



TVN

Améliorer les soins aux aînés
dont la santé se fragilise

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

TVN Network News

March 2015



Welcome to TVN's monthly newsletter, keeping the Frailty Network community up-to-date on news, events and funding developments, and other information on improving care for frail elderly Canadians.

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TVN announces Catalyst Grant research projects

TVN has awarded funding to six groundbreaking studies that aim to catalyze innovative research to benefit frail elderly Canadians. Catalyst grants support one-year research projects. Up to \$100,000 (or as high as \$150,000 for projects of exceptional merit) has been made available, with proponents required to provide 25% match funding.

The funding is the result of TVN's second Catalyst Grant Program competition in September 2014. Catalyst grants fund scalable pilot and feasibility research projects demonstrating the potential to accelerate improvements in the entire spectrum of care of the frail elderly population in Canada. Successful Catalyst projects may be eligible for future, transformational funding opportunities.

The six Catalyst projects and the Principal Investigators receiving funding are:



James
Downar



Rachel
Khadaroo



Michelle
Kho



William
McIlroy



Don
Cowan



Barbara
Pesut



Wendy
Duggleby



Rick
Sawatzky



Robin
Cohen

Pilot study of a medication rationalization intervention (MERA)

James Downar, University Health Network (Toronto General)

Elder-friendly approaches to the surgical environment using biological samples to identify and provide optimized care (EASE-BIO)

Rachel Khadaroo, University of Alberta

Pilot clinical trial of early in-bed cycling in elderly, mechanically-ventilated patients (E-CYCLE)

Michelle Kho, McMaster University

New technologies to optimize assessment of mobility, activity and health in the frail elderly

William McIlroy, University of Waterloo

Don Cowan, University of Waterloo

Feasibility of a volunteer/healthcare provider navigation partnership to support frail rural-dwelling older adults

Barbara Pesut, University of British Columbia

Wendy Duggleby, University of Alberta

Integrating a quality-of-life assessment and practice support system in palliative home care

Richard Sawatzky, Trinity Western University

Robin Cohen, Jewish General Hospital

Congratulations to the Catalyst Principal Investigators and their teams!

Advance notice of research call for transformative projects

TVN’s next research call will open mid-2015 for large-scale projects with the potential to be transformative to the Canadian health care system. Proposals must target frail elderly Canadians, as identified by accepted and validated measures of frailty, and address TVN research themes.

Proposals must be interprovincial and interdisciplinary in nature; identifying large-scale, multi-year and measurably impactful projects. To reflect the needs and values of Canadians, especially the frail elderly, and to provide the best opportunity for relevant clinical care practice and policy outcomes, funded research must incorporate meaningful citizen/patient engagement. Successful applicants also will have identified effective partnerships that bring significant (50%) cash and/or in-kind contributions to support and sustain research undertakings and knowledge translation activities.

Further details will be released in June of 2015. For more information, contact Dr. Perry Kim, TVN Research Manager, at research@tvn-nce.ca

Raising quality of care through TVN Health Technology Innovation Grants

TVN and the [Faculty of Engineering and Architectural Science at Ryerson University](#) are partnering to provide a funding opportunity for research scientists and engineers to develop and adapt technologies that can be used to better the lives of the frail elderly.

TVN’s Health Technology Innovation Grant Program supports six new projects that are undertaking proof-of-concept studies, creating new technologies, or advancing existing technologies to benefit the care or quality of life of frail elderly Canadians. The projects will receive up to \$20,000 each for up to 12 months.



David Chan



Tilak Dutta



Deborah Fells



Geoff Fernie



Alex
Milhailidis



Linda Read
Paul



Jeff Small

The six 2015 HTIG projects are:

An innovation for relocating a toilet to ease access for the frail elderly at home

Tilak Dutta & Geoff Fernie, University Health Network (Toronto Rehabilitation Institute)

Web-Based Videoconferencing (WBVC) for Rural Palliative Care Consultation in the Home

Linda Read Paul, University of Calgary

Wearable Caregiver Posture Coaching Feedback System

Tilak Dutta, University Health Network (Toronto Rehabilitation Institute)

The eDosette Study: Optimizing medication use and safety in community dwelling seniors

David Chan, McMaster University

Using mobile health applications (mHealth) to support communication with frail elderly people in long-term care

Jeff Small, University of British Columbia

Alex Milhailidis, University of Toronto

Tecla Shield 3 Interface for the frail elderly

Deborah Fels, Ryerson University

Congratulations to the Principal Investigators and their teams!

Coming soon from TVN...



TVN National Forum 2015:
moving towards a strategy for
the care of Canada's frail elderly
June 4-5, 2015 | Sheraton Centre Toronto Hotel

TVN Improving care for the frail elderly™

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Moving towards a strategy for the care of Canada's frail elderly will focus on discussion of the transformational change necessary to make evidenced-based improvements in the care of frail elderly Canadians. This invitation-only event brings together healthcare, government, university and industry leaders and researchers, and includes renowned national and international expert speakers and panelists who will describe successes and challenges in implementing frailty assessment tools. Sponsorship opportunities are still available. [Contact TVN for details.](#)

Register now for the next TVN webinar

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

TVN's webinar series is a monthly forum where leading Canadian and international experts share research and insights on advancements in assessing and caring for frail elderly Canadians.

