

MUHC Health Equity Introduction

Before we begin, welcome to the MUHC!

We are delighted to host this two-day Health Equity **Embedding Health Equity in Policy, Practice and Participation** Symposium, organized to mark thirty years of Sociocultural Consultation and Interpretation Services (SCIS) at the Montreal Children's Hospital and to examine collective contributions towards health equity and access to care.

This symposium is a collaboration of ACCESSS and Sociocultural Consultation and Interpretation Services – SCIS at the MUHC's Montreal Children's Hospital.

ACCESSS, or the Alliance des communautés culturelles pour l'égalité dans la santé et les services sociaux was founded in 1984 and brings together more than 100 community organizations dedicated to the promotion of accessibility and the adaptation of healthcare and social services to members of the ethno-cultural communities established in Quebec.

The SCIS has been providing sociocultural diversity education and Interpretation Services in over 40 languages at the Montreal Children's Hospital for thirty years, and has been involved with ACCESSS and The HPH International Migration, Equity and Diversity Task Force for the last several years.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Equity is the absence of avoidable or remediable differences among groups of people, whether those groups are defined socially, economically, demographically, or geographically and as such, health equity means that everyone in the community it serves has a fair opportunity to live a long, healthy life. As a leading institution in our community the MUHC is fully engaged in doing just that.

In 2014 through the MED Task Force, we at the MUHC, along with colleagues from other hospitals, participated in assessing our health network in the inclusion of equity in our policies and practice.

We did better in some areas than others and much remains to be done to ensure the visibility of an equitable framework.

These presentations take place on indigenous lands, we are on traditional Mohawk territory.

In this light, I am very pleased to open the floor and welcome our distinguished guests



**Antonio Chiarenza –
Benvenuto! - hails from Italy
as Head of Research Emilia
Health Authority Leader, HPH
International , Migration,
Equity and Diversity (MED)**

**Task Force and the Regional HPH network of
Emilia-Romagna .**

Our second distinguished guest is :



**Ragnhild Storstein Spilker
Vilkommen! Ms. Storstein Spilker
hails from Norway and is Project
Leader for Equity in Healthcare,
Norwegian Centre for Migration and**

Minority Health (NAKMI). She is representing Bernadette Nirmal Kumar Director, Norwegian Centre for Migration and Minority Health (NAKMI), and Professor of Global Health, Institute for Health and Society, at the University of Oslo

Thank you both for leading and inspiring health equity initiatives. The MUHC will move forward with an equity framework.

Patricia Lefebvre, Directrice générale adjointe par intérim

Directrice, Direction de la qualité, de l'évaluation, de la performance et de l'éthique