

# Speaker Bios

## Professor David Fergusson



David Fergusson is the Founder and Director of the Christchurch Health and Development Study, a 25-year study of a birth cohort of 1265 children born in the Christchurch region in mid-1977. Research into this cohort has produced over 250 published books and scientific articles that span a wide range of disciplines including: psychology, psychiatry, pediatrics, epidemiology, health economics and sociology. Data gathered from this study was also used by Professor Fergusson and colleagues to devise complex statistical models that took into account the possibility that psychosis encouraged cannabis use, and that also adjusted the results for other factors associated with cannabis use. His principal research interests lie in the design analysis and interpretation of correlational data. In addition, he is Chairman and evaluator of the Early Start program which is a Christchurch based family support program.

## Dr. Anthony Phillips



Anthony Phillips is Professor and Director of the UBC Institute of Mental Health. He is the former Chair of the Department of Psychology and a Senior Investigator with the UBC/Vancouver Coastal Brain Research Centre. Dr. Phillips is an expert in brain function and behaviour. His research focuses on the neurobiology of motivation, drug addiction, and mental illness, and has had important clinical implications. Dr. Phillips is the Chair of the Institute Advisory Board for the CIHR Institute of Neuroscience, Mental Health, and Addiction. He also serves on the Board of the Neuroscience Canada Partnership; the University of Ottawa Mental Health Institute; and was a founding member of the Research Advisory Council for the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research. Dr. Phillips was a founder of QLT, one of Canada's leading biotechnology companies, and maintains an active involvement in the biotech industries of Canada.

## Dr. Joy Johnson



Joy Johnson is Co-Director of NEXUS, Co-Leader of the Women's Health Research Network, Professor in the School of Nursing at UBC, and Co-Principal Investigator of the Nursing and Health Behaviour Research Unit. Dr. Johnson's research focus includes the development and treatment of tobacco dependence and addiction. Her methodological interests include the measurement of behavioural phenomena such as tobacco dependence and understanding how factors synergistically combine to influence health behaviour. Dr. Johnson holds national grants to explore the development of tobacco dependence among teenagers, and is currently launching a research project related to tobacco use in the context of severe and persistent mental illness. She is also commencing an ethnographic study on culture and context of frequent marijuana use among youth. In addition, she heads the UBC satellite research unit of the Centre for Addiction Research based in Victoria, BC.

## Dr. Benedikt Fischer



Benedikt Fischer is Research Scientist and Section Co-Head of *Public Health and Regulatory Policy* at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto. He is an Associate Professor of Public Health Sciences and Criminology at the University of Toronto, a CIHR New Investigator and the winner of the 2002 international IVO award for excellence in substance use research. His main areas of research include the fields of substance use, public/urban health, criminal justice, Hepatitis C, treatment, law and policy analysis, and health in marginalized populations. Currently, he leads a CIHR-funded Interdisciplinary Health Research Team (IHRT) on Illicit Opiate Addiction and is also principal investigator of an Interdisciplinary Capacity Enhancement (ICE) grant on socio-behavioral HCV research. Working with the CCSA National Addiction Policy Group, he led the development of a paper on *Policy Options for Cannabis Use Control in Canada* (1998).