

Nick Kates



Nick Kates is a Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences, with a cross-appointment in the Department of Family Medicine. He is also Director of Quality Improvement for the Hamilton Family Health Team and the Ontario lead for the Quality Improvement and Innovation Partnership (QIIP), which assists primary care practices to build capacity and capability for quality improvement. His major academic activities are in the area of community and social psychiatry, particularly the relationship between mental health and primary care, quality improvement and redesigning systems of care, and in innovative approaches to education.

In 2010 he was awarded honorary membership in the College of Family Physicians of Canada. He is a Fellow of the Canadian Psychiatric Association and a Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. In 2000 he received the Canadian Psychiatric Association Paul Patterson Award for Leadership in Education; 2001 the CPA C.A. Roberts Award for Leadership in Clinical Services and in 2005 he was the recipient of the CPA First Canadian Academy of Psychiatric Epidemiology Alex Leighton Award for Psychiatric Epidemiology.

For 12 years he was director of the Hamilton HSO (now FHT) Mental Health and Nutrition Program, which now integrates mental health counsellors, dietitians and psychiatrists into the offices of 148 family physicians across Hamilton. This program, which won a Significant Achievement Award from the American Psychiatric Association in 1998, has become a model for the innovative integration of specialized services into primary care that has informed policy and decision-making at both the provincial and federal level. He has participated in many provincial and national planning committees and initiatives for mental health and primary care and has consulted to over 100 Canadian and international governments, organizations and programs, including programs in Holland, Denmark, the U.S., the U.K., Israel, Ethiopia, New Zealand and Australia. He has published over 60 articles and authored 2 books.

Since 1997 he has been the co-chair of the CPA/CFPC Collaborative Working Group on Shared Mental Health Care in Canada, and was the Chair of the Canadian Collaborative Mental Health Initiative funded through the National PHCTF to develop a strategy for collaboration between mental health and primary care services across Canada. He was director of a community mental health clinic in Hamilton for 10 years, spent 7 years as director of the McMaster Psychiatry Residency Program, and was director of the Hamilton Regional Psychiatry Program for 10 years.