



UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO



Public Health: From Science to Practice in a COVID/post-COVID world
University of Toronto-Tsinghua University 3rd Annual (Virtual) Forum and Call for Proposals

Preamble: The University of Toronto and Tsinghua University are among the world's leading comprehensive research-intensive higher education institutions. They have a distinguished legacy of contributing to the global public good for well over a century.

The 3rd annual forum, to be held in 2020, is taking place against the backdrop of the cataclysmic COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic will leave the world fundamentally transformed even if a successful and accessible vaccine were to reach the market.

While societies in some important areas have retreated from openness, in several other areas societies around the world are experimenting with bold new ideas out of both necessity and or opportunity in preparation for a COVID/post-COVID world.

The forum will examine:

- individual and societal behavioural patterns in response to the pandemic
- social determinants of health and health equity impacted by the pandemic
- technologies and technological innovations that require immediate attention

with the goal of developing the following to advance public health in a COVID/post-COVID world:

- beneficial technologies ([AI-powered personalized learning](#) etc.) and mitigating concerns of pre-existing technologies ([infodemic on social media](#) etc.)
- sound policy measures in response to or in anticipation of individual/societal behavioural patterns and health, economic & technological trends (universal basic income etc.)
- new service delivery models for these, and other solutions.

The forum will be held over 4 days for the plenary and workshop sessions.

Both universities will launch a call for proposals in Fall 2020 based on the forum theme. Faculty must attend at least part of the forum to qualify to apply to the calls for proposals.

If faculty cannot attend the forum or wish to participate in the entire forum but unable to, they can also nominate their PDF/graduate students to participate in the forum.

Plenary session is open to faculty from both universities, U of T alumni, Tsinghua alumni, industry/foundation partners and local/national/intergovernmental organization representatives. **U of T participants must register beforehand by noon, Friday, Nov 20, 2020 (Toronto) via [Eventbrite](#)**

Workshop sessions are open to faculty from both universities and industry/foundation partners. **U of T participants must register beforehand by noon, Friday, Nov 20, 2020 (Toronto) via [Eventbrite](#)**
Please note, if a workshop session reaches 60 registrants before the deadline, we will close registration for that workshop before the deadline.

DAY 1: PLENARY SESSION (UP TO 120 MINS)

Date & time: November 24, Tuesday, 8-10 PM Toronto / November 25, Wednesday, 9-11 AM Beijing

Program

- **Welcome and Introduction of U of T AVP-IP by Forum Chair (up to 5 mins)**
 - [Dr. Jia XUE, Assistant Professor-Faculty of Information & Factor Inwentash Faculty of Social Work \(U of T\), founder of Artificial Intelligence for Justice Lab, Faculty affiliate at Schwartz Reisman Institute for Technology and Society, Tsinghua University Alumna and Chair, 3rd Annual U of T – Tsinghua University Forum](#)
- **Welcome remarks from U of T AVP-IP (2020 Host) (up to 7.5 mins)**
 - [Prof. Alex Mihailidis, Associate Vice-President, International Partnerships](#)
- **Introduction of Tsinghua University VP by Forum Chair (up to 2 mins)**
- **Welcome remarks from Tsinghua University (up to 7.5 mins)**
 - [Prof. Qi-Kun XUE, Vice-President, Research, Tsinghua University](#)
- **Introduction of Dean, School of Social Sciences, Tsinghua University by Forum Chair (up to 2 mins)**
- **Welcome remarks from Dean, School of Social Sciences, Tsinghua University (up to 7.5 mins)**
 - [Prof. Kaiping PENG, Dean, School of Social Sciences, Tsinghua University](#)
- **Introduction of Dean of School of Medicine, Tsinghua University by Forum Chair (up to 2 mins)**
- **Welcome remarks from Dean, School of Medicine, Tsinghua University (up to 7.5 mins)**
 - [Prof. Jiahong DONG, Executive Vice-President, Chinese Medical Doctor Association and Dean, School of Medicine, Tsinghua University](#)
- **Introduction of Academic Keynote Speaker by Forum Chair (up to 2 mins)**
- **Academic Keynote (up to 15 mins)**
 - Topic: The role of global universities in a COVID/post-COVID world
 - [Prof. Vivek Goel, Special Advisor to the President & Provost-U of T, Member- Canada's COVID-19 Immunity Task Force, and Scientific Advisor -CanCOVID & President & Vice-Chancellor-elect University of Waterloo](#)
- **Introduction of Industry Keynote Speaker by Forum Chair (up to 2 mins)**
- **Industry Keynote (up to 15 mins)**
 - Topic: The future of cities in a COVID/post-COVID world
 - [Dr. Jonathan Woetzel, Director-McKinsey Global Institute, Senior Partner \(Shanghai\), McKinsey and Co-Chair McKinsey-Tsinghua Urban China Initiative](#)

- **Q&A (up to 30 mins)**
 - Moderator: Forum Chair
 - Notes: Questions will be provided electronically to Chair who will select the pertinent questions and direct them to the appropriate keynote Speakers, AVP (U of T), VP (Tsinghua) or Deans (Tsinghua)
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DAY 2: WORKSHOP 1 (UP TO 120 MINS)

