



TVN

Améliorer les soins aux aînés
dont la santé se fragilise

Improving care
for the frail elderly^{MC/™}

Network Update

December 2014



Welcome to TVN's monthly newsletter, aimed at keeping the Network community up-to-date with Network news, deadlines, events and funding information, and other information concerning improving care for the seriously ill, frail elderly.

Call for session proposals – TVN Conference

TVN is seeking proposals for sessions at the *3rd Annual TVN Conference on improving care for the frail elderly*, which will be held Sunday, September 27 to Tuesday, September 29, 2015 in Toronto. To ensure a broad slate of session offerings from different individuals and institutions, this is an open call. Proposals will be selected to ensure the conference program offers a comprehensive and diverse treatment of issues related to TVN's mission. Attention will be given to diversity of institutions, presenters, and geographic location. A call for abstracts will be available in the new year.

TVN's annual conference provides opportunities to those concerned with improving health care for the seriously ill, frail elderly to share knowledge, best practices and policy, and at the same time, network with others working in the field to collaborate and build relationships. Conference attendees will be researchers, knowledge users, health care professionals and service providers, policy makers, industry, patients and families and the public.

**2015 Conference Session Proposals are due
Monday, February 2, 2015 by 12 noon ET.**

[Click here to view the Call and submit an application.](#)

Network Partnerships

TVN and Ryerson partner to provide unique technology funding

TVN and the [Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Sciences at Ryerson University](#) partnered to provide a unique funding opportunity for research scientists and engineers developing technologies that can be used to better the lives of the seriously ill, frail elderly.

The Health Technology Innovation Grant (HTIG) Program will fund projects of up to 12 months in length and up to a maximum of \$20,000 each, thanks to a funding contribution from Ryerson. The competition closed November 17, and applications are currently under review. **Look for results in our February newsletter!**

This program will fund proof-of-concept studies, the creation of a technology, or advance the development of an existing technology to benefit the care or quality of life for the seriously ill, frail elderly. Applications submitted involved technologies like wearable bio-sensors, 3D printers, cloud-based technology applications, mobile sensing, videoconferencing and remote monitoring.

Strategic Impact Grants awarded

TVN recently awarded funding to two projects under its inaugural call for the TVN Strategic Impact Grant Program. These projects involve collaborations from researchers who submitted expressions of interest outlining potential projects and were then invited to participate in a protocol meeting with those interested in achieving greater impact by collaborating with other like-minded researchers with projects in similar areas. Strategic Impact Grants are up to 24 months in length and focus on topics of interest to TVN. Seven Principal Investigators will receive their first research project funding from TVN, at six host institutions, including two new Network Member Institutions – ICES and McGill University. A further 36 researchers are involved in the projects as co-investigators at 11 additional organizations, including three international institutions. [Click here to view project profiles and more information on the competition.](#)

Improving Palliative Care in Long Term Care Homes Using Participatory Action Research



Sharon Kaasalainen, RN, PhD
McMaster University



Tamara Sussman, PhD
McGill University

FRAMING-LTC: Frailty and Recognizing Appropriate Medications IN Geriatrics and Long-Term Care



**Andrew Morris, MD,
SM, FRCPC(C)**
Mount Sinai Hospital



**Chaim Bell,
MD, PhD**
Mount Sinai Hospital



Susan Bronskill, PhD
ICES (Institute for
Clinical Evaluative
Sciences)



Lianne Jeffs, MScN, PhD
St. Michael's Hospital



**Colleen Maxwell, BSc,
MA, PhD**
University of
Waterloo

Network news ...

TVN Education and Training Committee Chair Dr. Denise Stockley was recently featured in (e)AFFECT research magazine, a publication of the Queen's University Office of the Vice-Principal (Research).

Denise has been an educational developer with Queen’s Centre for Teaching and Learning for the past decade, and is currently on academic leave before she takes up a one-year post as Researcher-in-Residence at the Queen’s Office of Health Sciences Education.

Denise has been part of the Network from its inception, assisting with the initial proposal for NCE funding, and designing our unique, experiential-based interdisciplinary training program. Denise’s academic focus has been on pedagogical research, but her work ranges across disciplines to participate in a wide array of projects where she has helped develop educational strategies to meet the project goals, resulting in an impressive funding record. Equally impressive is her prolific writing -- “Colleagues marvel at her publication record, which features journal articles in specialized areas where she has no formal training, and often little specific knowledge.” [Read the entire article.](#)

Stay up-to-date ...

