
## Women-in-STEM Luncheon

The women-in-STEM luncheon will feature inspiring and influential women practicing in the STEM field, and will involve panel discussion and Q&A. The discussion will focus on challenges women face in the STEM field, and ideas to encourage, inspire, and support women in STEM careers. The session will be held over lunch on May 16th, and all conference attendees are invited to participate. The luncheon will also involve an opportunity to network with students, young professionals and seasoned professionals to exchange their thoughts and ideas. The vision for the session is to create an open forum to share ideas and experiences within the field. This event will be founded on an atmosphere of trust, with the goal of creating a more inclusive community and, ultimately, strengthen and expand the CMBES network across Canada.

## Panelists

### Aimee Riggs-Willey

Aimee Riggs-Willey is currently a Senior Biomedical Engineering Technologist with CHEO. She completed an Electronics Engineering Technology diploma specializing in Biomedical Engineering from The College of the North Atlantic in St. John's Newfoundland. She has worked with the Ottawa Hospital for 5 years before joining CHEO in 2005. She has training on a variety of ventilators and dialysis machines and also works closely with OR equipment and anesthesia machines. She completed the Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists (OACETT) in 2012 and then the Certified Biomedical Equipment Technician (CBET) Certification in 2020. Currently she is completing courses through the Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN) to complete the Bachelor of Technology Degree.

Check out Aimée Riggs' profile on LinkedIn.

IFMBE
WiMBE


## Anna Blakney

Anna Blakney is an Assistant Professor in the Michael Smith Laboratories and School of Biomedical Engineering at UBC. She received her Bachelor of Science in Chemical & Biological Engineering from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and her PhD in Bioengineering from the University of Washington. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Imperial College London on the development of molecular and biomaterial engineering strategies for delivery of self-amplifying RNA. Her lab uses bioengineering, molecular biology and immunology approaches to develop the next generation of RNA vaccines and therapies.

Check out Anna Blakney's profile on LinkedIn and Twitter.

## Carol Park

Carol Park is the Executive Director of Lower Mainland Biomedical Engineering in British Columbia, one of the largest biomedical engineering departments in Canada, providing services for 27 hospitals across the lower mainland of British Columbia. The biomedical engineering department has over 200 staff supporting approximately 100,000 medical devices. Carol has over 30 years experience in the healthcare system, in both biomedical engineering and primary and community care. She volunteers with Engineers and Geoscientists BC, the regulatory body for engineering in BC, recently completing a term as the Council President. She is also a board member for the Medical Device Development Centre in Vancouver, BC. Her training includes a Bachelor of Applied Science in Engineering Chemistry from Queen's University, a Masters in Clinical Engineering from the University of British Columbia, and a Masters in Leadership & Training from Royal Roads.

Check out Carol Park's profile on LinkedIn.

IFMBE
WiMBE

## Azadeh Yadollahi

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 of 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.

Check out Azadeh Yadollahi's profile on LinkedIn and Twitter.