



DR. SHARON WALMSLEY HEALTH

Dr. Sharon Walmsley is a trailblazer and advocate for responsive health care for women living with HIV.

Sharon was one of the first Ontario physicians to dedicate her career to the care of persons living with HIV. She quickly learned that HIV-infected women had special needs beyond their medical treatment related to stigma, disclosure, isolation and poverty. She also recognized many women and trans persons acquire HIV through sexual assault or trauma.

As Professor of Medicine, University of Toronto, Director of one of the largest Canadian HIV clinics, at the University Health Network, and Senior scientist at the Toronto General Hospital Research Institute, Sharon continues to break new ground. Not only has she led important research initiatives on the health needs of women with HIV, she plays a critical role in bringing the voices

of women living with HIV into research through community advisory boards.

As Chair of the International Workshop on HIV and women, Sharon has used her leadership to connect researchers, women living with HIV and service organizations to advance further study in the field. As Co-Director of the Canadian HIV treatment trials network, she has helped to shape Canada's response to the HIV pandemic, including the importance of ensuring the health needs of First Nations, Inuit and Metis communities with HIV are included.

Sharon is a passionate role model actively mentoring and promoting students and researchers, readily including young women collaborators in her projects and sharing opportunities for growth and leadership for women for over 20 years.

Sharon has received numerous awards. Notably for her work in HIV care and her commitment to guiding young women physicians and researchers, Sharon received the Order of Canada in 2017, and in 2021 was appointed Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.

Sharon's extensive work and pioneering research on the unique effects of HIV on women and her commitment to mentoring young women physicians and researchers demonstrates a core belief: Change is possible!



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