



# TVN

Améliorer les soins aux aînés  
dont la santé se fragilise

Improving care  
for the frail elderly<sup>MCG™</sup>

# Network Update

May 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 frail elderly.

### Inside this month's newsletter:

TVN welcomes new Board members	1	Frailty update for CIHR Institute of Aging	4
TVN National Forum is just days away	3	Network news	4
Second round of Strategic Impact Grants	3	HQP corner	5
Frailty RFP update	4	Coming soon	6

## Register now for next TVN webinar...

**Wednesday, June 3 at 12 noon ET** – *Scoping review determining 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 welcomes new members to Board of Directors

At its May 29<sup>th</sup> meeting, the TVN Board of Directors welcomed Duncan Sinclair and Andreas Laupacis as members. Both are renowned academics and researchers, and bring considerable public policy experience to the Board, along with a passion for public engagement in health care and policy, a key initiative for TVN.



**Duncan Sinclair**, PhD, MSc, DVM, LL.D, is an *emeritus* Professor of Physiology and Fellow of the School of Policy Studies of Queen's University, and Former Vice-Principal (Health Sciences) and Past Dean, Faculty of Medicine at Queen's, where he was the first non-MD to serve as a Dean of Medicine and Vice Principal of Health Sciences in Canada. Dr. Sinclair has also contributed widely beyond the confines of academe, and his astute and pragmatic leadership has often been called upon in health care reform in Ontario, and nationally.

In Ontario, he served on the Ministry of Health's Steering Committee for review of the Public Hospitals Act and chaired the Task Group on Governance; he was a member of the Premier's Council on Health, Well-Being and Social Justice and acted as Chair of the Council's Research Steering Committee. And as chair of the Health Services Restructuring Commission (HSRC) of Ontario from 1996 until its sunset in

2000, his diplomatic leadership led to a re-defined health system in Ontario. Dr. Sinclair achieved national recognition as a member of the National Forum on Health, and also served as the founding Chair and acting CEO of Canada Info Highway.

His leadership has been recognized in numerous ways, most notably by an Honourary Fellowship in the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in recognition of his contributions to medical scholarship and education, and his April 23, 2015 induction into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame for significant contributions to the improvement of health and health care in Canada and worldwide.

In addition to his expertise in academia, research and policy, Dr. Sinclair brings to TVN's Board a passion about the need for people-centred health care, and familiarity with volunteer caregiving. He also sits on the Board of Directors of the Canadian Association for People-Centred Health (CAPCH), a national, non-partisan, independent, not-for-profit organization that brings together academics, health care professionals and patients to deliver working eHealth projects that highlight the benefits of people-centred care.



**Andreas Laupacis**, MD, MSc, BA, FRCPC, is a general internist who currently practices palliative care at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, and the Executive Director of the Li Ka Shing Knowledge Institute at St. Michael's. He is a Professor at the University of Toronto in the both the Department of Medicine and the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation. Dr. Laupacis is currently an adjunct scientist at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES), one of Canada's largest health services research organizations, having previously served as ICES President and CEO.

His research interests are broad; he has published over 315 peer-reviewed articles, covering a variety of topics in clinical epidemiology, health services research, health technology assessment and health policy. Recently he has become interested in engaging the public about health care issues (he founded the website [www.healthydebate.ca](http://www.healthydebate.ca)), and is convinced that the health care system would be better if there is more informed input from citizens. He holds a Canada Research Chair in Health Policy and Citizen Engagement, and is Chair of the Institute Advisory Board for the CIHR's Institute of Health Services and Policy Research.

In addition to his academic work, Dr. Laupacis has considerable health policy experience. Currently he is the board chair for Health Quality Ontario (since 2013) and is also a board member of Cancer Care Ontario (since 2011). He served on the Board of Directors of Alberta Health Services from 2008 to 2010, and was Chair of its Quality committee from 2009 to 2010. He served on the Health Advisory Committee of the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research. Dr. Laupacis was also the first chair of the Canadian Expert Drug Advisory Committee, and Vice-Chair of Health Canada's Science Advisory Board. In 2005, Dr. Laupacis chaired a public inquiry into the effectiveness and safety of Cox-2 inhibitors - the first such public inquiry sponsored by Health Canada.

His leadership and dedication to bettering health care and research has been recognized through many awards. In 2010 he was named the Justice Emmett Hall Laureate by the Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research (CAHSPR). In 2011, Dr. Laupacis received the annual Health Services Research Advancement Award from the Canadian Health, and Services Research Foundation (now CFHI – Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement) and the inaugural Jill M. Sanders Award of Excellence in Health Technology Assessment (HTA) from the Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH). In 2013, Dr. Laupacis received the inaugural CIHR Barer-Flood Prize in Health Services and Policy Research.

