



# National Thalassemia Conference

2-DAY VIRTUAL EVENT

Saturday & Sunday October 23 – 24  
from 12:00-4:00 PM EDT

Learn from Canadian and International experts on Thalassemia



**REGISTRATION:**  
<https://bit.ly/3CG4Zwr>

## Event Description

We look forward to spending the two days on October 23-24 with patients, caregivers, healthcare providers, medical and scientific experts, leaders from the pharmaceutical industry, and representatives of partner organizations. We'll be learning about innovative therapies coming available, hearing the impact these have in real life, and tackling tough questions about overcoming barriers currently in place to secure optimal care for thalassemia patients across Canada.

The goal of the conference is to empower patients and families through increased knowledge on the most recent scientific and medical developments on thalassemia and its management including disease enhancement and curative therapies.



## Opening Session

12:00 pm sharp	<b>Master of Ceremonies</b> <i>Silvia Livia, Thalassemia Foundation of Canada (TFC)</i>
12:00 pm - 12:05 pm	<b>Welcome Note &amp; Opening Remarks</b> <i>Bessie Calabria, TFC and Dr. Melanie Kirby-Allen, SickKids</i>
12:05 pm - 12:10 pm	<b>Thalassemia Foundation of Canada: “Who We Are and What We Do”</b> <i>Riyad Elbard, TFC</i>
12:10 pm - 12:20 pm	<b>Thalassemia International Federation: “Update on Activities and Projects”</b> <i>Dr. Androulla Eleftheriou</i>
12:20 pm - 2:20 pm	<b>Management of Thalassemia</b>
12:20 pm - 12:40 pm	<b>Thalassemia Pathophysiology</b> <i>Dr. Melanie Kirby-Allen, SickKids</i>
12:40 pm - 1:20 pm	<b>The Management of Thalassemia &amp; New Treatments</b> <i>Dr. John Porter, University College London, UK</i>
1:20 pm - 1:50 pm	<b>Innovative Therapies and Current Research in Thalassemia</b> <i>Dr. Kevin Kuo, University Health Network</i>
1:50 pm - 2:20 pm	<b>Q &amp; A and Discussion</b>
2:20 pm - 2:30 pm	<b>Break (10 min)</b>
2:30 pm - 3:55 pm	<b>Curative Therapies for Thalassemia</b>
2:30 pm - 3:00 pm	<b>Potential Cures: Gene Therapy and Gene Editing</b> <i>Dr. Donna Wall, SickKids</i>
3:00 pm - 3:30 pm	<b>Bone Marrow and Stem Cell Transplant in Thalassemia</b> <i>Dr. Enass Raffa, SickKids</i>
3:30 pm - 3:55 pm	<b>Q &amp; A and Discussion</b>
3:55 pm - 4:00 pm	<b>Closing of Day 1</b> <i>Andre Oliveira, TFC</i>

<b>DAY 2</b>	
12:00 pm sharp	<b>Master of Ceremonies</b> <i>Shirin Taki, TFC</i>
12:00 pm - 12:05 pm	<b>Welcome &amp; Opening Remarks</b> <i>Helen Ziavras, TFC</i>
12:05 pm - 12:15 pm	<b>Day 1 Recap</b> <i>Josie Sirna, TFC</i>
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm	<b>Thalassemia Care and Treatment Across Canada</b>
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm	<b>Challenges &amp; Barriers to Thalassemia Care &amp; Treatment Across Canada</b> <b>Discussion Panel and Q/A</b> <i>Moderator: Dr. Durhane Wong-Rieger &amp; Panel of Medical Experts and patients</i>
1:15 pm - 2:20 pm	<b>Matters in Thalassemia</b>
1:15 pm - 1:35 pm	<b>Endocrine, Growth, and Puberty</b> <i>Dr. Sarah Patterson, McMaster University Medical Center</i>
1:35 pm - 1:55 pm	<b>Fertility and Pregnancy</b> <i>Dr. Farzana Sayani, Penn. University Hospital, USA</i>
1:55 pm - 2:20 pm	<b>Q &amp; A and Discussion</b>
2:20 pm - 2:30pm	<b>Break (10 min)</b>
2:30 pm - 3:15 pm	<b>Ask the Experts</b> <i>Dr. Richard Ward, Dr. Robert Klaassen, Bessie Calabria, and Ali Oonwala</i>
3:15pm - 3:35 pm	<b>Mental Health and Wellness</b> <i>Aisha Saintiche</i>
3:35 pm - 3:55 pm	<b>Q &amp; A and Discussion</b>
3:35 pm - 4:00 pm	<b>Closing Remarks</b>
	<i>Riyad Elbard and Bessie Calabria, TFC</i>

# THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



**Many thanks to our conference planning committee  
for their vision and dedication to the event:**

**Riyad Elbard**, President, TFC

**Bessie Calabria**, Vice-president, TFC

**Helen Zivras**, Past president & Co-Founder, TFC

**Josie Sirna**, Trustee, TFC

**Andre Oliveira**, Trustee, TFC

**Thank you for your participation!  
We look forward to welcoming you at our future events!**



[www.thalassemia.ca](http://www.thalassemia.ca)

For questions, please email: [info@thalassemia.ca](mailto:info@thalassemia.ca)

**Stay Connected:**



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