Calls for abstracts – 2015 TVN Conference

TVN is seeking abstracts for the **3rd Annual TVN Conference on improving care for frail elderly Canadians** 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 for researchers, policy makers, opinion leaders, health care providers and patient advocates to come together to address improving health care for the frail elderly. The conference shares leading research, insights and best practices on frailty, and provides exceptional networking opportunities for the 400 participants expected to attend.

**2015 Conference Abstracts are due
Monday, May 11, 2015 by 12 noon ET.**

[Click here to view the Call.](#)

For the call, there are 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 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 first [view the abstract requirements](#).

Interested in being a reviewer? TVN is looking for qualified individuals to review Abstracts (during June/July). Reviewers receive a discounted Conference registration rate. If you would like to be a reviewer, email TVN at 2015conference@tvn-nce.ca, attaching a PDF of your CV.

In other Network news...

TVN-funded project launches website for LGBT end-of-life conversations

Brian deVries and Gloria Gutman of the Simon Fraser University Gerontology Research Centre received a 2013 TVN Catalyst Grant for their project *Fostering end-of-life conversations, community and care among LGBT older adults*.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) older adults are more likely to age alone with limited support, and in a stigmatizing environment where they are often poorly served by traditional social services. The result is poorer overall health, with an associated reduced preparedness for end of life. The Catalyst project aimed to redress these disparities through a collaboration of academic and community partners from across Canada.

Findings from focus groups across Canada with LGBT older adults and people who provide service helped the project team develop the **LGBT End-of-Life Conversations Website** (www.sfu.ca/lgbteol).

The website contains resource inventories for each city that list facilities and services that LGBT older adults may find helpful and LGBT-friendly as they make decisions about end of life. There is also a discussion forum, available 24/7 and monitored by members of the LGBT community, to ensure a positive environment for information, communication and e-community building.

NEJM publishes study by TVN Theme Lead Dr. Paul Hébert

The latest issue of the New England Journal of Medicine contains the findings of a research report co-authored by **Dr. Paul Hébert, TVN Research Theme Lead** (Improving Acute and Critical Care). [Age of Transfused Blood in Critically Ill Patients](#) involved a trial of more than 2,400 critically-ill patients. The report concludes that the age of the transfused blood did not influence health outcomes: 90-day mortality was similar among patients receiving blood donated on average 6 days earlier and those receiving blood donated 22 days earlier. Dr. Hébert presented study findings at the [35th International Symposium on Intensive Care and Emergency Medicine](#) in Brussels earlier this month.

April 16 is National Advance Care Planning Day



The Advance Care Planning in Canada Initiative is once again promoting National Advance Care Planning Day with a toolkit of materials around two themes -- “Don’t take chances” and “Update your status.” [Click here to access the materials online](#) at the Initiative’s *Speak Up* website (www.advancecareplanning.ca). The website also features other resources such as workbooks, videos, wallet cards and conversation starters to help Canadians make their plans.



Sweeping recommendations in Ontario Government’s Bringing Care Home report

The Government of Ontario is endorsing a new report on ways to make home and community care more patient-and-family-centred. Drawing from consultations with patients, caregivers and healthcare providers, an expert panel led by Dr. Gail Donner made recommendations to improve the patient experience, promote access to services in communities, and better integrate home and community care after hospital stays. Download the [report here](#).

Keep informed and connect with us ...

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HQP Corner

TVN Fellows Eric Chan and Kathy Kortez-Miller provide an update on share HQP activities. If you would like to share your HQP experiences, please email Eric (eric.chan.phd@gmail.com) or Kathy (kkortesm@lakeheadu.ca).

One of the eight modules in the TVN Training Program is the External Placement. External placements provide unique learning opportunities for TVN Interdisciplinary Fellows to obtain practical experience outside of their disciplines and sectors. These experiences help Fellows further consider clinical, economic, social and ethical interdisciplinary implications in moving knowledge from creation into policy and practice. Fellows are required to complete at least one placement, and in this month’s HQP corner, we would like to share with you two fellows’ external placement experiences.

Kelly Kay (IFP 2013 cohort) recently completed her external placement with Revera’s Long Term Care homes. Kelly explored the impact of technology on the lives of frail seniors and staff through observing the use of technology for health and social activities. This placement furthers Kelly’s fellowship work exploring of the use and limits of technology to facilitate health care for frail seniors.

Kathy Kortés-Miller's (IFP 2014S cohort) external placement with Pallium provided her with an opportunity to liaise with local long-term care (LTC) facilities and manage a project to support challenging conversations that occur in palliative care in long term care. Kathy was involved with the creation of educational tools to improve care of the seriously ill elderly in LTC homes. A critical piece of the work was to provide effective knowledge translation for health care providers in LTC and support for the integration of their roles into the interdisciplinary team of care providers. Specifically she managed a project producing a series of videos that support the LEAP (Learning Essential Approaches to Palliative Care) in LTC curriculum.

