
Speakers: Dr. Nan Okun & Shelley Dougan

Dr. Okun is the Medical Director of the Prenatal Screening Program at Mount Sinai Hospital and Division Head of Maternal Fetal Medicine at University of Toronto. Her clinical and research interests include advances in prenatal screening and international delivery of maternal fetal medicine services in Eldoret Kenya.



Shelley Dougan is an American Board-certified Genetic Counsellor and the Complex Perinatal Team Lead at BORN Ontario. Her work focuses on screening in the maternal-child population, congenital anomalies ascertainment in Ontario, as well as the CARTR-Plus infertility data. She works closely with screening programs, genetics laboratories, clinical units and policy-makers across the province to help facilitate care through high quality data.

Presentation Title: Prenatal Screening in Ontario: Past, Present and Future: Using data to inform policy

The introduction of the use of cell-free fetal DNA for non-invasive prenatal testing (NIPT) has resulted in a relatively fast incorporation of a new technology into the prenatal screening landscape. The method and depth of this incorporation into clinical care has varied widely around the world, and marked variation is seen between Canadian jurisdictions. While much of the available literature still centres on industry-provided data, population-based studies are becoming more available, with increased focus on the cost-effectiveness of screening algorithms as well as the ethical and social implications inherent in routine NIPT. This presentation will illustrate various approaches to the development of new screening algorithms, how data is essential to inform robust health policy, and will present some initial data reflecting the Ontario experience with NIPT implementation.

Objectives

1. Compare Canada's and other jurisdictions' approach to policy on prenatal screening
2. Describe considerations that could inform further evolution of prenatal screening in Canada
3. Compare NIPT implementation across Canadian jurisdictions and describe NIPT utilization and impact in Ontario

