



TVN

Améliorer les soins aux aînés
dont la santé se fragilise

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

Network Update

April 2015



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

Inside this month's newsletter:

TVN National Forum 2015	1	Network News	3
Welcome TVN Summer Students	2	National Hospice Palliative Care Week	5
Register for TVN webinars	2	HQP Corner	5
TVN's third cohort of Interdisciplinary Fellows	3	Coming soon -- upcoming events	6

Coming soon ... TVN National Forum 2015

[TVN National Forum 2015](#) 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.

Here are just a few of the organizations participating in the discussion:

- BC Palliative Care Association
- Canadian Association on Gerontology
- Canadian Medical Association
- CARP Canada
- Healthcare DENMARK
- Mount Sinai Hospital
- Patients Canada
- Rx&D
- Provincial Health Ministries and Local Health Authorities from Alberta, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, PEI
- Universities: Laurentian, McGill, McMaster, Queen's, Simon Fraser, Trinity Western, Western, Université de Montréal, Université Laval, University of Alberta, University of Saskatchewan, University of Victoria, University of Waterloo
- Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists
- Canadian Cancer Society
- Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians
- Conference Board of Canada
- HealthCareCAN
- Ontario Long-term Care Association
- Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada
- Saint Elizabeth Health Care

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



Improving care
for the frail elderly[™]



Sponsorship opportunities still
available ... [contact TVN for details.](#)

TVN welcomes summer students

A crucial part of our NCE mandate is to develop the next generation of Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) – the scientists, clinicians and health services professionals -- that will improve care of frail elderly Canadians. TVN's Summer Student Awards Program provides undergraduate students with an interdisciplinary experience, which will develop a frame of reference for participants in examining care for Canada's frail elderly patients.

Ten students were selected in the third cohort of the Awards Program, from over 40 applications. Students receive up to \$4,500 from TVN, with matching funds provided by the student's supervisor.

Award Recipient	Supervisor	Host Institution
Leo Akiyamen	Carole Estabrooks	University of Alberta
Joseph Aziz	Jeffrey Jutai	University of Ottawa
Diana Bark	Adrian Wagg	University of Alberta
Spencer Chambers	Ian Ball	Western University
Kamayu Duggan	Michael Barnett-Cowan	University of Waterloo
Alison Knapp	Jose Pereira	University of Ottawa
Kate Meffen	Andy Hoffer	Simon Fraser University
Ruchit Patel	Lora Giangregorio	University of Waterloo
Alayna Payne	Debra Sheets	University of Victoria
Michelle Tanel	Andrew Lang	University of Waterloo

Students participate for 14 weeks, completing modules of the TVN Training Program, working with both a supervisor and an interdisciplinary mentor, and gaining valuable research skills by participating in self-directed and cooperative research projects. Students must also produce an abstract and poster and attend the [TVN Annual Conference in September](#).

A wide array of research topics will be looked at, including nocturnal enuresis in long-term care facilities, testing the hypothesis that reducing fluctuations in blood sugar is more protective against delirium than maintaining a low absolute value, examining the kinematics of restabilization after falls, developing evidence-based KT tools to train LTC rehabilitation staff, correlating continuous home sensor-based activity data to RAI-homecare and independent measures of cognitive functioning, and testing a non-invasive technique to assist in weaning mechanically-ventilated ICU patients.

Register now for upcoming TVN webinars...

[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, June 3 at 12 noon ET](#) -- *The current and future role of occupational therapy in the ICU (Final Results of TVN Knowledge Synthesis Grant)* – Susan Baptiste, MSc, OT(C) & Michelle Kho, PhD, PT, McMaster University

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.

2015 TVN Interdisciplinary Fellows

The TVN Interdisciplinary Fellowship Program (IFP) is currently made up of two cohorts (IFP 2013 and 2014S). A third competition was recently held targeting specific disciplines aimed at providing a well-rounded interdisciplinary experience for all Fellows. For this cohort, the Fellowship term will be 14 months and the new Fellows will integrate with existing online collaborative project teams. Congratulations to Jacobi Elliott and Arne Stinchcombe and welcome to TVN!



