

Speaker Biography

Paula Blackstien-Hirsch BSc (PT) MHSc MSc



Paula Blackstien-Hirsch is the Executive Director for the Centre for Healthcare Quality Improvement at The Change Foundation. The Centre is focused on improving system level healthcare outcomes in Ontario through stakeholder training, integrated into the design and coordination of quality improvement initiatives. Paula's specific interest is in working with Boards and senior executive teams to transform by developing quality as a core business strategy.

Prior to this appointment, Paula was Director for the Hospital Report Research Collaborative (HRRC), based at the University of Toronto, bringing together six universities and five research institutes to oversee the development of methods and reports on hospital performance in Ontario. In this role she also directed and managed a variety of quality improvement initiatives. Paula has held a variety of other positions including three years in hospital management, five years in hospital consulting, and eight years in applied research and quality improvement with the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences. Paula is committed to blending this rich background in performance measurement and quality improvement to accelerate improvements in healthcare.

Paula is a member of the Board of Trustees of Bridgepoint Health, Chairs their Quality and Safety Committee, and participates on numerous other provincial committees and panels with mandates related to quality, safety and performance management.

Paula graduated from Rehabilitation Sciences at the University of Toronto. Following several years in clinical practice, she earned a Masters degree in Health Administration from the University of Toronto and a Masters degree in Health Research Methodology from McMaster University.