

Knowledge Changes Everything

Panel Event

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NOVA SCOTIA

Speaker Bios



Dr. Alison Dixon is a Geriatrician and Assistant Professor in the Division of Geriatric Medicine at Dalhousie University in Halifax. Originally from Cape Breton, she completed medical school, internal medicine residency and subspecialty training in geriatric medicine at Dalhousie University. Before medicine, she was a journalist and worked for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation as a reporter. She enjoys writing – from publishing poetry in medical journals to columns in doctorsNS magazine about medicine and motherhood. When she’s not running after her three young children, her clinical interests include dementia and movement disorders in older adults, in particular Parkinson’s Disease.



John Archibald is a Professor of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology and Arthur B. McDonald Research Chair of Excellence at Dalhousie University. He is also the Director of Dalhousie’s Institute for Comparative Genomics. Dr. Archibald is the author of more than 170 research articles and two books. He is a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology, a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, and in 2019 was awarded the Miescher-Ishida Prize for his internationally recognized work on the biology of symbiosis.

John was a care partner for his dad, who lived with Alzheimer’s. In July 2021, John embarked on the *Ride for Dementia* - a nine-day, ~2,400KM cycle around the perimeter of Nova Scotia, raising funds for dementia research. Read his blog about his experience as a care partner at cycleoflife.ca.

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Chelsea Slawter Wright is an African Nova Scotian woman born and raised in Halifax, NS with family roots in the Preston Township and Beechville. She is the Coordinator of Education & Engagement for African Nova Scotian Communities. When engaging with the community Chelsea provides dementia education and information about ASNS programs and services. Chelsea is a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist and has worked within NS Health as a Recreation Therapist and Therapeutic Assistant, supporting many patients living with dementia and their families, before taking on the role. Outside of work, Chelsea stays involved in her community coaching girl's youth basketball at Ambre Academy high school division and with the MEGA summer program.



Beth House, BRec is the Dementia Friendly Communities Lead for the Alzheimer Society Nova Scotia. In addition she also facilitates education, delivers public presentations and supports clients on the InfoLine. With a therapeutic recreation background specializing in geriatric populations, Beth spent 20 years working in long term care, enhancing quality of life for the residents she served. Beth has held various volunteer roles on provincial Therapeutic Recreation Boards and with Nova Scotia Horticulture for Health Network. When Beth is not working, she is busy in her garden or with her husband, two kids, and dog Rory.