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Network Introductions

Each month we would like to introduce some of our Board and Committee members who volunteer their time and experience to make TVN a success. This month, we are pleased to highlight our Research Management Committee.

*The TVN Board of Directors relies on its advisory Research Management Committee (RMC) to guide, manage and monitor its research and other programs. This Committee is chaired by the Scientific Director ([Dr. John Muscedere](#)), who reports to the Board on its behalf. Membership reflects the multisectoral and multidisciplinary nature of TVN’s research program, and includes the four TVN research theme leads, as well as the Chairs of the TVN Scientific Review, Knowledge Translation, and Education and Training Committees. **Committee members are listed below; [click here to review their bios.](#)***

Josef Amann, patient representative
Arlene Bierman, University of Toronto
Leah Gramlich, University of Alberta
Gloria Gutman, Simon Fraser University
Rick Hall, Dalhousie University
Paul Hébert, Centre hospitalier de l’Université de
Montréal (CHUM)
John You, McMaster University

Jayna Holroyd-Leduc, University of Calgary &
Alberta Health Services
Marilyn Macdonald, Dalhousie University
Ruth Martin-Misener, Dalhousie University
Alies Maybee, Patients Canada
Daryl Pullman, Memorial University
Duncan Robertson, Alberta Health Services
Denise Stockley, Queen’s University
Michel Tousignant, Université de Sherbrooke
Josie Visentini, Pfizer Canada

TVN is hiring ...

TVN is currently seeking a Manager, Communications and Knowledge Mobilization, to develop, implement and manage ongoing knowledge mobilization activities and communications. This is a one-year contract with the potential for renewal. The position is full-time and based in Kingston, Ontario. [Click here for more details.](#) **Applications are due by Wednesday, January 7, 2015.**

The HQP corner

This section of the newsletter is provided by TVN Fellows Eric Chan and Kathy Kortés-Miller, aimed at sharing HQP activities with the rest of the Network.

This month, the focus is on work undertaken during one of the eight modules in the TVN Training Program ... the Online Collaborative Project (OCP). Interdisciplinary fellows (IFP) and trainees active over the length of two-year TVN-funded research projects, actively collaborate in small groups to work on projects relevant to the care of frail elderly. Their activity is facilitated through TVN's online learning management system.

Joe Enright, Kathy Kortés-Miller, Laura Tamblyn-Watts and Kim Wilson (IFP 2014 cohort) are working on a project focused on sexuality and intimacy in the elderly, recognizing that these are key components of health and wellbeing across the adult life course. Sexuality in late life, however, is subject to stigma and taboo in part related to ageism and myths about growing old. The purpose of their project is to develop tools move beyond a problem-oriented approach and instead focus on a holistic person-centred approach to sexuality in late life. The tools that the group develops for this project will be tailored to the multiple target audiences including individuals and families, healthcare providers and administrators who are facing these challenges as they strive to provide the best care possible to cognitively impaired older adults. By shifting from a reactionary process that often creates barriers to sexuality and intimacy, to a culture of acceptance and inclusiveness, the group hopes to empower older adults to be active agents in their own intimacy and sexuality, regardless of their abilities (cognitive and physical).

Christine Knott, Eric Chan, Joyce Lee, and Kelly Kay (IFP 2013 cohort) are investigating the factors influencing access and utilization of publicly funded home-based care among the frail elderly. Recent CIHI data reveals that 93% of seniors in Canada live in private households. The provision of publicly funded home-based care is an important strategy to prevent acute care admissions and institutional care, augmenting Canadian health policy priority in enabling frail seniors to remain living at home for as long as possible. Access and utilization of home-based care is influenced by an array of facilitators and barriers, and the ability of older Canadians to access and use publicly funded home-based care is a concern. The group is undertaking a review of the literature, focused on the facilitators and barriers facing elderly individuals' access and utilization. The findings will help inform the understanding of these factors, and guide policy decision making, as well as future research in the area of home-based care for frail elderly people, supporting their desire to remain living at home.

Reminder to HQP and their supervisors: Please feel free to drop Eric (eric.chan.phd@gmail.com) and/or Kathy (kkortesm@lakeheadu.ca) an email to let them know what's new and exciting during your tenure with TVN.

Register now ...

January 7 at 12 noon ET – TVN Webinar

State-of-the-art Information on Improvement of Acute/Critical Care: an update by TVN Theme Lead

Paul Hébert, Physician-in-Chief, Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM)

Have an event or a competition you'd like to promote?