Reminder: Research Progress Reports are due in April

Projects Leads and Principal Investigators are reminded to use the templates provided in submitting progress, HQP and financial reports. If you have not received the templates, or you have questions on reporting requirements, please contact Dr. Perry Kim, TVN Research Manager at research@tvn-nce.ca.

Opportunities

CIHR announces New Late Life Issues funding opportunity

Letters of Intent due April 13, 2015. [View the full funding opportunity.](#)

In 2013-14, TVN partnered with the CIHR Institute of Aging on stakeholder consultations to better understand the research required to provide evidence-informed approaches for late-life individuals facing major health conditions. As a direct outcome of these consultations, the CIHR Institute of Aging is launching a [Team grants funding opportunity in the area of late-life issues](#).

This funding opportunity aims to build knowledge and capacity in the field of Late Life Issues research, and to provide high-quality evidence to inform health and social care professionals, as well as policy-makers. Teams must be multidisciplinary in nature, and address training and knowledge translation components in their proposals.

Total available funding is \$2,800,000, which allows the funding of two teams. In addition, up to eight developmental grants of up to \$25,000 may be available to successful applicants at the Letter of Intent stage to help prepare the full application with stakeholders. Please note these key deadlines:

	Letter of Intent	Full Application
Application Deadline	April 13, 2015	December 14, 2015
Anticipated Notice of Decision	June 30, 2015	March 31, 2016
Funding Start	June 1, 2015	April 1, 2016

POSTER ABSTRACT DEADLINES

April 15, 2015 – Canadian Association on Gerontology (CAG) 44th Annual Scientific and Educational Meeting in Calgary from October 23-25, 2015. [Click here for details.](#)

May 1, 2015 – NICE Annual Knowledge Exchange in Toronto on May 28, 2015. [Click here for details.](#)

Upcoming events

April 12-14, 2015 – Saskatoon: CADTH Symposium – *What does the evidence say? HTA to support policy and practice.* [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 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.](#)

April 16-18, 2015 – Montreal: Canadian Geriatrics Society 35th Annual Meeting – *Optimizing Care.* [Click here for more information.](#)

May 20-23, 2015 – Charlottetown: Canadian Pain Society's 35th Annual Scientific Meeting. [Click here for more information.](#)

May 21-23, 2015 – Calgary: Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists (CSRT) Annual Education Conference. [Click here for more information.](#)

May 26-28, 2015 -- Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research (CAHSPR) Annual Conference -- *Learning from Each Other: Across disciplines, jurisdictions and generations.* [Click here for more information.](#)

May 26-28, 2015 – Toronto: CSPC (Canadian Society for Pharmaceutical Sciences) 2015 Annual Conference -- *Discovery and Development in the Post-Genomic Era.* March 23, 2015 – Deadline for abstracts for poster presentations -- [Click here for abstract submission site.](#)

May 27-29, 2015 – Winnipeg: 26th Annual Conference and Meeting of the Canadian Bioethics Society -- *Shadows and Light: Bioethics and Human Rights*

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

May 27-30, 2015 – Winnipeg: Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists Annual Conference – Occupational justice: rising to the challenge. [Click here for more information.](#)

May 28, 2015 – Toronto: NICE Annual Knowledge Exchange – *engAGING.* [Click here for more information.](#)

May 28-30, 2015 – Winnipeg: Canadian Nutrition Society Annual Conference. [Click here for more information.](#)

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

Submit your details online: <http://www.tvn-nce.ca/stay-in-touch/promote-your-event/>

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 \(www.cspcp.ca\).](#)

June 2-4, 2015 – Winnipeg: Canadian National Medical Student/Canadian Student Health Research Symposium. [Click here for more information.](#)

June 7-12, 2015 – Toronto: World Congress on Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering. [For more information, click here.](#)

June 15-16, 2015 – Charlottetown: Canadian College of Health Leaders (College) & HealthCareCAN National Health Leadership Conference -- *Driving a culture of engagement, innovation and improvement.*

Conference includes the Great Canadian Health Care Debate that discusses and passes resolutions to assist policymakers in addressing healthcare challenges. **TVN Scientific Director, Dr. John Muscedere will present a TVN resolution.** [For more information, click here.](#)

(Featuring accredited TVN Symposium) October 29 – November 1, 2015 – Ottawa: CHPCA Conference -- *New Challenges – New Horizons: Moving Forward*

The Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Conference is the foremost national conference on hospice palliative care, bringing together over 600 doctors, nurses, pharmacists, hospice palliative care and other allied healthcare professionals, as well as caregivers, volunteers, spiritual advisers and social workers. TVN is hosting a pre-conference accredited symposium on October 29th from 8:30 am to 12:30 pm, addressing measurement of frailty in the elderly to inform care decisions, including appropriate end-of-life discussions and advance care planning. Dr. John Muscedere, TVN Scientific Director will be joined by TVN-funded researchers Dr. Melissa Andrew, Dr. James Downar, Dr. Rob Fowler, Dr. Francis Lau and Dr. John You. [For more information, click here.](#)

More events listed online ...

Check the News and Events section at www.tvn-nce.ca