



TVN

Améliorer les soins aux aînés
dont la santé se fragilise

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

Network Update

November 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.

Network Partnerships

Is palliative medicine part of your medical practice?

Currently only 30% of Canadians have access to palliative care, despite evidence that palliative care provides better pain and symptom management, better patient and family satisfaction, lower system costs, and in some cases, increased longevity. Growing recognition of these factors has raised expectations for access to palliative care across Canada. An appropriately trained workforce in all health care disciplines, including medicine, will be required.

No comprehensive data exists regarding the palliative physician workforce in Canada, and is needed to support collaborative planning with policymakers to optimize societal needs. TVN is partnering with the Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians (CSPCP), the College of Family Physicians of Canada, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, and the Canadian Medical Association to systematically evaluate available and required physicians, workload and remuneration.

Earlier this month CMA emailed the National Palliative Medicine Survey to Canadian physicians. The email contains a personal, confidential link to the survey which applies to the recipient only. Please take a few moments to complete the survey if you do ANY palliative medicine in your practice. If you cannot find your link and wish to participate in the survey, contact Tara Chauhan at the CMA: tara.chauhan@cma.ca. Surveys are due by December 5th.

The purpose of the survey is to obtain a snapshot of the palliative medicine workforce today, to create a baseline for future planning, measure progress, inform discussions and assist in developing a future palliative medicine workforce plan for Canada.

Results of the survey will be disseminated after analysis is complete (Spring 2015).

For more information, contact the Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians: office@cspcp.ca

Register now ...

December 3 at 12 noon ET – TVN Webinar: *Moving evidence and practice into policy*

Dr. Jayna Holroyd-Leduc, University of Calgary -- [REGISTER NOW](#)

Congratulations to ...



Russell Williams, TVN Board Member, awarded the inaugural Research Canada Leadership Award!

This new Award was created to honour champions who have made outstanding efforts in advocating for Canadian health research at the local, provincial and/or national level. Russell received his award at the HRF Gala Awards Dinner in partnership with Prix Galien Canada and Research Canada Toronto on November 19th, 2014.

Recognition of Canadian health research—the kind that attracts the necessary public and political support—comes from the dedicated and tireless efforts of health research advocates like Russell, and helps ensure that health research becomes a high priority for all governments and for all Canadians. Congratulations, Russell!

About Russell Williams

Russell Williams is the president of Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D). Prior to joining Rx&D, he successfully represented the Montreal riding of Nelligan for 15 years as a Liberal MNA in the National Assembly of Quebec.

Russell is well known for his advocacy for individual rights and government services focused on the needs of citizens, and is a founding TVN Board Member. 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.

About Research Canada

Research Canada is a national, broad-based alliance dedicated to advancing health research through collaborative advocacy, engaging media, elected officials, and policy makers to bring greater attention to the critical importance of long-term, sustainable health research, and the need for funding.

Other Network news ...

CBC Radio's *The Current* recently featured a thoughtful end-of-life care discussion, featuring an introduction from **TVN Theme Lead John You**, and conversation with **CSPCP President, Susan MacDonald**. [Listen on cbc.ca now.](#)

TVN held its first Mindmerge KT event in Halifax on November 21. Over 50 people attended to hear presentations from TVN Scientific Director John Muscedere, Melissa Andrew on improving care for the frail elderly, Stéphanie Michaud on the NCE Program, Nuala Kenny on the TVN Ethical Framework for Research, and Susan MacDonald of the Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians. Panel

presentations were moderated by Jayna Holroyd-Leduc on knowledge synthesis and translation, and by Sharon Baxter on moving research to policy. Panel participants included Barbara Hill-Taylor, Colin Reid, Jacqueline Gahagan and Cecil Villiard. Hosted by the Dalhousie School of Medicine Clinical Research Centre and sponsored by the Dalhousie School of Nursing, this was the first in a planned series of KT events that will occur across the country on topics concerning improving care for the frail elderly, and involving researchers, HQP, policy makers, health care decision makers and administrators, health care professionals and caregivers, and, of course, patients and their families and caregivers.

Interested in bringing Mindmerge to your city?

Contact Jackie St. Pierre, TVN Partnerships & Development Manager:

jackie@tvn-nce.ca, or (613) 549-6666, x 6210

Dr. Samir Sinha, Mount Sinai Hospital, was recently named one of Maclean magazine's Top 50 Influential Canadians, cited as "emerging as Canada's most compelling voice for the elderly."

