valeria Rac, MD, PhD

Dr. Valeria E. Rac is a full-time Scientist and Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Lead with the Ted Rogers Center for Heart Research (TRCHR) at Peter Munk Cardiac Centre (PMCC), Toronto General Hospital Research Institute (TGHRI). She is also a Director of Program for Health System and Technology Evaluation, and an Associate Director of the Toronto Health Economics and Technology Assessment (THETA) Collaborative, where she leads the Clinical Research Division. She is an Assistant Professor with the Institute of Health, Policy, Management and Evaluation (IHPME) at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health (DLSPH), where she teaches Program Planning and Evaluation and Evaluation Design for Complex Interventions. Dr. Rac leads the Research Program in HTA and Network Analytics for the National Diabetes Action Canada (DAC) CIHR SPOR Network. She has received over $18,000,000 CAD in grant funding from various funding sources with over $3,500,000 CAD as a Principal Applicant.

Her expertise is in the area of health technology assessment (HTA), and health services research focused on program evaluations and complex interventions in chronic disease management, working closely with patients, community partners and government/policy-makers. Dr. Rac has a very strong interest and a successful track record in conducting research relevant to Women's health. During her MSc/PhD she studied a new tocolytic drug in a translational project. For that work, she received a scholarship from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) as well as the Ontario Women's Health Scholars Award as one of the first four Ontario scholars who received this award. Her post-doctoral studies were focused on gender

differences in a provision of post-arrest care for which she received the Jump Start Resuscitation Fellowship from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada (HSFC) as well as operating funding from the HSFC and the Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR). With the THETA team, Dr. Rac led the study looking into gender differences in utilization of the specialized heart failure clinics as part of our pan-provincial study on heart failure clinics. Under her guidance and mentorship, her trainees have been conducting research relevant to women's health. For example, her postdoctoral fellow Dr. Stanimirovic won the CIHR SPOR DAC Internship Award to study the impact of intersecting systems of oppression on diabetic retinopathy screening among women of lower socioeconomic status.

## Lena Serghides, PhD

Dr. Serghides is a senior scientist at Toronto General Hospital Research Institute (TGHRI) at the University Health Network and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Immunology and the Institute of Medical Sciences at the University of Toronto.  Her current research focus is on understanding the mechanisms that contribute to the increased risk for adverse pregnancy outcomes in women with HIV, and on the long-term effects of in utero exposure to HIV antiretrovirals.  The research is motivated by the goal of optimizing maternal and infant health in the context of infections of global health importance.

## Brad Wouters, BEng, PhD

Dr. Brad Wouters is the Executive Vice President, Science & Research at UHN. He is a Senior Scientist at the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre and was the institute's Interim Research Director (2014–2016). He is also a Professor in the Departments of Medical Biophysics and Radiation Oncology at the University of Toronto. His research program examines the molecular mechanisms underlying how hypoxia and the tumour microenvironment affect cancer biology and therapeutic outcomes.

As EVP of Science and Research, Dr. Wouters is focused on creating an environment that incentivizes, facilitates and rewards excellence in research across all elements of UHN. To this end, he led the development of UHN's 2019–23 Strategic Research Plan, which incorporates team science and collaborative strategies to achieve UHN's goals for research impact and organizational excellence. The implementation of this plan will help deliver TeamUHN's shared vision of A Healthier World.

## Azadeh Yadollahi, PhD

Dr. Yadollahi holds a Canada Research Chair-Tier 2 in Cardio-Respiratory Engineering, is a Senior Scientist at the University Health Network's KITE research institute (UHN-KITE), an Associate Professor at the University of Toronto's Institute of Biomedical Engineering, and an adjunct faculty at the University of Manitoba. Dr. Yadollahi is a strong advocate of inclusion, diversity,

equity, and accessibility (IDEA), and chairs UHN Research's IDEA committee. Her research aims to improve understanding of the pathophysiology of cardio-respiratory disorders during sleep and to develop novel technologies for improved management of these disorders. She is particularly interested in developing innovative technologies for monitoring physiological signals at home and implementing equitable and accessible technologies for under-represented individuals with chronic cardio-respiratory disorders.

At UHN-KITE, Dr. Yadollahi leads the SleepdB laboratory. SleepdB is one of the few facilities in Canada dedicated to examining the intricate interplay between sleep, hemodynamics and cardio-respiratory disorders. SleepdB has gold-standard clinical equipment to assess sleep and cardio-respiratory function. Moreover, through special infrastructure that enables full control of lighting and acoustics, SleepdB can realistically simulate home or in-hospital environments for technology development and validation. To date, Dr. Yadollahi has authored and co-authored more than 60 peer-reviewed manuscripts, presented over 100 times in scientific conferences, filed 3 patents, and been invited to give 60 talks on her research at prominent national and international academic institutions.