



## Scientists in School Board of Directors 2018

### **Greg Chownyk (Chair)**

Greg Chownyk is Vice President, Canada Sales & Origination for Shell Energy North America—a subsidiary of the Royal Dutch Shell group and leading marketer of natural gas, power and environmental products. He has worked in the energy industry across Canada for 18 years and has held leadership positions in sales, marketing and strategy development. Greg holds an honours degree in Business Administration from Wilfrid Laurier University.

Greg is keen to help Scientists in School achieve its mission in fostering excitement for science and technology in children of all ages. He believes the future leaders of our country will need to possess curiosity and innovation in these areas to ensure Canada remains a leader on the world stage.

### **Michael Wosnick (Vice Chair)**

Michael Wosnick retired from the Canadian Cancer Society where, as Vice-President of Research and Scientific Director of the Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute, he oversaw the Society's national research programs and played an important leadership role in engaging the public to build understanding of, and commitment to, cancer research. He became a much sought-after public speaker, logging nearly 100 talks about research across the country. Prior to joining the Canadian Cancer Society, he served as the Executive Director of the National Cancer Institute of Canada. Michael brings 35 years of experience encompassing the academic, biotechnology and not-for-profit sectors to Scientists in School. He has been a member of eight Boards of Directors and has held dozens of leadership and management roles in not-for-profit organizations.

He holds a B.Sc. degree from the University of Toronto and a Ph.D. degree in molecular biology from Queen's University in Kingston, and did further training as a Post-Doctoral Fellow of the Medical Research Council of Canada, conducting research in the fields of molecular biology and gene expression at the University of Calgary Medical School.

### **Dan Adirim**

Dan Adirim is CEO and Founder, Groundswell Energy. His previous positions include: Senior Vice President, Customer Management at Cirba (now Densify), Associate Vice President, Enterprise IT Operations at TD Bank Group and Vice President of IT Strategy and Architecture at Loblaw Companies Limited. He also spent 10 years as a Management Consultant at Accenture.

Dan holds a Bachelor of Science, Engineering Chemistry from Queen's University and is a Professional Engineer. He loves volunteering when Scientists in School comes into his daughter's class and being part of the inspiration and amazement that Scientists in School workshops create.

### **Sharon Baker**

A creative and innovative executive skilled in advancing change in not-for-profit and stakeholder-driven environments, Sharon Baker is a CPA, CMA and holds the ICD.D designation in governance from Rotman and the Institute of Corporate Directors. She has over 20 years of varied experience in healthcare in the hospital and home and community care sectors as well as with private technology companies.

Sharon is currently the Executive Lead, Enterprise Projects at OTN an organization which advances virtual care in the Ontario health care system. She was previously CEO of wellSpring consulting, a private consulting practice she founded in 2002. She has provided strategic and governance advisory services to public and private health care organizations in the hospital, government, home care and long term care sectors.

She has extensive volunteer governance experience in healthcare and education, most recently as the Chair of the Board of the Ontario Shores Foundation for Mental Health. Previous Board positions include founding Chair of Scientists in School, the Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences, Smart Systems for Health, and the Ladies Links Tour Golf Association.

### **Richard Barber**

Richard Barber is Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing at Computershare. He was previously Senior Director of Pricing and Bid Strategy in the Wireless Business Segment at Rogers Communications. Prior to that he held a number of positions at Celestica including the role of Senior Director, Global Sales Operations. His formal education includes an MBA from Queens University and a B.Sc. in Honours Physics from the University of Western Ontario. Richard also holds the Professional Physicists (P.Phys.) license/designation (analogous to P.Eng.).

Richard is keenly interested in youth education and plays an active role on parent committees at his children's elementary school. Richard also serves on the Board of Directors at the East Scarborough Boys and Girls Club. The science bug is alive and well in their busy household with four junior scientists.

### **Cara Clairman**

Cara Clairman is President and CEO of Plug'n Drive, a non-profit that is accelerating the deployment of Electric Vehicles to maximize their environmental and economic benefits. In just over six years, Cara has taken Plug'n Drive from an idea to a thriving non-profit, recognized as a leader in the EV space. Cara has more than 20 years of experience working in the environmental and sustainability fields, including 12 years working at Ontario Power Generation, initially as OPG's environmental lawyer and later in the role Vice President of Sustainable Development. Prior to joining OPG, Cara spent five years practicing environmental law with the Torys law firm.

She holds a Bachelor of Laws from Osgoode Hall and a Masters in Environmental Studies from York University, as well as an Honours Bachelor of Science degree from Queen's University. Cara is currently driving the 100% electric Chevy Bolt as her personal car.

### **Cyril Dimitris**

Cyril Dimitris is Vice President, Sales and Marketing at Toyota Canada Inc., the sales and distribution arm for Toyota and Lexus vehicles and parts in Canada. During his 30 year tenure with Toyota, Cyril has held several senior level positions, leading key areas including Finance, Human Resources, Information Services and Lexus. He holds an Honour Bachelor degree in Commerce and Economics from the University of Toronto and a CPA, CMA designation.

Cyril has engaged himself in volunteer activities throughout his career, many of those supporting children in some capacity. He has seen the positive impact Scientists in School have had on his own children and is excited about helping Scientists in School bring the program to ever more young students, thereby building the enthusiasm towards science amongst our future leaders.