Jacobi Elliott, University of Waterloo, made an award-winning poster presentation on engaging older adults in health care decision-making at the 2nd World Congress on Integrated Care in Sydney, November 23-25. Co-authored with **Heather McNeil**, the poster was based on their work as HQP on [Dr. Paul Stolee's TVN 2013 Knowledge Synthesis Grant, *Choosing health care options by involving Canada's elderly: the CHOICE knowledge synthesis project*](#). Judges' comments indicated that "the project made a literature review interesting" and the authors attributed this to the involvement of older adults from the beginning of the project, including partners from Patients Canada and the SHARP (Seniors Helping as Research Partners) network of engaged seniors.

Dr. John Muscedere, TVN Scientific Director, participated in an ERA-Canada Program Level Cooperation meeting on November 18th in Ottawa to explore how Canadians and Europeans may partner under existing frameworks/joint programs and to better understand the various initiatives.

National Seniors Council report on the social isolation of seniors

On November 24th, the National Seniors Council (NSC) presented their report on the social isolation of seniors to the Minister of State (Seniors), the Minister of Employment and Social Development, and the Minister of Health.

The Ministers had identified social isolation as being of key importance to seniors' overall well-being and mental health, pointing out that "Social isolation can lead to depression and increased vulnerability to elder abuse, among other concerns." and "The lack of supportive social networks is linked to an increase in the risk of dementia and cognitive decline." The NSC advises on matters relating to the well-being and quality of life of seniors, and since 2007 has presented five reports to federal Ministers, addressing such themes as low income among seniors, elder abuse, volunteerism, active aging, intergenerational relations, and labour force participation of older works at risk. The Council is made up of seniors, representatives of organizations that serve seniors, and experts on seniors and aging.

In the *Report on the Social Isolation of Seniors*, the NSC advises on four key roles that the Government of Canada could play to address the social isolation of seniors in Canada:

1. Raise public awareness of the social isolation of seniors
2. Promote improved access to information, services and programs for seniors

3. Build the capacity of organizations to address isolation of seniors through social innovation
4. Support research to better understand the issue of social isolation

To download the report, and review the consultation findings and selection of practices that the NSC found to be innovative and promising, visit the Government of Canada website:

http://www.seniorscouncil.gc.ca/eng/research_publications/social_isolation/page00.shtml

Send us your news and events.

E-mail us at info@tvn-nce.ca, or use our online form to promote your event:

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

Strategic Impact Grant Program Fall 2014 competition

TVN recently launched a second round of funding under its collaborative Strategic Impact Grant Program. The initial step was a call for Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from researchers with potential projects, who were interested in achieving greater impact by collaborating with other like-minded researchers with projects in similar areas.

In this fall 2014 competition, 48 EOIs were received by the due date of October 29th. These were reviewed for fit with TVN mission/goals/research themes, principal investigator experience, potential to have significant impact on improved care for the seriously ill frail elderly, scalability, and the potential for collaboration with other EOIs submitted.

Eight EOIs were selected to move on to develop a research team and full proposal. The aim of this competition is to catalyze broad partnerships and collaborations and so project leaders will be responsible for developing and coordinating broader research teams. To assist in this regard, TVN has provided the project leaders with the names of principal investigators from other EOIs not moving on, but that have the potential to add significantly to the chosen project proposal. TVN may also refer project leaders to other partners and collaborators where it might be beneficial.

Consolidated project teams will proceed with the completion of full proposals that will be submitted to TVN by February 20th for full scientific and strategic review. Total funding available from TVN for this Program will support four to six projects of 12 to 24 months (must be fully completed by June 30, 2017), to a maximum of \$300,000 per year.

The eight EOIs moving on are:

Fred Burge & Robin Urquhart, Dalhousie University -- *Enhancing the primary healthcare system's ability to identify and plan with seriously ill frail elderly* (Improvement of End-of Life (EOL)/Advance Care Planning (ACP) Trajectories of Care)

Denise Cloutier, University of Victoria -- *Long Term Care Transitions: Optimizing Information and Communication Pathways for Patients, Families and Providers* (Optimization of Transitions of Care)

Andrew Costa, McMaster University -- *Pragmatic Trials of Emergency Department Avoidance Interventions in Home Care through a Research and Practice Collaboration* (Optimization of Community & Residential Care)

Paul Hébert, Centre de recherche du CHUM -- *Quality indicators in the frail elderly admitted to the intensive care* (Improvement of Acute/Critical Care)

John Hirdes & George Heckman, University of Waterloo -- *Use of interRAI Assessments to Improve the Care of Frail Older Persons in Acute Hospitals* (Improvement of Acute/Critical Care)

Heather Keller, University of Waterloo -- *Nutrition Screening and Care Process implementation program to address malnutrition in elderly acute care patients* (Improvement of Acute/Critical Care)

Valeria Rac & Murray Krahn, University of Toronto -- *Evaluation of Telehomecare for patients with Heart Failure or Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease* (Optimization of Community & Residential Care)

Adam Rahman, Western University -- *Randomized control trial of nutritional care pathway in malnourished hospitalized medical patients: Pilot Study* (Optimization of Transitions of Care)

Stay up-to-date ...

