

APHEO Update: First Quarter, 2023



Message from the President

Hello APHEO members,

I hope that the first few months of 2023 have treated you well! The past few years have been stressful and full of new challenges for APHEO's members. **Your commitment to supporting one another during the COVID-19 pandemic has been truly commendable.** I hope that we can continue this sense of collaboration and support throughout 2023 and beyond.

We have an eventful year ahead of us as APHEO begins to resume normal operations. I am very pleased to be your President for the next year. The 2023 APHEO Executive Committee is comprised of previous and new members, who are committed to supporting APHEO's members and mission with their knowledge, leadership, and enthusiasm.

This communication features the return of our "Featured APHEO Member" series, which highlights a few APHEO members each issue. It also includes updates from the Executive Committee, including early priorities for the year. The Executive Committee is also excitedly planning the **2023 APHEO Annual General Meeting, which will take place on June 5, 2023 at 10:00am – with guest speaker Dr. Kieran Moore, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health.** Please watch the APHEO listserv for further updates and ways to participate!

Thank you everyone for your continued support and contributions to APHEO. Please feel free to reach out with any comments, concerns or ideas that you may have.

Sincerely,

Erica Sawula

Erica Sawula
APHEO President

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Featured APHEO Member

Dorian Lunny

Epidemiologist
Northwestern Health Unit

How long have you been an APHEO member?

Just over 10 years.

What APHEO workgroups/committees have you been involved with to date?

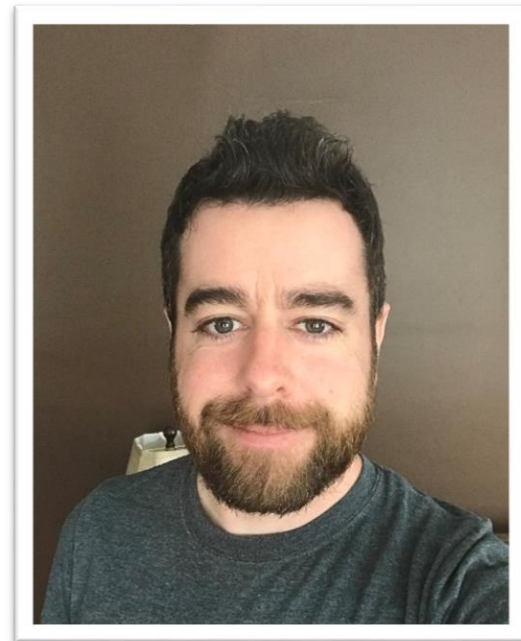
- APHEO Executive Committee
- Small, Rural, Northern PHU workgroup
- Indigenous Engagement workgroup
- RRFSS Website workgroup

How has being a part of APHEO helped you in the work that you do or in your career development?

For many years I was the only epidemiologist at my PHU, so being a part of APHEO helped immensely in connecting me with a network of other epis throughout the province. Connecting with and learning from other epis via APHEO has vastly improved my knowledge of public health epidemiology in Ontario, the provincial data landscape, analytical methods, surveillance, population health assessment, and basically every other relevant aspect of my role. The knowledge exchange that happens in APHEO (via the listserv, workgroups, and other channels) has been one of the most important sources of information, learning, and professional development for me.

What has been your most memorable APHEO moment?

Attending my first APHEO conference in Niagara Falls shortly after I was hired in my role. I was about 6 months into the job, still overwhelmed and learning a lot, and it was



good timing for me to meet some fellow epis and learn about some of work that was going on in the province – overall a very memorable experience.

What is your favourite function in SAS/Stata/SPSS/R, etc.?

One of my favourites is the “distrat” function in Stata, which I actually learned about via the APHEO list serv, and use fairly often – handy function for doing bulk age standardization and rate calculations

What is your favourite ‘core indicator’?

I don’t have a single favourite one, but I’ve always really appreciated all the core indicators that cover data from IntelliHEALTH – mortality, ER visits, hospitalization etc. There are so many little nuances to the data, the variables, the filtering etc. that it would be a ton of work to understand all of it without guidance. So the core indicators are much appreciated for working through all the complexities.

