Dr. Whitlock is a Professor of Surgery at McMaster University and a practicing cardiac surgeon at Hamilton Health Sciences. He is a lead investigator at the Population Health Research Institute and the principal investigator of the LAAOS III trial, along with co-principal investigator Dr. Stuart Connolly. Dr. Whitlock holds the Canada Research Chair in Cardiovascular Surgery and a career award from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada. Through the multinational studies that he has led, which include SIRS, TRICS III, VISION Cardiac, and LAAOS III, he has established a network of over 130 collaborating cardiac surgical centres in 32 countries.