

MOH OFFICE

Medical Officer of Health

Dr. Charles Gardner, MD, CCFP, MHSc, FRCPC

Dr. Gardner has been Medical Officer of Health (MOH) for the Simcoe Muskoka Health Unit since 2005, after having served as MOH for the Leeds, Grenville and Lanark District Health Unit for seven years. Prior to that, he worked in general medical practice for four years in communities in Newfoundland and New Brunswick, and a year in Zimbabwe.

Dr. Gardner is a past chair of the Council of Ontario Medical Officers of Health, a past president for the Association for Local Public Health Agencies, a past president of the Ontario Council for Community Health Accreditation, and a past member of the Ontario Public Health Leadership Council.



Dr. Gardner is currently a member of the Ontario Tobacco Control System Committee, and co-chair of the Public Health Sector Strategic Plan Table, Promoting Healthy Environments Both Natural and Built.

Associate Medical Officers of Health

Dr. Colin Lee, MD, MSc, CCFP(EM), FRCPC

Dr. Colin Lee is a graduate of the University of Toronto, McGill University and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in England. He is a Royal College certified public health and preventive medicine specialist who has been with the health unit since 2003. He is currently an Associate Medical Officer of Health whose primary responsibilities are in the Clinical Service Programs, including communicable disease control, vaccine-preventable diseases and sexual health. He is an assistant professor at the University of Toronto Dalla Lana School of Public Health. He had the opportunity to serve part-time at Public Health Ontario as a public health physician in communicable disease control from 2009 to 2013. He is also a certified emergency medicine physician who practiced at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Barrie from 2003 to 2008. He continues to work part-time at an urgent care clinic.



This dual career in public health and clinical medicine provides invaluable opportunities to strengthen links between local doctors and the health unit, and to enhance clinical protocols that impact on public health.

He has a long-standing interest in infectious diseases and is Past Chair of the Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC) on Communicable Disease, which advises the Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario on infectious disease issues. His interest in public health extends beyond Simcoe Muskoka borders, as he has previously provided public health consultancies in malaria, HIV/AIDS and public health policy to developing countries.

Dr. Lisa Simon, MD, MPH, CCFP, FRCPC

Dr. Lisa Simon is a Public Health and Preventive Medicine specialist who joined the health unit as an Associate Medical Officer of Health (AMOH) in 2013. Her interests and primary responsibilities are in the areas of chronic disease and injury prevention, maternal and child health, and the social determinants of health.

Dr. Simon's interest in upstream approaches to population health improvement led her to pursue a career in public health. She has a long-standing interest in health equity, both locally and globally, and has studied and worked in clinical and public health capacities with diverse populations in Canada and internationally.



Dr. Simon received her medical degree from the University of Calgary, her master's in public health from the University of Toronto, and her residency training in public health and preventive medicine, as well as family medicine, from McMaster University. She also served as an AMOH at the health unit from 2011 to 2012, with a focus on communicable disease control, vaccine-preventable diseases and sexual health.

Dr. Sue Surry, MD, MSc, FRCPC

Dr. Surry is a physician consultant to the A/MOH team.

Dr. Susan Surry is a pediatric specialist with expertise in children's health and a Master's Degree in Epidemiology & Biostatistics. When she joined our Health Unit in 2001, she brought more than a decade of field work and research experience in population health. Dr. Surry served as an Associate Medical Officer of Health for Simcoe Muskoka until 2013.



The demands of a rapidly growing population, the mounting pressures in all program areas and the need to ensure strong links with physicians all contributed to the demand for Dr. Surry's expertise. Her background makes her ideally suited to strengthen and enhance the programming and services offered to promote and protect the health of children.

Dr. Surry's interest in children and health began early. As a youth she worked with children in Costa Rica, an experience she repeated later as a medical student in other parts of the world. The appreciation that chronic diseases often receive their start in childhood convinced the doctor that there was a role in public health for a pediatric specialist.

"I recognized that I could make a difference in people's health if I reached them in their early years," said Dr. Surry.

In addition to assisting the Medical Officer of Health and his team on issues related to child health, Dr. Surry now works part-time as a pediatrician supporting the innovative School Success Program in Orillia's Family Health Team.

As a community physician, Dr. Surry also devotes some of her energies to helping the health unit develop stronger links with local physicians, important partners in the delivery of public health programs.