

# **Wally Bartfay, PhD**

**Associate Professor, Faculty of Health Sciences at University of Ontario Institute of Technology**  
Oshawa, ON, CA

Leading public health expert develops interventions to deal with the downside of mobile devices on human health

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## **Description**

The only constant in public health is change. From contaminants in the food and water supply to climate change and environmental disasters, staunch public health advocate Wally Bartfay, PhD, Associate Professor in the Faculty of Health Sciences, has spent his career combating population and public health issues that threaten the population.

His latest research has shifted to the public health implications of mobile technology, specifically among millennials – the tech-savvy and perpetually connected cohort. Preliminary evidence suggests handheld devices negatively impact physical health by contributing to dry eye disease, various pain measures, sleep disturbances, lower quality of life, and social health issues. Dr. Bartfay aims to gain a better understanding of the short- and long-term health consequences of these devices and determine the best way to mitigate them. Results of his community needs assessment are guiding the development of interventions to alleviate these health issues.

During his tenure at UOIT, Dr. Bartfay has received numerous awards and accolades from his peers and his students, many of whom have gone on to make a real difference in society. He has co-authored three books in the fields of community health nursing and public health in Canada, which have been adopted by other universities. Over the past three decades, Dr. Bartfay has held numerous teaching roles including Associate Professor and Director of Research, Nursing at the University of Windsor, in Windsor, Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Science, School of Nursing at Queen’s University in Kingston, and Lecturer and Clinical Instructor at the University of Western Ontario, in London, Ontario.

A life-changing experience during his youth inspired him to pursue nursing. Dr. Bartfay earned his Diploma in Nursing Sciences from Dawson College in 1985, and a Bachelor of Arts with a Major in Health Sociology and a Minor in Anthropology from McGill University in 1988, both in Montreal. He practiced nursing at hospitals in Quebec and Ontario before moving to Manitoba, and completing his Bachelor of Science in Nursing with Academic Distinction from Brandon University in 1990, and his Master of Nursing with a Specialization in Community Health Nursing and Health Promotion in 1993. He received his Doctorate in Philosophy from the University of Toronto in 1999.

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## **Industry Expertise**

Education/Learning, Health and Wellness, Training and Development, Research, Program Development

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## **Topics**

Men in Nursing, Mobile Technologies in Health, Non-Communicable Chronic Diseases, Public and Population Health

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## **Affiliations**

College of Nurses of Ontario , International Epidemiological Association

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## **Past Talks**

**Mental Health Service Utilization Among Demented Individuals With or Without Mood Disorders in Canada**

5th Annual Global Healthcare Conference

**Smartphones in the Bedrooms of University Students Results in Alterations to the Quantity and Quality of Sleep: Implications for Public Health**

2016 National Health Care Team Challenge

**Health Effects Associated With the Use and Exposure to Electronic Devices and Technologies With a Video Display Terminal on University Students**

International Social Science, Education, Art and Technology Research Conference

**Cognitive Impairment and Dementia Diagnosis Among Institutional Care Facility Residents in Ontario, Canada**

20th IAGG World Congress of Gerontology and Geriatrics

**A Comparison of Cognitive Function at Dementia Diagnoses Among Facility Residents With or Without Pre-existing Condition in Ontario, Canada**

The 11th International Conference on Alzheimer's and Parkinson's Diseases

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## **Education**

**University of Toronto**

PhD Philosophy

**University of Manitoba**

MN Nursing, Specialization in Community Health Nursing and Health Promotion

**Brandon University**

BSc Nursing

**McGill University**

BA Major in Health Sociology, Minor in Anthropology

**Dawson College**

Diploma Nursing Sciences

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## **Accomplishments**

### **Air Transit Act of Humanitarian Kindness Recognition**

Recognized for providing emergency medical assistance to a passenger on Flight TS 690.

### **Male Teacher of the Year Award, University of Windsor**

Awarded for innovation and excellence in teaching.

### **The Faculty of Health Sciences Teaching Award, Queenâ€™s University**

This award is based on university-wide nominations from both students, faculty and administration.

### **The Reddick Award for Excellence in Nursing Education, Queenâ€™s Nursing Society**

Awarded for innovation and excellence in teaching.

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