

## Speaker's Biographies

### Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on racialized communities

#### **Liben Gebremikael**

Liben Gebremikael is the first Executive Director of TAIBU Community Health Centre and the first black male Executive Director of a Community Health Centre in the province. Gebremikael has over 25 years of experience in the Primary Healthcare Sector, Social Services, Mental Health, and Community Capacity Building and Development field. He has worked as a Social Worker, Child & Family Therapist, Project Coordinator, and Therapeutic Group Facilitator with various primary care and non-for-profit organizations working with racialized and marginalized populations. He holds an MA in Migration, Mental Health & Social Care from the University of Kent (UK), a Master's Certificate in Healthcare Management from Schulich School of Business, University of York and he has also completed the Community Health Leadership Program at the Rotman School of Management. In June 2012, Gebremikael received the prestigious *'Emerging Leaders Award'* from the Association of Ontario Health Centres (AOHC). Since June 2020, Liben Gebremikael is serving as the President of the Board of Directors of the Alliance for Healthier Communities.

#### **Melissa Stevenson**

Melissa is bear clan; she is from the Peguis First Nation, which is an Ojibway-Cree reserve in Manitoba. Melissa is a mom to three amazing little boys who fill her heart with love. She currently works at Anishnawbe Health Toronto as a the Waash-keshuu-yaan unit coordinator where Melissa supports her community and staff to find ways to integrate the balance between Traditional and Western ways of knowing and provide whole-person care to the Indigenous community in the Greater Toronto area. Melissa has spent much of her post-secondary education and professional career working with Indigenous health and research. She has worked as a volunteer research assistant since 2010 with a nursing professor from a local university. Through the research and her work at Anishnawbe Health Toronto, Melissa has presented at various professional conferences. She is currently enrolled in the Masters of Nursing program - Thesis stream at Athabasca University, with a focus on Indigenous diabetes care and traditional ways of knowing.

#### **Dr. Roberta K. Timothy**

Dr. Timothy is an Assistant Professor in the Teaching Stream, and is the new Director of Health Promotion at Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto, and an Adjunct Professor in Critical Disability studies at York University. Specializing in the areas of intersectionality and ethics in health work; health and race; art-based methodologies ; transnational Indigenous health; and anti-oppression/anti-colonial approaches to mental health. Dr. Timothy has worked for over 30 years in community health working on resisting anti-Black racism and intersectional violence strategies. Dr. Timothy is also co-founder and consultant at Continuing Healing Consultants where she implements and teaches her intersectional mental health model "Anti-Oppression Psychotherapy". She is an interdisciplinary scholar, health practitioner, and political scientist who examines global health and ethics from a critical trauma-informed decolonizing framework. She has been living with disabilities for over 25 years.

