

# SENIORS HEALTH STRATEGIC CLINICAL NETWORK

NEWSLETTER

January 2016

## Advancing Dementia Diagnosis and Management in Alberta — Collaborative Workshop

### The Foundational Role of Primary Health Care Supported by Specialized Services

The Seniors Health, Strategic Clinical Network (SCN) has been connecting with Primary Health Care (PHC) Teams across Alberta with focused geriatric services in the community.

The focus of this collaborative workshop is to bring together members of the team that provide community based patient services to Albertans that have a cognitive impairment or dementia. The PHC teams will have the opportunity to showcase many of the models/services being offered to seniors across Alberta during the upcoming ADDMA workshop.

The workshop is full day on February the 26th, 2016 - from 8:30am to 3:30pm at the Sheraton Hotel in Red Deer, Alberta.

#### What to Expect:

The opportunity to gain experience in a collaborative learning environment with Primary Care Network (PCN) teams and others who support primary health care and who contribute to advancing dementia recognition, diagnosis and care management in primary care in Alberta. In addition to the formal presentations, there will be ample time for discussion and learning from each other in a large group format including a World Café. Several posters will also be available for viewing.

#### Conference Partners

 Alberta Government ALBERTA  
MEDICAL  
ASSOCIATION Primary Care  
Network  
WOLF CREEK Alzheimer Society  
ALBERTA AND  
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES Covenant Health  
Network of Excellence in  
Seniors' Health and Wellness ALBERTA COLLEGE of  
FAMILY PHYSICIANS ALBERTA  
SENIORS CARE COALITION AGNA  
Alberta Gerontological  
Nurses Association Primary Care  
Network  
RED DEER

## Presentations/Speakers:

### Specific Challenges in Primary Care: Recognition, Diagnosis and Management of Dementia in Alberta



Presenter: Dr. Brad Bahler

Dr. Brad Bahler from Central Alberta will provide an overview of dementia care in Alberta, outlining current state challenges of dementia recognition, diagnosis and management in primary care.

### Development & Spread of Memory Clinics in Ontario



Presenter: Dr. Linda Lee

Dr. Linda Lee from Ontario will provide perspectives on the development of the 80+ memory clinics currently operating in primary care in Ontario.

We are also encouraging PHC focused geriatric teams from across Alberta to develop posters that showcase the various team service delivery models that currently exist. We will be highlighting promising practices from the various focused geriatric models/programs during the workshop.

## Hosts/Moderators:



Dr. Duncan Robertson is a practicing geriatrician and the Senior Medical Director of the Seniors Health Strategic Clinical Network.

He is nationally and international recognized in seniors care with a keen interest in policy and program development. He was one of the first physicians in Canada recognized as a specialist in geriatric medicine and formerly held university appointments in Ontario and three western provinces.



Scott Fielding is the Senior Provincial Director of the Seniors Health and Emergency Strategic Clinical Networks.

Scott has over 25 years of experience in health care, most recently, providing an advisory service to Alberta Health and AHS in clinical and nursing ministry sponsored projects.



Charlene Knudsen is a Practice Lead (RN) for the Dementia Strategy in the Seniors Health Strategic Clinical Network.

She will be highlighting many of the various PHC models that currently exist across Alberta in regards to dementia diagnosis and management at the workshop.

## Registration Information

### Full Day Conference

### For Primary Health Care Teams

February 26th, 2016

Registration is FREE and includes light breakfast and a boxed lunch.

### Public Forum Evening

February 25th, 2016

At this public event Dr. Linda Lee, (guest speaker) discusses a person-centered perspective of issues surrounding dementia diagnosis and management.

This informal evening also provides the opportunity for Public, PCN physicians, care providers and local families to network, ask questions, share ideas and make new connections.

### *For more information*

*Please email us at*

[seniors.health.scn@ahs.ca](mailto:seniors.health.scn@ahs.ca)

## Walk with Me 2016 Conference

Edmonton, Alberta, March 10-11, 2016

There are many exciting initiatives and projects underway in Canada that are shifting the culture of aging across aging care services. Walk with Me aims to accelerate and give profile to this social movement.

Walk with Me 2016 marks Canada's second national conference on culture change, and will bring together older adults/residents, caregivers, educators, policy makers, students and researchers from all over the country to learn with and from each other about how to enhance the journey of aging across the continuum of care.

On behalf of the Seniors Health SCN, Dr. Laura McLeod, MD FRCPC, Medical Officer of Health, Graham Matsalla, Health Promotion Facilitator and Margaret (Margie) Miller, Retired RN, seniors advocate will be presenting at this Walk with Me 2016 conference on 'Being Age-Friendly in Rural Communities'.