Coming soon ...

**TVN National Forum 2015 is just days away!**



Taking place in Toronto on June 4-5, this first-ever national forum on frailty will debate the transformational change necessary to make evidenced-based improvements in the care of frail elderly Canadians.

100 health leaders representing health care, government, university and industry leaders and researchers, together with national and international expert speakers and panelists, have confirmed their participation. Contact TVN for details. A big thank you to our TVN National Forum 2015 sponsors:



## Second round of TVN Strategic Impact Grants awarded

TVN’s second Strategic Impact Grant Program competition was launched October 2nd, 2014. TVN’s priority for this competition was to fund projects that 1) investigate system changes for the benefit of the frail elderly, and 2) improve the uptake or application of existing evidence to improve the care of the frail elderly. All proposals were required to have partner contributions equal to at least 25% of the amount requested from TVN.

Expressions of interest were submitted, and those of interest based on strategic fit within TVN and excellence of the research teams were invited to move to a full proposal stage. These teams were then introduced to other like-minded researchers with projects in similar areas and encouraged to consider how greater impact could be achieved by collaboration on a final proposal. Several successful collaborations resulted.

Three projects were awarded SIG grants, with first-time TVN funding for five of the six principal investigators and a new Network member institution -- Centre Hospitalier de l’Université de Montréal.

<i>More-2-Eat: Nutrition care pathway and optimized protein supplementation for malnourished elderly patients</i>		<i>Care of frail, acutely ill older persons: making health care work like a system</i>		<i>Helping the primary care system identify, plan and care for seriously ill, frail elderly</i>	
					
<b>Heather Keller</b> University of Waterloo	<b>Adam Rahman</b> Western University	<b>Paul Hébert</b> Centre Hospitalier de l’Université de Montréal (CHUM)	<b>John Hirdes</b> University of Waterloo	<b>Robin Urquhart</b> Dalhousie University	<b>Fred Burge</b> Dalhousie University

## Frailty RFP Update

Measurement of frailty in the elderly can be helpful in identifying the most appropriate type of care, and care setting, provided to elderly patients. It has also been suggested that early identification of frailty can inform patients, and both formal and informal caregivers, on therapeutic options and treatment decisions, including those for acute care, restorative care, advance care planning and appropriate end-of-life care.

TVN recently adjudicated projects under two competitions in the area of measurement of frailty: knowledge synthesis projects and implementation projects. Notification of funding is occurring this week, and projects will be announced in next month's newsletter.

## CIHR Institute of Aging receives update on frailty health impacts

Dr. John Muscedere recently gave a presentation on aging within a frailty health context to the CIHR Institute of Aging Advisory Board.

Dr. Muscedere spoke on the interconnection between aging and frailty; explaining that the decline in a person's health status and increasing use of health care is driven more by frailty than advancing years.



He described the sharp rise in the number of older Canadians considered frail, and how Canada's health care model does not align well with the broader care needs of our frail elderly population.

Medical technologies provide the opportunity to make major advances in treatment of older patients, he explained, however, the impact on actual patient preferences and health outcomes of newer treatments and therapies is largely unknown.

The TVN scientific director described TVN's research, knowledge mobilization and citizen engagement efforts to evolve consensus on a working, clinical definition of frailty and the tenets of frailty assessment. He says that frailty assessment, in particular, has the potential to be a major catalyst for care interventions that may improve the health and quality of life of older people, delay disability and slow progression of disease, and help avoid unnecessary hospitalization and institutional care.

**Request a TVN presentation to your organization on frailty health topics: email TVN at [info@tvn-nce.ca](mailto:info@tvn-nce.ca)**

## In other Network news...

### TVN researchers published in *Critical Care Medicine*

A Canadian study of the association between frailty and quality of life for survivors of critical illness was recently published in the May issue of Critical Care Medicine. TVN-funded researchers Drs. Sean Bagshaw and Thomas Stelfox examined 421 critically-ill, patients over the age of 50 years to determine an association with frailty, as measured by a score of 4-plus comorbidities on the Clinical Frailty Scale.

The research concludes that frail survivors of critical illness experienced greater impairment in health-related quality of life, functional dependence and disability compared with non-frail patients. The systematic assessment of frailty may assist in better informing patients and families on the complexities of survivorship and recovery.

## TVN partners with prominent health groups on survey of palliative care

The first-ever national survey of physicians who deliver palliative care in Canada is providing critical direction for improving access to palliative care services. Based on a survey over 1,000 doctors who provide palliative medicine, the survey was funded by TVN, along with the Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians, Canadian Medical Association, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, and College of Family Physicians of Canada.