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

Network Introductions

Each month we would like to introduce some of our Committee members who volunteer their time and experience to make TVN a success. This month, we are pleased to introduce the new Chair and three new members of our Scientific Review Committee.

Scientific Review Committee Chair

Richard Hall, BSc Pharm, MD, FRCP(C), FCC, Dalhousie University

Dr. Richard Hall became Committee Chair at the end of September 2014. He is a Professor of Anesthesia, Medicine and Pharmacology and Associate Professor of Surgery at Dalhousie University, and a staff anesthesiologist at the QEII Health Sciences Centre. His research interests include the role of the inflammatory response, altering drug metabolism, pharmacodynamics and the use of novel agents in the delivery of intensive care and anesthesia. Clinically, he specializes in the delivery of cardiac anesthesia and intensive care medicine. Dr. Hall serves on the Ethics Committee of the Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society and chairs the Research Ethics Board of the Capital District Health Authority.



The Committee welcomed three new members in October:

Joan Almost, PhD, MScN, BScN, Queen's University

Dr. Joan Almost is an Assistant Professor in the School of Nursing at Queens University in Kingston, Ontario. Her research program focuses on health services/health policy research in the area of quality work environments and workplace relationships. She has published on the topics of conflict, positive and negative behaviours in workplace relationships and worklife issues for nurses. She received her PhD from the Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing, University of Toronto, and her MScN and BScN from Western University. She also completed a post-doctoral fellowship in the Health Interventions Research Unit at Ryerson University.



France Légaré, PhD, MD, Université Laval

Dr. France Légaré practices family medicine, is a Professor in the Department of Family Medicine and Emergency Medicine at Université Laval, a clinical investigator at the CHUQ Research Centre, and is also the Canadian Cochrane Network Site representative at Université Laval and CHUQ Research Centre. She completed her PhD in Population Health at the University of Ottawa. Her research interests include the implementation process of shared decision making in primary care, knowledge transfer, systematic literature reviews and decision support tools.



Paul Stolee, PhD, MSc, MPA, BA, University of Waterloo

Dr. Paul Stolee is an Associate Professor in the School of Public Health and Health Systems at the University of Waterloo, with a cross appointment in the School of Optometry. He obtained his PhD in Health Studies at the University of Waterloo, after completing an MSc in Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics at McMaster University, an MPA at Queen's University, and an undergraduate degree in Political Science at the University of Alberta. Dr. Stolee is actively involved in research on how knowledge is translated into practice and policy, and a current focus is on strategies to engage seniors in health care decision-making and research.



The Scientific Review Committee (SMC) advises the TVN Scientific Director on the scientific review process, conducts scientific review of proposals, and provides feedback to the Scientific Director and the Research Management Committee on proposals. Membership reflects the multisectoral and multidisciplinary nature, with skills in both qualitative and quantitative methodologies.

Other members of the Committee are: Eddy Fan of the University Health Network in Toronto, Sean Bagshaw of the University of Calgary, Allan Garland of the University of Manitoba, Grace Johnston of Dalhousie University and Jean François Kozak of Providence Health in Vancouver. Committee member Tom Stelfox of the University of Calgary is currently on sabbatical.

2014 TVN Conference proceedings

Couldn't make the Conference in September?

Plenary videos and slide presentations available at www.tvn-nce.ca.

TVN Training Program Transitions

TVN recently announced a change in contracted educational development and evaluation services to TVN. The TVN Education and Training Committee, led by Dr. Denise Stockley of Queen's University, continues to provide overall direction for the TVN Training Program. The Committee is joined by the Office of Health Science Education (OHSE) in the Faculty of Health Sciences at Queen's University, and of course, Scientific Director John Muscedere, Executive Director Carol Barrie, and the TVN Administrative Centre staff.

