



Canadian Academy of Health Sciences
Académie canadienne des sciences de la santé

Media Release

Canadian Academy of Health Sciences selects the 2026 Emerging Leaders

Ottawa, ON – August 11, 2026 – The [Canadian Academy of Health Sciences](https://cahs-acss.ca) (CAHS) is pleased to announce that five new Emerging Leaders in Health Sciences in Canada have been selected.

CAHS is proud to celebrate excellence in health sciences, and these Emerging Leaders exemplify the talent, innovation, and passion that will shape the future of the field.

“The selection of these Emerging Leaders is a testament to their talent, dedication, and growing impact within their respective fields. We are pleased to recognize their achievements and look forward to engaging with them as they help shape the future of health sciences in Canada” said Dr. Jan Sargeant, President of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.

The Board of Directors is committed to ensuring these Emerging Leaders have meaningful opportunities to engage with CAHS and are recognized and supported by Academy Fellows throughout their journey.

Dr. Sargeant also thanked Dr. Elham Emami, Chair of the Fellowship Committee, for her leadership and dedication throughout the selection process.

For information on the nomination process, please visit: <https://cahs-acss.ca/emerging-leaders-in-health-sciences/>

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About CAHS

The Canadian Academy of Health Sciences brings together Canada’s top-ranked health and biomedical scientists and scholars to make a positive impact on the urgent health concerns of Canadians. Our Fellows, drawn from all disciplines across our nation’s universities, healthcare and research institutes, evaluate Canada’s most complex health challenges and recommend strategic, actionable solutions.

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For further information or media inquiries, please contact:

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EMERGING LEADERS 2026

Oluwatomilayo (Tito) Daodu, Assistant Dean, Research and Scholarship, Precision Equity and Social Justice Office and Assistant Professor, Surgery & Community Health Sciences, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary; Pediatric General Surgeon, Alberta Children's Hospital



Dr. Tito Daodu is a pediatric surgeon at Alberta Children's Hospital and Assistant Professor in the Departments of Surgery and Community Health Sciences at the University of Calgary. In 2020, she became the first Black woman to practise pediatric surgery in Canada. She leads the RESPECT program, examining structural racism, geographic inequity, and sex- and race-based disparities in Canadian surgical systems, and holds the CIHR Rising Star Early Career Award in Health Services and Policy Research (2025). She serves as Assistant Dean of the Precision Equity and Social Justice Office and holds an MPH from Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. She was named to WXN's Canada's Top 100 Most Powerful Women (2025).

Tricia McGuire-Adams, Associate Professor, Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Health Resurgence, Faculty of Kinesiology and Physical Education, University of Toronto



Dr. Tricia McGuire-Adams, from Bingwi Neyaashi Anishinaabek and an Associate Professor, Tier II Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Health Resurgence, is a renowned Anishinaabe researcher recognized nationally and internationally for her study of Indigenous resurgence practices of health, wellbeing, and physical activity. Her impactful research demonstrates that a deep connection to decolonization processes through a concerted regeneration of Indigenous gikendaasowin (knowledge) and inaadiziwin (way of being) is crucial for Indigenous peoples and communities to achieve wellbeing. Her significant leadership is demonstrated in the extensive network of community-driven health partnerships founded by her across a large variety of Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities.

Shady Rahayel, Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, University of Montreal; Center for Advanced Research in Sleep Medicine, Hospital du Sacre-Coeur de Montreal



Dr. Shady Rahayel is a neuropsychologist, Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine at Université de Montréal, and researcher at the Centre for Advanced Studies in Sleep Medicine, Santé Québec Nord-de-l'Île-de-Montréal. His research combines neuroimaging, computational neuroscience, and AI to identify early biomarkers of neurodegenerative diseases. He focuses on isolated REM sleep behaviour disorder, a sleep disorder in which people act out their dreams and >90% eventually develop Parkinson's disease or dementia with Lewy bodies. He leads several international research initiatives to improve early diagnosis and prognosis to accelerate the development of disease-modifying therapies through collaborative, data-driven approaches.

EMERGING LEADERS 2026

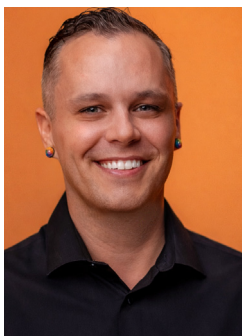


Gilla K. Shapiro, Clinician Scientist and Psychologist, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre; Assistant Professor, University of Toronto



Dr. Gilla K. Shapiro is a Clinician Scientist and Psychologist at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, and Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto. Her research focuses on psychosocial oncology, health decision-making, behavioural science, cancer prevention, and health equity. Dr. Shapiro has led research informing cancer care, vaccination policy, patient navigation, equitable access to clinical trials, and medical assistance in dying policy. She has authored more than 85 publications and has received national awards from the Royal Society of Canada, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Canadian Psychological Association, and the Canadian Association of Psychosocial Oncology.

Jaris Swidrovich, Assistant Professor, Leslie Dan Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Toronto



Dr. Jaris Swidrovich (he/they), a Two-Spirit member of Yellow Quill First Nation, is a pharmacist, scholar, and assistant professor at the University of Toronto advancing Indigenous health and health sciences across Canada. As the first known Indigenous faculty member in pharmacy in North America and founder of Indigenous Pharmacy Professionals of Canada, he has championed reconciliation, cultural safety, and Indigenous excellence in education, research, and policy. A recipient of the Governor General's Gold Medal, the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal, the Canadian Association for Graduate Studies Distinguished Dissertation Award, and multiple provincial and national pharmacy awards, Dr. Swidrovich is transforming health systems while inspiring the next generation of Indigenous leaders.