Among the [survey report's key findings](#) (*link to report, available on May 28<sup>th</sup>*) announced on May 28<sup>th</sup> at the annual Advanced Palliative Care conference in Calgary:

- Canada needs an adequate palliative medicine workforce that is properly trained and which has the support of allied health professionals, as well as community supports and services.
- Primary care providers need more palliative care education and training, with stronger emphasis on palliative medicine, which needs to be valued by universities and medical schools with protected time and other requirements to foster academic growth.
- Canada must ensure national palliative medicine standards are met, which include reflection on varying strategies for rural and urban settings, guidance for interdisciplinary care, and workforce planning.

Commenting on the report, TVN scientific director Dr. John Muscedere says, “We now have baseline data to conduct deeper analyses, to develop research questions, and to inform policy, practice and workforce planning that will lead to improved access to palliative care for all Canadians.”

## TVN researchers showcase ‘participatory action research’ in BMJ

TVN Network members Drs. Mary Lou Kelley, Sharon Kaasalainen and Marg McKee have been successful in publishing an abstract of their TVN-funded research, “Embedding the palliative care approach into the organizational culture of long-term care (LTC) homes using participatory action research.” The prestigious BMJ Supportive and Palliative Care presented their findings as part of a report on proceedings of the 4<sup>th</sup> International Public Health and Palliative Care Conference.

The researchers explain that with aging and an increasing prevalence of frailty in Canada, LTC homes are becoming a major location of death, with soon up to 40% of residents dying there. Based on a five-year participatory action project in Ontario, the research team developed a framework and resource tools to spur cultural change; empower and prepare LTC staff and residents; and, improve the quality of life of people who are dying in LTC homes.

The Quality of Palliative Care in LTC Toolkit is the first of its kind in Canada, and can be accessed at [palliativealliance.ca](http://palliativealliance.ca)

## The HQP corner

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

In this month’s HQP corner, we would like to share with you two TVN Interdisciplinary Fellows’ external placement experience. External placements represent one of eight modules in the TVN Training Program that are completed by TVN Fellows, and provide a unique learning opportunity to obtain practical experience outside of Fellows’ disciplines and sectors.

**Elizabeth Dogherty** completed her external placement working full-time alongside with and as a healthcare aide in a nursing home in Alberta. The context of her supervisor's research program is long-term care (<http://www.trec.ualberta.ca>) and she facilitated the placement by connecting Elizabeth with her contacts. Elizabeth's clinical background is acute-care nursing whereas her fellowship project is situated in nursing homes. Elizabeth will evaluate the feasibility and initial effectiveness of a tailored, theory-informed knowledge translation intervention to assist healthcare aides to implement evidence in practice to improve the screening and management of depression in nursing homes. The placement will be invaluable in the design of the intervention as she now has an understanding of what may or may not work with this provider group in this care sector.

**Eric Chan** is currently completing his external placement at the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI). CIHI is exploring the potential for a common approach to patient-reported outcome measures (PROMs) in Canada, and assessing readiness for pan-Canadian PROMs initiatives in key clinical areas. Renal dialysis and joint replacement have been identified as two clinical areas of high value to jurisdictions and CIHI is active in these areas (Joint Replacement Registry and the Canadian Organ Replacement Registry). Eric's work focuses on helping CIHI explore potential for PROMs programs in these two clinical areas. These are highly relevant to the care of seriously ill, frail elderly patients. Eric will be involved with knowledge dissemination activities and will participate in advisory committee meetings with key stakeholders in Canada.

### Stay up-to-date ...

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

### Coming soon from TVN ...

#### June 16 -- TVN frailty resolution to be debated at national leadership conference

Among the more than 50 cross-Canada entries received, a TVN resolution on frailty screening adoption has been accepted as a finalist for the Great Canadian Health Care Debate during the closely-observed National Health Leaders Conference in June 2015 in Charlottetown, PEI.

The resolution: Mandatory Frailty Screening – 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.

Dr. John Muscedere, TVN scientific director, will present the background for the motion and address questions, prior to a vote on the motion by conference delegates. [For more information on the conference, click here.](#)

### 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

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.](#)

September 30, 2015 – Vancouver: Canadian Academy of Geriatric Psychiatry 24th Annual Scientific Meeting -- The Spectrum of Geriatric Psychiatry: From Prevention to Palliation. [Click here for more information.](#)

October 14, 2015 – Toronto: Health Quality Ontario -- *Health Quality Transformation 2015.* [Click here for more information.](#)

October 23-25, 2015 – Calgary: CAG (Canadian Association on Gerontology) 44<sup>th</sup> 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 29 – November 1, 2015 – Ottawa: CHPCA Conference -- *New Challenges – New Horizons: Moving Forward***

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 29<sup>th</sup> 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 Andres, James Downar, Rob Fowler, Francis Lau, and John You.