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Health care executive named to police board

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Dr. Dhun Noria may not have a background in law enforcement or politics yet she brings a wealth of experience to the Toronto Police Services Board.

An energetic advocate, adviser and health volunteer appointed to a three-year term by the Ontario executive council, she is one of four new members to take the oath of office Wednesday.

"I feel very honoured to serve on the police board. It will be a new experience and a challenge," said The Scarborough Hospital's chief of laboratory medicine.

Noria joins councillors Chin Lee, Frances Nunziata and Michael Thompson, appointed to the board by Mayor Rob Ford for two-year terms, and current board member Judi Cohen and chair Dr. Alok Mukherjee.

She sits on the University Health Network's board and has served on the boards of The Scarborough Hospital and its foundation.

Noria also chairs the building capital campaign of the Zoroastrian Society of Ontario and is a board member of the Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care, a combination which she described as "volunteer work that crosses all boundaries" of age and culture.

The recipient of the University of Toronto's 25-year service award for her work as a medical instructor, Noria has been honoured by health care organizations in Canada, the U.S. and India, and she was named businesswoman of 2004 by the Indo-Canada Chamber of Commerce.

"The biggest contribution I have made was as the chair of the Metro Toronto District Health Council, an advisory and advocacy body to the ministry of health. We did the restructuring of 44 hospitals in the amalgamation of the city of Toronto," she said.

Noria knows both sides of the health care system, as a lab physician examining human tissue for signs of a tumour and as a two-time breast cancer survivor who underwent treatment in 1994 and 2003.

"No need to go into the details. Let's just say breast cancer survivor — period," she asserts.

A 2010 Ontario Medical Association awareness campaign "Your Life is Our Life's Work" featured comments by physicians, including Noria, on why they became doctors and their approach to patient care.

The OMA's slogan defines her.

"I have been working in the health care sector for more than 30 years and I want to diversify myself. When I looked at the mission of the Toronto police board I found it very similar to health care," said Noria.

"The core values — honesty, integrity, fairness, respect and teamwork — are the same. The police mission is partnering with the community to keep Toronto the best and safest place to be. This will be a nice fit for me and my own core values," she added.

After taking their oaths, the new members' first duty will be to elect a police board chair and vice chair.



Dr. Dhun Noria, chief of laboratory medicine at The Scarborough Hospital, has been appointed to a three-year term on the Toronto Police Services Board.

Keith Beaty/Toronto Star