If you have an event relating to improving care of the seriously ill, frail elderly that you would like to promote with a wider community, **send us your details.**

TRY IT OUT: <http://www.tvn-nce.ca/stay-in-touch/promote-your-event/>

Upcoming webinars 12 noon ET on the first Wednesday of each month (unless otherwise noted)		
Wednesday, January 7 REGISTER NOW	<i>TVN Theme Update: State-of-the-art Improvement of Acute/Critical Care</i>	Paul Hébert , MD Physician-in-Chief Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM) TVN Theme Lead
THURSDAY, February 5 REGISTER NOW	<i>TVN Theme Update: State-of-the-art Optimization of Transitions of Care</i>	Marilyn Macdonald , PhD, RN Dalhousie University TVN Theme Lead
Wednesday, March 4 REGISTER NOW	<i>TVN Theme Update: State-of-the-art on Improved End-of-Life Care (EOL)/Advance Care Planning (ACP) Trajectories of Care</i>	John You , MD, MSc, FRCPC McMaster University TVN Theme Lead
Wednesday, April 1 REGISTER NOW	<i>TVN Theme Update: State-of-the-art on Optimization of Community & Residential Care</i>	Michel Tousignant , PhD, Pht Université de Sherbrooke TVN Theme Lead
Wednesday, May 6 REGIUSTER NOW	<i>Why patients should be involved in health care research and priority setting</i>	Andreas Laupacis , MSc, MD, BA Executive Director, La Ka Shing Knowledge Institute St. Michael's Hospital
Wednesday, June 3 REGISTER NOW	<i>Engaging older adults in health care decision making and research: final results of the TVN-funded CHOICE Knowledge Synthesis Grant project</i>	Paul Stolee , PhD, MSc, MPA, BA University of Waterloo

Save the dates ...

June 4-5, 2015

TVN National Forum -- Creating Strategic Change: a national strategy for the frail elderly (Toronto)

[September 27-29, 2015](#)

3rd Annual TVN Conference on improving care for the frail elderly (Toronto)

Coming soon ...

Call for Abstracts – 2015 TVN Conference: A call will be released in the new year.

Our February newsletter will announce **recipients of TVN Catalyst 2014 and Health Technology Innovation Grants.**

Other opportunities

January 23, 2015 -- Applications due -- small-scale study related to transitions at the acute care/homecare interface

Commissioned by: [CPSI \(Canadian Patient Safety Institute\)](#), [Accreditation Canada](#), [HealthCareCAN](#) and the [CHCA \(Canadian Home Care Association\)](#), one (1) project will be funded at \$50,000 for one year on "Improving safety for complex frail elderly patients transitioning from the hospital to their own home." [Click here for more details.](#)

February 4, 2015 – Kingston: Queen’s University Geriatrics CPD Day. Featuring a special presentation on CMA's "Strategy for Seniors" by Dr. Christopher S. Simpson, CMA President. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

February 5, 2015 – Toronto: Patients Canada Benefit Concert -- Support Patients Canada by attending a very special concert by Rufus Wainwright celebrating his mother and the founding Patron of Patients Canada. [Click here for ticket information.](#)



March 23-24, 2015 -- Toronto: Canadian Hip Fracture Management Conference – [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

Register by April 1, 2015 – eHIPP (eHealth Innovations Partnership Program) launched by CIHR

eHIPP will focus on developing inter-sectoral collaboration between healthcare innovation communities (researchers, clinicians, patients and decision makers) and industry to help realize the value of existing innovations. Collaborative teams (healthcare innovation community + industry) are expected to address gaps and inefficiencies in the care of priority populations, one being **Seniors with complex care needs in their homes and communities.**

Funding: [eHIPP](#) will fund individual grants for a maximum of four years and on a 1:1 matching basis. CIHR will contribute a maximum amount of \$187,500 per year. The other half of the funding must come from industry (at least 50% of the partner contribution) alongside other potential partners including economic development agencies and health funding agencies.

Key Dates: Registration: **April 1, 2015** Application: **June 3, 2015.** [View the full funding opportunity.](#)

To facilitate the formation of partnerships between healthcare innovation communities and health technology companies, a series of regional workshops will occur starting in 2015. Watch the CIHR "[Events](#)" page for details on workshops and webinars in your area.

Stay up-to-date ...

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