Jacobi Elliott, PhD (c)
Supervisor: Paul Stolee
University of Waterloo

Arne Stinchcombe, PhD
Supervisor: Michel Bédard
Lakehead University



Health care needs of frail elderly Canadians focus of *Taming of the Queue*

Dr. John Muscedere, TVN Scientific Director, provided a well-received presentation to the recent *Taming of the Queue* national forum, which focused on health system responses to the emerging and complex care needs of frail elderly Canadians.

Dr. Muscedere described the impacts of an aging population on the health system, ranging from expensive technology advances that have not been fully evaluated, to avoidable hospitalizations especially in emergency and ICU wards. Seniors, for example, account for 14% of Canada's population, but represent 40% of acute care stays in hospitals and occupy 85% of acute care beds. Dr. Muscedere says that higher health care use is driven largely by the presence of frailty in older patients who experience multiple health and social challenges as they age. Despite this growing trend, there is limited evidence to guide health care providers in identifying and assessing frailty, which would lead to improved care and better use of health care resources.

[TVN's mandate](#) is to improve evidence-based decision making and treatment involving frail elderly Canadians. "TVN is implementing coordinated research, knowledge mobilization, HQP and partnership strategies that have one principal aim: to aid early detection of frailty, to prevent and manage frailty to reduce future hospitalizations, to improve care outcomes and to enhance the vitality and quality of life of older Canadians," Dr. Muscedere says.

Request a presentation to your organization:

Email TVN at info@tvn-nce.ca

In other Network news ...

TVN funded research explores role of home care teams in care decisions by frail elderly patients

One of the toughest decisions faced by frail elderly people is whether to stay at home or move to a care facility. Under the guidance of Dr. France Légaré of Laval University is leading TVN-funded research to evaluate the role and impact of home care teams on frail elderly clients in making these vital decisions.

Dr. Légaré holds the Canada Research Chair in Implementation of Shared Decision Making in Primary Care, and is a family physician and clinical scientist at Laval's Department of Family Medicine and Emergency Medicine. This research trial is a partnership of TVN, Laval University and the Ministère de

la Santé et des Services sociaux (MSSS) du Québec. The project also has received support from the Agence de la Santé et des Services sociaux de la Capitale Nationale, the Consortium InterEST Santé, and local health networks: the CSSS du Rocher Percé and the CSSS de la Vieille Capitale (now reorganized as the CIUSSS de la Capitale Nationale et le CISSS de la Gaspésie.)

Since receiving funding a year ago, the Laval team has recruited 16 home care teams across urban and rural areas of eastern Quebec, and completed baseline assessments of frail elderly residents. In the year ahead, the Laval team will study and analyze the interactions among teams and frail elderly participants. For more information, visit <http://www.trialsjournal.com/content/16/1/50>.

Research targets new decision making tools for frail elderly patients and caregivers

Informed engagement in decisions on their health care is a major determinant of patient wellbeing and optimal health outcomes. This is especially true for people suffering from Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

A Laval University research project led by Dr. Anik Giguère is working to design shared-decision aids for health care providers and their elderly patients who suffer from cognitive decline. The study is funded by the Ministère de l'Économie, de l'Innovation et des Exportations du Québec, as well as by SOVAR, a commercialization arm of Laval that funds research innovation.

The goal is to elevate the effectiveness and efficiency of frail elderly care. Patient-informed decision making improves the ability of health care professionals to manage patient illness and communicate with patients. The project aims to provide health professionals, patients and caregivers with innovative tools that optimize shared decision making, improve care outcomes for frail elderly patients and support better health resource allocation. For more details, contact Dr. Giguère at anik.giguere@fmed.ulaval.ca.

Federal Budget provides new funding to support frail elderly caregivers and new research

The Government of Canada tabled the [2015-16 budget plan](#) last week. And, there is good news for health research, with the federal health Granting Councils (NSERC, SSERC, CIHR) receiving an additional \$46 million dollars each year to advance research and knowledge mobilization. This includes \$13 million to expand CIHR's [Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research](#) (SPOR). Other budget highlights that support frail elderly Canadians and TVN-led research include:

