



2021 Canadian Spondylitis Association – Board Nominees

Erika Brimacombe

Erika Brimacombe is a practicing lawyer in British Columbia. Erika received her law degree from the University of Victoria in 2016. Before attending law school, Erika obtained her B.A. from the University of British Columbia where she studied Cognitive Systems and Linguistics.

Erika has worked for several years in the areas of health law and privacy law. Previously an associate at Harper Grey LLP, Erika now works as privacy counsel at Simon Fraser University.

Erika was diagnosed with ankylosing spondylitis in 2011. She hopes to join and contribute to the Board out of an appreciation for the CSA and its efforts to improve patient and physician access to resources and raise awareness and education about Spondyloarthropathies.

Moataz Daoud

Moataz Daoud is a registered pharmacist and Global Medical Director at Sanofi. He studied biopharmaceutical sciences at the University of Ottawa and went on to obtain his bachelors and doctorate in pharmacy from the University of Toronto.

During his training, Moataz worked both in hospital and community practice settings. He worked at the University Health Network where he spent time in Cardiology, Nephrology, ICU, and rehab. He found himself drawn to immunology after being diagnosed with Ankylosing Spondylitis and decided to pursue a career in the pharmaceutical industry after a biologic allowed him to get his life back. He got his start as an immunology at Amgen as a medical expert where he worked in rheumatology, dermatology, and endocrinology. He then moved to Sanofi Genzyme to work as a medical advisor with a focus in dermatology. As the company's top dermatology expert he interacted with Health Canada, CADTH, private payers, patient association groups, and the top physicians in the field. Most recently he moved to a Global Medical Director role where he designs and runs immunology clinical trials. Moataz also has a strong interest in education providing training for PharmD students from the University of Toronto and PharmD interns from across Canada.

Anthony Florendo

Anthony has been suffering from spondylitis (Ankylosing Spondylitis) since his early 20's while still living in his country of birth, the Philippines. His AS went undiagnosed until, in his mid 50's a vigilant rheumatologist in Canada finally gave him a diagnosis. Anthony has since been involved in the formation and growth of his local AS support group.

Anthony has been forced to early retirement due to the debilitating effects of AS. In his professional life Anthony held senior roles in the pharmaceutical industry, including marketing leadership roles and patient advocacy, formation of key opinion leader groups, and communication and PR to targeted associations and government agencies.

Although physically disabled, Anthony's drive to advance the welfare of sufferers of spondylitis in Canada continues unabated.

Cynthia Walker

Cynthia Walker is a proud Gwichyà Gwich'in woman and a proven brand builder – launching brand and marketing initiatives on and off-line with vigour and passion. She also maintains an impressive track record in building tools that increase awareness and drive progressive customer engagement.

As a child, Cynthia spent countless hours drawing, illustrating and sketching; and today, applies that early experience, along with her considerable graphic design experience and training, to develop creative solutions to the business challenges faced by her clients. Cynthia has a rare blend of business insight, over 15 years of finely honed creative instincts and skill, disciplined project management skills, and the ability to partner with clients that often haven't had much experience with the creative process. To her, the most rewarding part of the process is seeing the transformation of clients as they become engaged in creative projects and realize the tangible benefits and business value of each final solution as it takes shape.

A multiple International Summit and International MUSE Creative award-winner, Cynthia has a certificate in Design Foundations and a diploma in Design and Digital Media from Grant MacEwan University. She has also sat on the boards of The Fort Saskatchewan Chamber of Commerce (earning nominations for the 2017 Entrepreneurial Spirit award and the 2018, 2019 and 2020 Marketing Excellence award), The Fort Saskatchewan Women in Business Committee and the Fort Saskatchewan International Women's Day Committee (earning nominations for professional achievement, arts and culture, and volunteerism).

Cynthia devotes what free time she has left to raising her blended family of six children, which she has found to be her ultimate (and most challenging) creative endeavour.