**Jim Markovski**

Jim Markovski is a Superintendent of Education with the Durham District School Board. His portfolio currently includes, Early Years & Poverty Strategy, in addition to Family of Schools responsibilities. Jim previously served as a Staff Development Officer with the Board. During his tenure in that role he was responsible for the STEM portfolio and supported the Board's development of a STEM strategic plan. Jim's expertise as an educator spans a career of almost twenty years.

Jim has a physical sciences background and is a graduate of the University of Toronto and the University of Queensland, Australia. Jim is honoured to support the work of Scientists in School and looks forward to integrating his joint passions for science and education in this role. He is a strong advocate for STEM-based education and believes that a solid grounding in scientific and mathematical thinking processes are essential for all students.

**Tracy McFerrin**

Tracy McFerrin is a philanthropic advisor who has more than a decade of experience helping foundations, families and individuals engage in strategic and impactful charitable giving. She was vice president of a family foundation that granted more than \$35 million annually to the nonprofit sector. In this role, Tracy provided leadership in strategic direction, project management and partnership development on community initiatives and grant-making to address issues such as education equity, neighborhood revitalization and access to high quality social services. She has been sought out as a speaker and thought leader on various topics in philanthropy.

Tracy has held leadership roles on numerous nonprofit boards, including serving as chair for the University of Kansas Medical Center Research Institute, Kansas City Public Television – Channel 19, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Kansas City. She is an avid volunteer, currently serving as a mentor for high school students with Pathways to Education in Toronto and as trustee of the Ewing Marion Kauffman School in Kansas City, Missouri.

Prior to working in philanthropy, Tracy practiced law providing counsel to and representing businesses in legal matters ranging from corporate governance and employment law to general business litigation. Tracy has a law degree from Harvard Law School and a bachelor's degree in psychology from Howard University. She lives in Toronto with her husband and teenage daughter.

**Sandra McKenzie**

Sandra McKenzie has over 20 years of leadership experience in Human Resources working with teams, leaders and employees across the private, not-for-profit and public sectors to improve their effectiveness in working together. Sandra is currently the founder and Principal Consultant of S McKenzie Consulting Inc., a private consulting practice providing human resources, change management and business strategy consulting to a range of clients. She has strong experience working with executive and senior leadership teams leading cultural shifts.

Sandra holds a BSc (Honours) in Psychology and a Masters of Education (Workplace Learning and Change) from the University of Toronto. She also holds a Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Public Administration and Leadership from Ryerson University. Sandra is a Certified Human Resources Leader (CHRL) and a Certified Municipal Manager II, HR Professional (OMMI). A life-long learner, Sandra is passionate about learning and helping others to learn and grow. With three daughters interested in STEM fields (all Scientist in School alumni!), Sandra is excited about contributing to Scientists in School's mission and vision.

**David Munro**

Dave Munro has recently retired after a 35-year career at Xerox Canada. He held many senior roles including Director, Finance & Administration; Director Compensation; and Director, Information Management. He is now busy starting his new consulting company ([davidgmunro.com](http://davidgmunro.com)).

Dave holds a Bachelor of Mathematics from the University of Waterloo and is a CPA, CMA along with a Certified Compensation Professional (CCP). Dave has had a life-long love of mathematics and is strong believer in education. Dave is a former Chair of the Board of Frontier College.

**Alison Simpson**

Alison Simpson is the Vice President of Strategic Planning & Commercial Operations at AstraZeneca Canada, a leading global biopharmaceutical company developing innovative medicines in several core areas: cardiovascular, diabetes, oncology and respiratory diseases. She brings over 20 years of experience in management and executive roles encompassing the pharmaceutical, food and packaged goods sectors. Her current accountabilities span strategic planning, future brand marketing, forecasting, insights, analytics, data management, sales force effectiveness and ET operations.

Alison holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Queen's University. During her Queen's years, she worked with the university's Science Quest program, and saw first-hand the impact that hands-on STEM workshops and role models can have to spark science and engineering excitement in youth. Alison is also a strong believer in making a difference through skills-based volunteering, and recently led a diverse group of professionals in working with The Toronto Kiwanis Boys & Girls Club on their Strategic Plan. She is currently serving on the Rotman Health & Life Sciences MBA Board of Directors and has been a volunteer mentor for young professionals who earn the opportunity to meet business professionals through winning auctions through their own volunteer hours, in an initiative of TimeAuction.org.

Alison is an avid runner who enjoys cooking, volunteering at schools and spending time at the cottage.

**Stephen Strauss**

Stephen Strauss has been a science writer for more than 35 years, working in the past as a columnist with the Globe and Mail and CBC.ca. In that time he won numerous science writing awards and published three books and a book chapter. He is the former President of the Science Writers and Communicators of Canada, has served as a member of Health Canada's Science Advisory Council, and has been part of a group helping the OECD set chemical standards. He is also included in the Canadian Who's Who. Both his wife and his daughter are teachers and, through their careers, have further reinforced how important high-quality STEM education is for children and youth.

**Jim S.C. Tom**

Jim Tom is an independent consultant in information and technology strategy, helping organizations understand and seek advantage in a constantly shifting technology landscape. He was the founding Chief Information Officer for Public Health Ontario and Associate Vice-Chancellor for IT at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He has held executive and senior management roles in the public and private sectors. Jim has also served on the Boards of several non-profit organizations. He holds a PhD from Stanford in Engineering-Economic Systems and recently received the ICD.D from Rotman/Institute for Corporate Directors.

Jim is passionate about the need to develop excitement, curiosity and critical thinking about science early in every child's education. He believes that raising the overall level of scientific knowledge is key to improving the public discourse about science and fostering interest in scientific careers.