



TVN

Améliorer les soins aux aînés
dont la santé se fragilise

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

Network Update

January 2015



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.

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Introducing our new Board Chair

Russell Williams chaired his first Board TVN Board meeting in Toronto on January 22, 2015, taking over from Brian Gray, Vice-Chair, who has led the Board since April.

"It can often take a personal experience or knowledge of a personal experience - someone close to you - to understand the toll on the families and caregivers of the seriously ill, frail elderly, particularly at end-of-life," says Russell. "Everyone has an older family member or someone close to them who is frail. The need for improvements in care for these Canadians will only continue to grow, and TVN is uniquely positioned to help structure a national plan for the care of the seriously ill, frail elderly."



In addition to his work with TVN, Russell is a passionate community leader. Prior to his current role as President of Rx&D (Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies), he successfully represented the Montreal riding of Nelligan for 15 years as a Liberal MNA in the National Assembly of Quebec, and is well known for his advocacy for individual rights and government services focused on the needs of citizens. He continues active volunteer involvement in palliative care, and in January of 2014 received the Quality End-of-Life Care Coalition of Canada (QELCCC) second annual Award of Excellence in Advocacy for his tireless advocacy for hospice palliative care. He is also well known for his championship of

Canadian health research, and this commitment was honoured in November of 2014 when he was received the inaugural Research Canada Leadership Award.

"We're pleased to welcome Russell as the new chair of the TVN Board of Directors," said TVN Scientific Director and CEO John Muscedere. "His passion and support for our work in care of the frail elderly, as well as his experience in governance and policy, will help TVN immensely as we work towards funding renewal."

Calls for session proposals and abstracts – TVN Conference

TVN is seeking proposals for sessions at the *3rd Annual TVN Conference on improving care for the frail elderly* to be held in Toronto from Sunday, September 27 to Tuesday, September 29, 2015. To ensure a broad slate of session offerings from different individuals and institutions, this is an open call.

TVN's annual conference provides unique 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. 400 attendees are expected -- 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.](#)

TVN is also seeking abstracts. There will be three categories of posters, based on the first author: TVN HQP, Students, and General. The TVN HQP category is limited to TVN-funded Interdisciplinary Fellows and Summer Students and trainees on TVN-funded projects, and abstract submission will be mandatory. Other students may submit abstracts under the Student category. The General category is open to all other applicants. As with the Session Proposals, this an open call, and attention will be given to diversity. While online abstract submission does not open until late February, those interested are encouraged to [view the abstract requirements in preparation](#). Abstracts are due by May 11th.

Interested in acting as a reviewer? TVN is looking for qualified individuals to review Abstracts (review during June/July). Reviewers will receive a discounted Conference registration rate (but are expected to provide their own transportation and accommodation for the Conference). If you are willing to act as a reviewer, please email us at 2015conference@tvn-nce.ca, attaching a PDF of your CV.

Summer employment opportunities for undergraduate students

A crucial part of TVN's NCE mandate is to develop the next generation of Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) – the scientists, clinicians and health services professionals capable of developing, evaluating, disseminating and implementing the health care tools, technologies and interventions that will improve care of the seriously ill, frail elderly.

TVN invites eligible undergraduate students to submit applications for our Summer Student Awards Program 2015. Up to ten (10) awards will still be available covering 14 weeks of full-time participation between May 11 and August 14, 2015. Each TVN award is a maximum of \$4,500 for student salary and benefits, and **the student's supervisor must also guarantee that they will provide 100% matching funds**, also for the student's salary and benefits.

Important dates:

**Friday, February 27, 2015 by 12 noon ET – Pre-application Indication of Intent due
Monday, March 9, 2015 at 12 noon ET – Applications due**

[Click here to view the Call and register your intent to apply.](#)

Measuring impact

TVN recently awarded a contract to design and implement a benchmark study (environmental scan) that systematically examines current care of the seriously ill, frail elderly nearing end of life. Through this scan TVN will quantitate the health care environment and the health care that this population receives in Canada. This study will also help identify health care resource utilization which may ultimately be used by policy and decision makers to better utilize and marshal health care resources.