- **Sub-theme:** Leveraging AI and other technologies
 - **Date and time:** November 27, Friday, 8-10 AM Toronto/ November 27, Friday, 9-11 PM Beijing
 - **Scope:** This workshop will bring together researchers who are
 - studying the impact of
 - and or developing

AI-powered or other technologies to

 - mitigate
 - the impact of the pandemic on societies with the help of these technologies
 - the societal drawback of certain technologies exacerbated by the pandemic
 - address opportunities to advance societal wellbeing that were previously considered economically, politically, culturally or technologically unfeasible pre-COVID but not anymore.
 - enable the participation of marginalized populations (e.g. elderly, women, children, indigenous communities and other visible minorities)
 - **Panel session:** COVID- A boon or inhibitor for socially inclusive & impactful innovation?
 - [Richard Tong, Chief Architect & GM of US Operations, Squirrel AI](#) (See link to [story](#) on Squirrel AI in MIT Technology Review)
 - [Prof. Prof. Lai WEI, Vice President of Tsinghua Chang Gung Hospital and Team Member, COVID-19 Intelligent Monitoring and Control System](#)
 - [Prof. Ron Bodkin, VP of AI Engineering and CIO, Vector Institute and Engineering Lead, Schwartz Reisman Institute for Technology & Society, U of T \(Panel-Only\)](#)
 - **Moderator:** [Dr. Jia XUE, Assistant Professor-Faculty of Information & Factor Inwentash Faculty of Social Work \(U of T\), founder of Artificial Intelligence for Justice Lab, Faculty affiliate at Schwartz Reisman Institute for Technology and Society, Tsinghua University Alumna and Chair, 3rd Annual U of T – Tsinghua University Forum](#)
 - **Program (up to 120 mins)**
 - Welcome and introduction of Panelists by moderator (Up to 7.5 mins)
 - Panel (up to 30 mins)
 - Q&A (up to 22.5 mins)
 - Discussion: Potential collaboration opportunities (up to 60 mins)
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DAY 3: WORKSHOP 2 (UP TO 120 MINS)

- **Sub-theme:** Health equity & social determinants of health
 - **Date and time:** November 30, Monday, 8-10 AM Toronto/ November 30, Monday, 9-11 PM Beijing
 - **Scope:** This workshop will examine the impact of the pandemic on the social determinants of health and consequently health equity and the policy measures required to restore health equity, especially to vulnerable/marginalized groups.
 - **Panel session:** Reaching the hardest to reach in a pandemic world
 - [Prof. Joseph Wong, Vice-President, International and Roz and Ralph Halbert Professor of Innovation, Munk School of Global Affairs, U of T](#)
 - [Prof. Audrey Laporte, Director, Institute of Health Policy Management & Evaluation, Dalla Lana School of Public Health and President-Elect International Health Economics Association](#)
 - [Prof. Jun JING, Director, Public Health Research Center, Tsinghua University](#)
 - **Moderator:** [Prof. Xiaolin WEI, Dalla Lana Chair in Global Health Policy, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, Director of Global Implementation Science Lab and Member, President's International Council on East Asia- U of T](#)
 - **Program (up to 120 mins)**
 - Welcome and introduction by moderator (Up to 7.5 mins)
 - Panel (up to 30 mins)
 - Q&A (up to 22.5 mins)
 - Discussion: Potential collaboration opportunities (up to 60 mins)
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DAY 4: WORKSHOP 3 (UP TO 120 MINS)

- **Sub-theme 3:** The human factor of infectious diseases
- **Date and time:** December 3, Thursday 8-10 AM Toronto/ December 3, Thursday, 9-11 PM Beijing
- **Scope:** This workshop will explore how we respond as individuals and as members of social networks/groups during a time of public health crisis to prevent the spread of infectious diseases.
- **Panel session:** Perspectives on how individuals & societies respond in a time of pandemic, why they respond in the ways they do and how to control the spread of infectious diseases.
 - [Prof. Kaiping PENG, Dean, School of Social Sciences, Tsinghua University](#)
 - [Dr. Jia XUE, Assistant Professor-Faculty of Information & Factor Inwentash Faculty of Social Work \(U of T\), founder of Artificial Intelligence for Justice Lab, Faculty affiliate at Schwartz Reisman Institute for Technology and Society](#)
 - [Prof. Dexter Voisin, Dean, Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work](#)
 - [Prof. Ross Upshur, Dalla School of Public Health and Canada Research Chair in Primary Care Research](#)
- **Moderator:** [Prof. Lidan YOU, Erwin Edward Hart Professor in Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering- U of T](#)

- **Program (up to 120 mins)**
 - Welcome and introduction of Panelists by moderator (up to 7.5 mins)
 - Panel (up to 40 mins)
 - Q&A (up to 20 mins)
 - Discussion: Potential collaboration opportunities (up to 52.5 mins)