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Featured APHEO Member

Natalie Causarano

Epidemiologist
Region of Peel – Public Health

How long have you been an APHEO member?

Since 2016

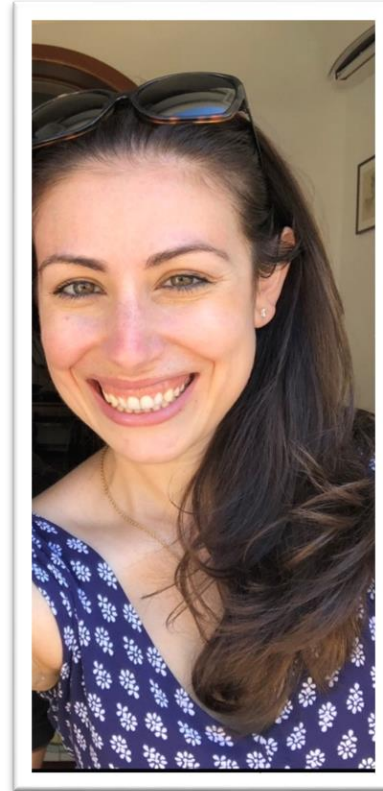
What APHEO workgroups/committees have you been involved with to date?

- Reproductive Health Core Indicators Working Group
- BORN Public Health Working Group
- CHSCY Working group
- And I've just joined the Core Indicators Working Group representing as the sub-lead from the repro group!

How has being a part of APHEO helped you in the work that you do or in your career development?

I have benefitted so much from being a part of these working groups. I started my career in clinical research in a hospital, and there was a lot to learn about public health when I started.

From participating in working groups, I've learned so much from APHEO members at all stages of their careers, and have been able to build relationships and connect outside of working groups about questions or data issues.



What has been your most memorable APHEO moment?

Attending the 2016 APHEO Unconference in person!

What is your favourite function in SAS/Stata/SPSS/R, etc.?

The reshape command in Stata. I find it challenging but useful to transform datasets.

What is your favourite core indicator?

So hard to choose! 😊 Probably any of our repro CIs with BORN data (gestational weight gain, maternal mental health, alcohol and substance exposure during pregnancy).

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Updates from the First Quarter Executive Meetings

January, February and March 2023

- The minutes from the first quarter of APHEO Executive meetings are located [here](#).
- In response to a letter that APHEO submitted to the Ministry of Health in June 2022, **Re: Requested epidemiology supports for the integration of all diseases of public health significance into the new expanded solution**, an APHEO representative will sit on the provincial Ontario DOPHS Investigation Management and Surveillance System (ODIMSS) Steering Committee. This role is being filled by Danielle Hachborn from Simcoe Muskoka District Health Unit.
- Carina Bee, APHEO's Vice President, has begun to review APHEO's policies and procedures. This review will continue throughout 2023, accompanied by any required updates and amendments.
- APHEO is looking to add an Ontario Health Liaison role to the organization, which would comprise an epidemiologist or senior staff from Ontario Health that can provide information and updates to APHEO regarding health assessment and surveillance activities being conducted by the organization, as well as to explore opportunities to work on shared priorities.
- Normal operations and workgroups of APHEO that were suspended in 2020 due to the pandemic have begun to resume. Dorian Lunny, APHEO's Secretary, will be conducting an audit of APHEO workgroups to assess their current status and priorities for 2023.
- APHEO Executive is resuming its process to becoming an Incorporated organization.
- The 2023 APHEO Annual General Meeting will take place on **Monday, June 5 at 10:00am**, with guest speaker Dr. Kieran Moore, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health. A meeting invite and further details will be sent in the coming weeks.
- APHEO Executive is beginning to explore options for an in-person Conference in 2024!

Ways to Get Involved

The Core Indicators Workgroup is looking for a Volunteer Management Lead; someone who is well-organized and enthusiastic to help this important group in organizing subgroups and recruiting new members/leads. If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Sherri Deamond at Sherri.Deamond@Durham.ca