



Chris Simpson, MD **Chair, Wait Time Alliance**

Chris Simpson was born in Moncton in 1967 and raised in Nackawic, a small pulp mill town of 1,000 people in western New Brunswick. Torn between pursuing a career in music or medicine, he obtained a BSc at the University of New Brunswick while playing saxophone with The Thomists, a 20-piece big swing band based in Fredericton and well known across the Atlantic provinces.

He went on to medical school at Dalhousie University in Halifax and obtained his MD in 1992. He subsequently completed internal medicine and cardiology training at Queen's University in Kingston and then a Heart and Stroke Foundation Clinical and Research Fellowship in Cardiac Electrophysiology at the University of Western Ontario, under the supervision of Dr. George Klein.

After returning to Kingston in 1999, he founded the Heart Rhythm Program at Kingston General Hospital. Currently, he is professor of medicine and chief of cardiology at Queen's University, as well as medical director of the Cardiac Program at Kingston General Hospital/Hotel Dieu Hospital.

Dr. Simpson's primary non-clinical professional interest is health policy—particularly access to care and wait times. He serves as the chair of the Wait Time Alliance (WTA) and as chair of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society's (CCS) Standing Committee on Health Policy and Advocacy. He is the lead for the Southeast (Ontario) Local Health Integration Network Cardiovascular Roadmap Project, which developed a regional model of integrated cardiovascular care for southeastern Ontario. He serves on the executive of the CCS (member-at-large) and on the Cardiac Care Network of Ontario board of directors, and is an American College of Cardiology governor.

He served as the first president of the Canadian Heart Rhythm Society — the national association of heart rhythm specialists and allied health professionals. Dr. Simpson was the first recipient of the Canadian Medical Association Award for Young Leaders and now serves as the organization's President-Elect.

An active clinician, educator and researcher, Dr. Simpson has authored or co-authored over 300 peer-reviewed papers and abstracts. His clinical and research interests include access to care, medical fitness to drive, referral pathway development, atrial fibrillation, sudden death in the young, catheter ablation and cardiac resynchronization therapy.

Outside medicine, Dr. Simpson is an active supporter of the Cantabile Choirs of Kingston and the University Hospitals Kingston Foundation, and he recently served as chair of the Kingston Blue Marlins Swim Team board of directors. The proud father of three daughters and a son, he immensely enjoys watching and cheering their musical and athletic pursuits.