The contract has been awarded to a team at the led by Dr. Anik Giguère, Université Laval, with project co-leaders Dr. Robin Urquart of Dalhousie University, and Dr. Sharon Straus of the University of Toronto, and team members from across Canada.

The study will use a mixed methodology, and most quantitative data will come from existing national and provincial patient health databases such as the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), the Ontario Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES) and similar databases in other Canadian provinces. A national Stakeholder Advisory Board will also play an important role.

A final report is expected in late December 2015 and an interim report with a summary of results to-date will be delivered in early June 2015.

Network news ...

TVN Network Investigator **Dr. James Downar** was featured in Part 1 ([EOL Care: doctors, machines and technology can keep us alive, but why?](#)) of a three-part series by Sharon Kirkey for Postmedia titled *A better death*.

January is Alzheimer's Awareness Month. The Alzheimer's Society has launched a new awareness campaign, focusing on the fact that 72% of Alzheimer's patients in Canada are women and nearly the same percentage give up years of their lives as family caregivers. [Click here for more details.](#)



**MOTHERS. WIVES. GRANDMOTHERS.
SISTERS. FRIENDS.**

72% of all Canadians with Alzheimer's disease are women.

The 72%

Congratulations to the Hon. Sharon Carstairs, P.C., founding TVN Board Chair, recipient of the third annual Aware of Excellence in Advocacy from the Quality End-of-Life Care Coalition of Canada (QELCCC) for her devoted advocacy for hospice palliative care.

The federal government released the Employer Panel for Caregivers report on January 20th: [When Work and Caregiving Collide – How Employers Can Support their Employees Who Are Caregivers](#). The report highlights workplace best practices that many employers offer to employees who provide informal care to family and friends, and includes a toolbox of information and resources for employers. There are currently 6.1 million employed Canadians, or 35 percent of our workforce, providing unpaid care to a family member or friend due to chronic or long-term illness, disability or aging.

Stay up-to-date ...

Follow us on Twitter: [@TVN_NCE](#)

The HQP corner

This section of the newsletter is provided by TVN Fellows Eric Chan and Kathy Kortés-Miller, sharing HQP activities with the rest of the Network. HQP, please email Eric (eric.chan.phd@gmail.com) and/or Kathy (kkortesm@lakeheadu.ca) with updates during your tenure with TVN.

This month, the focus is on one of the eight modules in the TVN Training Program ... the Online Collaborative Project (OCP). Interdisciplinary fellows actively collaborate in small groups through TVN's online learning management system, to work on projects relevant to the care of frail elderly.

Abigail Wickson-Griffiths, Ayah Nayfeh, Anna Jeznach, and Shannon Cunningham (IFP 2013 cohort) are working together to investigate advance care planning (ACP) strategies. Given the aging Canadian population, there is an increased awareness for the need to plan for end-of-life (EOL) care. ACP is one strategy to elicit persons' preferences, beliefs and values for person-centered end-of-life care (Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association, 2012). The focus of the project is to identify resources that actively facilitate ACP and are available online to older adults and their family members. Further, the aim is to rate the senior-friendliness of the ACP resources (i.e., communication, arrangement and style of the content) to determine which are designed to meet the needs of this population. This project will make the important contribution of highlighting ACP resources that are user-friendly for older adults and their family members as they navigate through the complex process of planning for EOL care. Reference: Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (2012). Advance Care Planning in Canada: A National Framework. Retrieved from: <http://www.advancecareplanning.ca/media/40158/acp%20framework%202012%20eng.pdf>

Register now for upcoming webinars..

Thursday, February 5 at 12 noon ET – *Optimizing transitions of care* -- TVN Theme Lead Marilyn Macdonald, PhD, RN, Dalhousie University

Wednesday, March 4 at 12 noon ET – *Improved End-of-Life Care (EOL)/Advance Care Planning (ACP) Trajectories of Care* -- TVN Theme Lead John You, MD, MSc, FRCPC, McMaster University

Wednesday, April 1 at 12 noon ET – *Optimization of community and residential care* – TVN Theme Lead Michel Tousignant, PhD, Pht, Université de Sherbrooke

Wednesday, May 6 at 12 noon ET – *Choosing health care options by involving Canada's elderly: the CHOICE knowledge synthesis project (Final Results of TVN-funded project)* -- Paul Stolee, PhD, MSc, MPA, BA, University of Waterloo

Wednesday, May 20 at 12 noon ET – *Improving acute and critical care* – TVN Theme Lead Paul Hébert, MD, Physician-in-Chief, Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM)

Coming soon from TVN ...

