

Research Seminar Series

Dalla Lana School of Public Health

Thursday March 4, 2010, 12:00pm

Pandemic H1N1 in Ontario

Dr. Natasha S. Crowcroft and Dr. Laura C. Rosella

Dr. Natasha S. Crowcroft, MA, MSc, MD (Cantab), MRCP, FFPH

Director, Surveillance and Epidemiology, Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion

Associate Professor, Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology and Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto

Dr. Laura C. Rosella, PhD, MHSc, HBSc

Fellow, Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion

Assistant Professor, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, University of Toronto

Seminar Description:

This seminar will discuss the H1N1 pandemic in Ontario. The objectives of this seminar are to present information on the epidemiology of the first and second waves, present results from epidemiological studies undertaken as part of the pandemic response and to discuss the challenges of conducting, reporting and publishing research in emergencies.

Dr. Crowcroft has an MA and MD (PhD) from the University of Cambridge, a medical degree (MB BS) and MSc from the University of London, and post graduate specialist qualifications in internal medicine and public health (MRCP, FFPH). She has worked internationally in several European programmes and as adviser to the World Health Organization on methods of estimating global burden of pertussis and neonatal tetanus. She was the first person selected to represent the UK in the European Programme for Intervention Epidemiology Training (EPIET) and is the founding President of the EPIET Alumni Network (EAN) which links public health epidemiologists across Europe. While working in Belgium 1995-1997 she undertook one of the first cross border projects completed between Belgium and France, a study of hantavirus infections. After this she worked for a decade in the Immunisation Department of the Health Protection Agency's Centre for Infections as a national expert in vaccines, leading on surveillance of a number of diseases including diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis as well as vaccination coverage. She has also led incident responses to Lassa Fever, pioneered immunization training initiatives and has research interests in encephalitis and vaccine programme evaluation. Natasha came to Canada in 2007 and took up the position of Director, Surveillance and Epidemiology at the newly established Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion in 2008. She is a member of the Canadian National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI) and Ontario's Provincial Infectious Disease Advisory Committee Subgroup on Immunization.

Dr. Rosella received a Masters in Community Health and Epidemiology and PhD in Epidemiology from the Dalla Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto. She has trained at a variety of research institutions including Cancer Care Ontario, the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy and the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences. She is currently completing a postdoctoral fellowship at the Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion and holds a CIHR fellowship in public health policy. Her primary research interests include: epidemiologic methods, population and public health, health services research and the use of evidence in public health decision-making. During the H1N1 pandemic, Dr. Rosella was involved in several epidemiologic studies as part of OAHPP's pandemic response.

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