For more information please visit [www.the-ria.ca/walkwithme](http://www.the-ria.ca/walkwithme)

## Deaf & Hear Alberta

Deaf & Hear Alberta is a non-profit organization that raises awareness, provides support and removes barriers for those with hearing loss. Educational support is provided through classes, presentations and activities.

According to a newly completed study, hearing loss is associated with accelerated cognitive decline in older adults and hearing aids mitigated decline. Often, older adults need help in recognizing their hearing loss and what resources are available to them.

Here is what is upcoming in early 2016:

**Coloring - Hearing Loss & Tinnitus** – Wednesday February 10th, 2016 at 7:00PM: This activity will provide an opportunity to enjoy a supportive environment and meet others with hearing loss and tinnitus

**Hearing Loss Journey Mapping**—Thursday February 11th, 2016 at 7:00PM: The mapping exercise will be an Interactive activity mixed with discussions about the steps that lead to managing hearing loss

**Peer-to-Hear**, a mentorship program, also provides individual support for those who struggle to manage their hearing loss. If you know of anyone who would benefit from additional support, please contact us.

Catherine Anderson, Sound Advice Coordinator, also provides **Sound Advice** educational sessions in the workplace. They can be customized as a "lunch & learn" or as an in-service.

To register, visit <http://hearalberta.ca/sign-up-for-classes/> Please contact [catherine@deafandhearalberta.ca](mailto:catherine@deafandhearalberta.ca) or (403) 284-6212 if you have questions or would like to book a presentation.

## SH SCN Launches Summer Studentship Competition

The Seniors Health SCN is pleased to announce the launch of a Summer Studentship Competition. This opportunity is designed to enable undergraduate student participation in health and aging research that is aligned with the Seniors Health SCN priority areas of Aging Brain Care, Healthy Aging and Seniors Care, and Anticipating an Aging Alberta.

The competition will target applicants enrolled in/ accepted to a full-time undergraduate program in a health-related discipline at an academic institution in Alberta, with the intent to conduct a health and aging research project supervised by a researcher with an academic appointment at an Alberta institution in Summer 2016.

The deadline for submissions is **Friday January 29, 2016**.

If you have questions regarding this competition, please contact Dr. Heather Hanson, Assistant Scientific Director, Seniors Health SCN ([Heather.Hanson@ahs.ca](mailto:Heather.Hanson@ahs.ca)).

## Articles and Quick Links of Interest

### Dementia Care by Design; A Research Film About De Hogenweyk The Dementia Village

Created by Nicole Gaudet

<https://vimeo.com/145652929> Password needed to view video: **dementia**

### The Science Behind the Fight Against Ageing

CBC News Interviews Dr. Adrian Wagg, Seniors Health Core Committee Member

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/ageless-torah-kachur-explores-the-science-behind-the-fight-against-ageing-1.3270816>

### Polypharmacy: Appropriate and Problematic. Optimized Prescribing with Seniors

Published by the Alberta Medical Association, College of Physicians & Surgeons in association with Dr. Duncan Robertson, Senior Medical Director, Seniors Health, Strategic Clinical Network

<http://www.cpsa.ca/polypharmacy-appropriate-problematic/>

### Respecting the needs and wants of elderly and the frail: Dean on Campus Blog

Written by Dr. Duncan Sinclair, former Dean of Queen's University and inductee to the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame

<https://meds.queensu.ca/blog/?p=3049>

### Fit for Frailty - Part 2: Developing, commissioning and managing services for people living with frailty in community setting

Published in The British Geriatrics Society

[http://www.bgs.org.uk/campaigns/fff/fff2\\_full.pdf](http://www.bgs.org.uk/campaigns/fff/fff2_full.pdf)

### Embracing an Aging Population

Article provided by Alberta Seniors, Government of Alberta

<http://www.seniors.alberta.ca/seniors/aging-population.html>



Implications of physician-assisted death legislation

In February 2015, the Supreme Court of Canada overturned a ban on physician-assisted death. Dr. Jim Silvius, Medical Director for Seniors Health at Alberta Health Services, discusses the ruling's implications on Canadians and their health system. (28 minutes)

Please click on the below link (Minimum requirements ie. Mozilla/Firefox or Google Chrome) to watch the Podcast:

<http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/Blogs/podcasts/201.aspx#.VqaLik1liUk>

## For more Information...

In the coming months we will keep you posted on the work of our Seniors Health SCN.

If you wish to learn more, or become more involved, please contact us at [seniorshealth.scn@ahs.ca](mailto:seniorshealth.scn@ahs.ca)