The OHSE team includes:

- Laura Kinderman, a Health Education Researcher and Consultant, who will provide oversight to the HQP training program, ongoing curricular development, and program evaluation
- Allyson James, OHSE TVN Program Assistant, who will be the direct point of contact for HQP and work closely with Laura
- Rylan Egan, Director of OHSE, who co-developed the original TVN HQP training program

Correspondence regarding all aspects of the TVN training program and HQP should be directed to training@tvn-nce.ca.

Welcome to the HQP corner.

This section of the newsletter will be dedicated to keeping our TVN community up-to-date with happenings of the HQPs, and will be developed by TVN Fellows Eric Chan and Kathy Kortés-Miller. Please feel free to drop Eric (eric.chan.phd@gmail.com) and/or Kathy (kkortesm@lakeheadu.ca) an email to let us know what's new and exciting during your tenure with TVN.

We'd like to wish 2014 **TVN Fellow Kim Wilson** all the best as she embarks on a new stage in her career. Kim will be joining the Department of Family Relations and Applied Nutrition at the University of Guelph as an Assistant Professor in Adult Development and Aging on January 1st. Kim is a PhD Candidate at the University of Guelph, and previously worked with the Canadian Coalition for Seniors' Mental Health (CCSMH) where her focus was to ensure that seniors' mental health was recognized as a key Canadian health and wellness issue. Her areas of research are health, mental health and illness, social policy, stigma and ageism. Congratulations on your new position, Kim!

HQP work on PROMs and PREMs

Patients' perspectives may be evaluated using PREMs (patient-reported experiences) and PROMs (patient-reported outcomes), to meet the complex needs of elderly patients with chronic and life-limiting illnesses. TVN HQPs Glenda King and Eric Chan have been working on PROMs and PREMs with their supervisor, Dr. Rick Sawatzky at Trinity Western University. Glenda, a master's student in nursing, is an HQP involved with a project on the design and implementation of an electronic (tablet-based) practice support system intended for clinicians in acute care hospital settings, to assess health-related concerns relevant to elderly patients and their family caregivers. Eric, a TVN Interdisciplinary Fellow, is working on identifying existing PROMs and PREMs in the literature with an eye towards establishing consensus-based recommendations for the use of PROMs and PREMs for elderly patients. He presented some of the findings at the International Society for Quality of Life Research (ISOQOL) in Berlin last month. The projects that Glenda and Eric are working on will help us select and administer PROMs and PREMs for the elderly patient population.

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/>

Save the dates ...

Monthly webinars – 12 noon ET on the first Wednesday of each month: 2015 topics and speakers will be announced shortly, but save the dates:

January 7 • February 4 • March 4 • April 1 • May 6 • June 3

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 ...

TVN Call for Abstracts – 2015 Conference Sessions and Posters: A call will be released in December.

Our next few newsletters will announce **recipients of TVN Catalyst 2014** and **Strategic Impact 2014 Grants**, and **Fellows in our 2014 Winter Interdisciplinary Fellowship cohort**.

December 4-5 – Toronto -- 2014 Ontario Simulation Exposition -- Canada's largest healthcare simulation event, offered by SIM-one (Ontario Simulation Network). [For more details, click here.](#)

Other opportunities

Call for Abstracts closes December 11, 2014 -- Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Conference

2015 CHPCA Conference *New Challenges - New Horizons: Moving Forward*
October 29 to November 1, 2015 – Ottawa

Seeking abstracts for workshops, oral presentations, poster presentations in the following streams:

- Leadership and Advocacy
- Education
- Research
- Clinical Practice
- Program Development including Volunteers and Caregivers
- International

[Click here](#) to view the abstract submission guidelines.

If you have any questions, please contact the CHPCA at conference@chpca.net, or by telephone at 613-241-3663, x 222 or 1-800-668-2785, x 222.

Applications due January 23, 2015 -- 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)

Funding available: 1 project will be funded at \$50,000 for one year

Topic to be addressed: Improving safety for complex frail elderly patients transitioning from the hospital to their own home, specifically, recommendations for innovative strategies and/or tools to help the patient, their family caregiver(s), and health care team work together to ensure the patient has the information required to safely manage their care once discharged from hospital and home.

For more details:

<http://www.patientsafetyinstitute.ca/English/research/cpsiResearchCompetitions/2015CPSIResearchCompetition/Pages/default.aspx>

Register now ...

December 3 at 12 noon ET – TVN Webinar: *Moving evidence and practice into policy*

Dr. Jayna Holroyd-Leduc, University of Calgary -- [REGISTER NOW](#)



™ Trademark of TVN. ©TVN, 2013-14. (2014 11)