

2021 Award of Merit

Sapna Mahajan,
MPH, PMP, CHE



In recognition of significant leadership and relentless advocacy for the development and widespread implementation of psychological health and safety standards

Over the past decade, Sapna Mahajan has demonstrated significant leadership in creating and implementing Standards in Canada and internationally. As an employee of the Mental Health Commission of Canada, she secured funding from private and public funders to develop the world's first National Standard for psychological health and safety in the workplace, CAN/CSA-Z1003-13/BNQ 9700-803/2013 (the Workplace Standard). Sapna's efforts did not stop upon publication though. She worked to secure funding to launch a case study project, in which 40 organizations were followed for three years as they implement the Workplace Standard and documented their journey and impact. This research project led to the identification of best practices and resulted in the widespread implementation of the Workplace Standard.

As a proud ambassador and champion of CSA standards, Sapna has given more than 300 presentations in Canada and around the globe. She has helped replicate and adapt the Workplace Standard in several countries and was part

of the team to put forward the New Work Item to develop an ISO Guideline based on this work. She is currently a Mirror Committee member and Working Group member for ISO 45003 Occupational health and safety management – Psychological health and safety in the workplace – Guidelines, expected to be launched mid-2021.

Sapna has also been a key contributor to the development of CSA standards on psychological health and safety in the paramedic service organization (CSA Z1003.1), and mental health and well-being for post-secondary students (CSA Z2003). She has also shown tremendous leadership in technical and special CSA activities through contributions to publications such as the research report *Workplaces and COVID-19: Occupational Health and Safety Considerations for Reopening and Operating During the Pandemic*.

Sapna is currently Director, Genome and Society at Genome Canada in Ottawa.