

HNATYSHYN STROKE LECTURE 2024 ANNOUNCEMENT**Moira K Kapral MD, MSc, FRCPC**

Heart & Stroke, the Canadian Stroke Consortium, Canadian Neurological Sciences Federation, and the CanStroke Recovery Trials Platform are proud to announce that Moira Kapral MD, MSc, FRCPC is to deliver the 2024 Hnatyshyn Lecture and lived experience advocates Sandra and Larry Varcoe are to give the Louise and Frank Nieboer Lecture.

Canada's two most prestigious and impactful annual stroke lectures will take place at this year's Canadian Stroke Congress, which will be held November 28 and 29th, 2024 in Calgary, Alberta.



Dr. Moira Kapral has been chosen by her peers as the 2024 Ramon J. Hnatyshyn Lecturer in stroke. She is a Professor and Chair of the Department of Medicine at the University of Toronto. She is also the Lillian Love Chair in Women's Health and director of the Women's Health Program at the University Health Network.

Dr. Kapral is recognized and respected for her greatly impactful efforts in setting a high standard for research excellence, beginning with work on the Canadian Stroke Registry and evolving into careful evaluation of inequities in care, across many domains. She is a prominent stroke health services researcher and has shed light on disparities in stroke care among women, people from low-income and rural neighbourhoods, those who cannot speak English or French, immigrants, and Indigenous Peoples of Canada. She has played an instrumental role in the development of stroke systems of care in Canada.

The Hnatyshyn Lecture was established in 2003 in memory of Canada's 24th Governor General, a founding board member of the Canadian Stroke Network and a strong advocate and supporter of stroke research.

The Hnatyshyn and Nieboer Lectures will be a feature event in conjunction with the Canadian Stroke Congress, which will be held November 28 and 29th, 2024 in Calgary, Alberta. More details about the winners, and timing of the lectureships will be provided in the coming weeks.

Learn more about the <https://strokecongress.canadianstroke.ca/> and join us in November!

HNATYSHYN STROKE LECTURE 2024 **PROFILE**

Moira K Kapral MD, MSc, FRCPC

Laying the foundation for stroke discovery

This year's Hnatyshyn Lecturer has been a pioneer in stroke research and enables others to do the same.

Dr. Kapral is a prominent stroke health services researcher and clinician, and she has made very impactful efforts in setting high standards for research excellence, beginning with work on the Canadian Stroke Registry and evolving into careful evaluation of inequities in care and the impact on outcomes.

She has shed light on disparities in stroke care among women, people from low-income and rural neighbourhoods, those who cannot speak English or French, immigrants, and Indigenous Peoples of Canada. She has played an instrumental role in the development of stroke systems of care in Canada.

For her contributions to stroke research and care across the country, Dr. Kapral has been chosen as the 2024 Ramon J. Hnatyshyn Lecturer in stroke.

She is the incoming chair of the Department of Medicine at the University Toronto. She's also professor and director of the Division of General Internal Medicine and the Lillian Love Chair in Women's Health and director of the Women's Health Program at the University Health Network. Her previous honours include the Edgar J Kenton III Award in Disparities Research from the American Stroke Association and the Distinguished Service Award from the Canadian Society of Internal Medicine.

Dr. Kapral conducts her own groundbreaking health systems research — she's held over \$20 million in grand funding and published over 250 peer-reviewed articles. As well, she treats patients and mentors the next generation of internists and researchers.

Researchers can't ask probing questions about health outcomes without good-quality data. Fortunately, stroke researchers have access to just that via the [Ontario Stroke Registry](#). It's one of the important contributions to stroke science made by Dr. Moira Kapral.

"We're doing this work so that people have better care and better outcomes," says Dr. Kapral, who excels in research that directly impacts patients. "We aim to translate what we're doing on the research side into real outcomes."

Her commitment to patient-focused research dates back to the late 1990s, when she was a graduate student in clinical epidemiology. She began attending meetings of the Canadian Stroke Network, which was run in collaboration with Heart & Stroke, and also meetings for the launch of the Ontario Stroke Strategy.

“I had the opportunity to meet some of the key people at Heart & Stroke at the time and learn about the stroke system.” She conducted an evaluation of the initial sites participating in the Ontario Stroke Strategy, and clearly did so skillfully. “That served as a template for what became the Registry of the Canadian Stroke Network,” she says.

The registry, designed to collect data needed to ensure people with stroke were receiving high-quality care, and later renamed the Ontario Stroke Registry, launched in 2001. By then she was a U of T faculty member and joined Dr. Frank Silver as its co-principal investigator.

“It was a very helpful contribution to stroke systems and stroke care in Canada, because it allowed us to track what was truly happening to patients and to understand their journey,” she says. “It’s been a resource for people who have research questions and supported scientists and students from across the country. And I’m pleased that after a hiatus in funding, it was relaunched in 2019 with Dr. Amy Yu as co-principal investigator, and with a particular focus on the use of endovascular therapy.”

Dr. Kapral’s other research has focused on potential inequities in stroke care and outcomes based on factors such as sex, gender, socioeconomic status, language, immigration status, and rural residence. She has collaborated with the Chiefs of Ontario to study the association between diabetes and stroke outcomes in First Nations communities. She is currently involved in the national UNEARTH-CVD study, leading projects focused on the impact of intersecting social determinants of health, including Indigenous status, on stroke risk factors, incidence, and outcomes.

Dr. Kapral begins serving as chair of the Department of Medicine of the University of Toronto on September 1. It’s a prestigious position that acknowledges her skills as a scholar and leader, as well as her commitment to mentorship and teaching.

She expects to foster excellence in research, innovation, education and clinical care across one of the largest departments of medicine in North America. “It will be about supporting all of the faculty and trainees to achieve their career goals,” she says. “And I’m also excited about continuing my stroke research program as I take on my new chair responsibilities.”

Her lecture will address the changes in stroke care we’ve seen over the last few decades, and what has made them possible — including infrastructure for care and research, and partnerships such as those with Heart & Stroke.

“I would not be where I am today were it not for Heart & Stroke, for the funding support and the collaborative opportunities,” says Dr. Kapral. “I’ll always be grateful to Heart & Stroke.”