



Canadian Women's Heart Health Alliance

Advocacy Working Group | Member Profile



Rajni Nijhawan, MD

Program Staff Physician, Lead Medical Education for
Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation Program
University Health Network / Toronto Rehabilitation Institute
Assistant Professor, Department of Family and Community
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University of Toronto
Co-Chair, Women's Cardiovascular and Cerebrovascular Health
Committee
The Federation of Medical Women of Canada
Toronto, ON
Alliance member since 2018

Biography

Dr. Rajni Nijhawan practices in the area of cardiovascular prevention and rehabilitation at the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute (TRI)/UHN, where she has a special interest in women's cardiac health. She is an assistant professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Toronto.

As a clinician teacher, Dr. Nijhawan is the principal preceptor for the cardiac rehabilitation rotation for undergraduate and postgraduate learners at the provincial and national level. She is also the cardiac rehabilitation program lead medical education rotation coordinator for undergraduate, post graduate and fellowship programs for provincial, national and international learners.

Dr. Nijhawan is passionate about educating high risk cardiac patients and their caregivers. Along with the cardiac rehab team at TRI, she has been instrumental in developing and implementing Cardiac College, a multimedia educational resource for people living with heart disease and diabetes. Cardiac College has been translated into seven languages. Recently, with a team of learners and community members, she has developed and disseminated a trivia quiz to bring awareness about women's heart health among medical learners and people with lived experiences.

Dr. Nijhawan is an active member of the CWHHA national advocacy working group since its inception. She is also the Co-Chair of the Women's Cardiovascular and Cerebrovascular Health committee at The Federation of Medical Women of Canada. Dr. Nijhawan is committed to giving back to her community: she is a past president of the Toronto Doctors Lions Club, and founded a women's welfare and reproductive rights program in Punjab, India.

Dr. Nijhawan is a recipient of the University of Toronto 2018 Department of Family and Community Medicine Award of Excellence in Social Responsibility. She was nominated by the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (University of Toronto) for the 2020 community service award. In 2016, TRI recognized her for outstanding teaching at their Celebrating Education Excellence event.