Our February newsletter will include information on the 2015W Interdisciplinary Training Fellowship competition and will announce recipients of TVN Catalyst and Health Technology Innovation Grants.

Toronto: June 4-5, 2015. TVN National Forum: *moving towards a strategy for the care of Canada's frail elderly*. By-invitation. [Click here for details.](#)

September 27-29, 2015 -- 3rd Annual TVN Conference on improving care for the frail elderly (Toronto). [Click here for details.](#)

Other opportunities

POSTER ABSTRACTS DUE February 16th ... [click here for more details.](#)

April 16-17, 2015 – Ottawa: Taming of the Queue Conference -- *Improving timely, appropriate care for complex needs patients in an aging society*

Since 2004, the annual Taming of the Queue (TQ) conference has brought together a community of interest from across Canada to discuss access and wait time issues. Sponsored by several national health stakeholders like CFHI, the 2015 conference will focus on strategies to improve timely access to appropriate care for the elderly, particularly the frail elderly and those with complex care needs. **Dr. John Muscedere, TVN Scientific Director, will speak on the needs and issues of Canada's frail elderly population and the implications for service delivery** (morning of Thursday, April 16). [Click here for more details.](#)

SIM-one will be announcing a SIM-based CIPD funding opportunity by the end of January.

In support of Ontario's Seniors Strategy, one (1) grant of up to \$100,000 will be available to support a collaborative group in Ontario to develop a simulation-based continuing interprofessional development program to address the capabilities of healthcare teams currently providing at-home care for older adults, helping seniors remain at home as long as possible. Applicants are expected to be a collaborative of academic/educational, health care delivery and/or community/non-profit organizations and inclusive of multiple professions involved in home care. **Sign-up to receive the SIM-one newsletter at SIM-one.ca and to get the latest updates.**

POSTER ABSTRACTS DUE February 16th ... [click here to submit.](#)

May 11-12, 2015 – Halifax: KT Canada 2nd Annual Scientific Meeting – *Patient engagement and partnership.*

POSTER ABSTRACTS DUE March 1st ... [click here for more details.](#)

May 28-30, 2015 – Calgary: 11th CSPCP (Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians) 11th Annual Advanced Learning in Palliative Medicine Conference – *New Frontiers in Palliative Medicine*"

The conference is a key learning event not just for palliative care physicians but for family doctors and other specialists who want to enhance their knowledge of palliative care. **Dr. John Muscedere, TVN Scientific Director, will participate in a CSPCP/CMA/Royal College/CFPC/TVN panel** on the afternoon of Thursday, May 28th Palliative Medicine in Canada: Positioning for the Future/Emerging Challenges, featuring the results of the National Palliative Medicine Survey. [For more information please visit the CSPCP Conference website \(\[www.cspcp.ca\]\(http://www.cspcp.ca\)\).](#)

eHIPP (eHealth Innovations Partnership Program) launched by CIHR

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

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**. Regional workshops and webinars will be held to connect health care innovation communities and industry partners to support the formation of comprehensive research teams. [Click here for the schedule.](#)

POSTER ABSTRACTS DUE April 15th ... [click here for more details](#).

October 23-25, 2015 – Calgary: CAG (Canadian Association on Gerontology) 44th Annual Scientific and Educational Meeting – *From Possibility to Practice in Aging: Shaping a Future for All*

For more information, visit the Conference website at <http://cag2015.ca>.

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 events

February 4, 2015 – Kingston: Queen's University Geriatrics CPD Day. Featuring a special presentation on CMA's "Strategy for Seniors" by Dr. Chris 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.](#)

May 27-30, 2015 – Charlottetown: Canadian Gerontological Nursing Association 18th Biennial Conference. [Click here for more information.](#)