- \$14 million over two years to support applied health research by the Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement (CFHI)
- \$56 million to Mitacs over 4 years to support 6,000 new graduate-level research and development internships
- \$42 million over 5 years to the Baycrest Health Sciences in Toronto to establish the Canadian Centre for Aging and Brain Health Innovation
- 10-year renewal of the mandate of the Mental Health Commission of Canada to support research to help Canadians facing mental health and homelessness challenges
- New Family Caregiver Tax Credit, and removal of the \$10,000 limit on eligible expenses that caregivers claim for a dependent relative under the Medical Expense Tax Credit
- New tax-free Family Caregiver Relief Benefit to recognize the contributions of caregivers to the health and wellbeing of veterans
- Recognizing that family caregivers provide over 70% of in-home/community care, the duration of Compassionate Care Benefits (employment insurance) is extended to six months (from the current six weeks.)

Coming soon ... TVN Mitacs Training Program

Now that eligible not-for-profits and Crown corporations can participate, TVN is moving ahead with a Mitacs Accelerate program partnership to connect graduate students with industry and not-for-profit partners. In 2013–2014, Mitacs supported 2,240 Accelerate internships across Canada, and TVN looks forward to being part of the 2014-15 numbers! [Contact TVN today](#) for more details.

National Hospice Palliative Care Week -- May 4-10

National Hospice Palliative Care Week will run from May 3rd to 9th, 2015 under the theme, "The Power of 10: Let's talk about Hospice Palliative Care."

One of the best ways to spread an important message is through your social circles, your own sphere of influence. We urge you to talk with 10 people — friends, family, acquaintances — about the importance of quality hospice palliative care in Canada. The Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association has produced posters and postcards for your use ... visit their website www.chpca.net/week. To keep up-to-date, follow them on Twitter [@CanadianHPCAssn](https://twitter.com/CanadianHPCAssn) ... and if you are going to be tweeting about the week, there's even an official hashtag you can use **#HPCpowerof10**.



HQP Corner

TVN Fellows Eric Chan and Kathy Kortés-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).

Congratulations to Dr. Mirjam Garvelink who has been awarded a full post-doctoral scholarship to study caregiver experiences in shared decision making with seniors, including frail elderly patients. Awarded jointly by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Fonds de recherche du Québec, Dr. Garvelink's post-doctoral work derives from her role as a TVN Highly Qualified Personnel (HQP) under Dr. France Légaré, and her involvement in the TVN-funded research trial involving home care frail clients and their caregivers facing decisions on whether to remain in their homes or relocate to a care facility.



Stay up-to-date ...

Follow us on Twitter: [@TVN_NCE](https://twitter.com/TVN_NCE)

Coming soon from TVN ...

Advance notice of research call for transformative projects

TVN's next research call will open mid-2015 for large-scale projects that have the potential to transform significant aspects of care delivery in 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 (minimum 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.

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

May 11-12, 2015 – Halifax: KT Canada 2nd Annual Scientific Meeting – Patient engagement and partnership. [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. [Click here for more information.](#)

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.](#)

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*”

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* where TVN Scientific Director, Dr. John Muscedere will present a TVN resolution: *Whereas older adults with chronic health conditions represent a growing share of the Canadian population, it is RESOLVED that mandatory frailty screening be implemented at all levels and settings of the health care system to target the most vulnerable of those with chronic health conditions for restorative or most appropriate care including advance care planning and end of life care.* [For more information on the conference, click here.](#)

June 18-20, 2015 – Halifax: Canadian Physiotherapy Association (CPA) Congress. [Click here for more information.](#)

June 22-24, 2015 – Winnipeg: Community Health Nurses of Canada (CHNC) 10th National Conference -- *Blueprint for Action – Challenge the Status Quo!* [Click here for more information.](#)

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>.

October 25-28, 2015 -- Toronto: Critical Care Canada Forum. [Click here for more details.](#)

October 29 – November 1, 2015 – Ottawa: CHPCA Conference -- *New Challenges – New Horizons: Moving Forward* – featuring pre-conference symposium presented by TVN

The Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Conference is the foremost national conference in Canada focusing on hospice palliative care, providing over 600 doctors, nurses, pharmacists, hospice palliative care and other allied healthcare professionals; and caregivers, volunteers, spiritual advisers, and social workers to share their experience and expertise on a national platform. **TVN will offer 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 Melissa Andrew, James Downar, Rob Fowler, Francis Lau, and John You. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)