



# Rapport

RGAP · PRÉG

BULLETIN ÉLECTRONIQUE DU PROGRAMME RÉGIONAL D'ÉVALUATION GÉRIATRIQUE D'OTTAWA

June 2002

## JUNE IS SENIORS MONTH

**A** special ceremony celebrating June as 'Seniors month' was arranged through the RGAP Tuesday June 11<sup>th</sup>, with Mayor Bob Chiarelli, Peter Finkle, Regional Director of the MOHLTC, Carole Chouinard, President of the United way of Ottawa, Al Loney, President of the Council on Aging, Barbara Burns of the Senior Citizens Council, Dr. Bill Dalziel of the RGAP and Dr. Pierre Soucie of SCOHS. The event was used to recognize the vital role of seniors in the City of Ottawa and announce the establishment of a 'Seniors Planning Table', which has been mandated by local funders to develop a framework for successful aging in the new City of Ottawa.

Additionally, an initiative to promote Seniors friendly Hospital Strategies was launched June 12<sup>th</sup>, following a public presentation on the same topic arranged by the RGAP. A working group, under the auspices of the Regional Geriatric Advisory Committee will develop local criteria for senior friendly hospitals over the course of the next year. It will complement and support a related initiative of the Council on Aging's Senior Accessible Health Care Task Force.

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## CLINICAL SERVICES

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**The** RGAP is proud to recognize members of the nursing team who after months of studying attained their Gerontology Nursing Certification (Canada). We congratulate

Rosemary Lowenger, April Young, Michelle Gassira, Suja Thomas from Queensway Carleton Hospital, Nancy Deane, Deborah Bobier, Dikkie Wissink, Cathy McCumber, Linda Pouchet from The Ottawa Hospital. We also congratulate all those from SCO Health Services. This brings our total to over 20. We are very proud of your success and commitment to the care of the elderly.

**The** Ottawa Hospital recently held a reception to honour those staff members that received long service awards. Members of the RGAP that were recognized for their service and dedication include Simone Bachelor, Joan Dumouchel, Vera Forster and Nancy Unwin for 15 years of service, Susan Ford, Cynthia Lawrenson, Alean Nikel and Linda Sawyer-Woods for 20 years of service and Glenda Lamb for 30 years of service. Congratulations!

**The** Care of the Elderly and Rehabilitation Program of the SCO Health Services has undergone a tremendous reorganization process in the last few months and has also had to begin the implementation of some cost containment measures which involve the privatization of the Chiropody Clinic and the merger of the Bronson Pavilion Day Hospital and the Geriatric Day Hospital to be relocated at the ÉBHC site. In addition, there will be a review conducted over the summer to study the balance of in and out patient care in rehabilitation.

As part of the reorganization, the Geriatric Rehabilitation Services will move from their current home on the 5<sup>th</sup> Floor of Saint-Vincent Hospital, to three floors at the Elisabeth-Bruyère Health Centre (EBHC).

Patients will be grouped by their rehabilitation diagnosis as follows: 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor- Orthopedics, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor- Stroke and 6<sup>th</sup> Floor- Medical. The primary objective of this internal re-organization is to provide a combination of specialized geriatric and specialized rehabilitation services to those patients that require both. For instance, a medically complex elderly patient requiring rehabilitation following a hip fracture would be admitted to the Geriatric Rehabilitation Services on the Orthopedic Unit. Besides optimizing direct care to patients, the move to EBHC site will also allow closer co-operation and integration between the Geriatric Rehabilitation Services and the Geriatric Day Hospital, the Memory Disorder Clinic, the East Geriatric Outreach Team and Psycho-Geriatric Community Services. Finally the reorganization will allow for some new research opportunities, as well as, a closer relationship with the University of Ottawa Institute on Health of the Elderly.

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## PARTNERSHIPS

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**The** Board of Directors of the University of Ottawa Institute on Care of the Elderly requested a presentation by the RGAP on Thursday May 26<sup>th</sup>. The report focused on the four strategic directions for the program, and the two priorities for research; health service delivery and clinical decision-making. Although the CanDrive research project is a major joint undertaking of the RGAP and the Institute, further discussions regarding opportunities for future collaboration are anticipated.

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## EDUCATION

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**The** next RGAP City Wide Rounds "Senior's friendly hospitals; something to look forward to in old age", to be presented by Dr. C. Patterson, will be held Wednesday June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2002. Dr. Patterson a Professor in the Division of Geriatric Medicine, Department of Medicine, McMaster University will address the concept of Senior's Elder Friendly hospitals.

Dr Patterson will discuss specific measures to improve the care of older patients as well as orientation and development of all staff in the positive aspects of caring for seniors with specific attention to the physical environment. He will also present a framework to help institutions begin the transformation towards a senior friendly environment.

**The** University of Ottawa Institute on the Health of the Elderly associated with SCO Health services will present their next Primary Care of the Elderly Research Rounds on June 25<sup>th</sup> at 12 Noon in the Elizabeth Bruyère Health Centre Auditorium. Dr. Michel Bédard, the Director of Research Lakehead Psychiatric Hospital and an Assistant Professor of Psychology at the Lakehead University in Thunder Bay will be presenting "Strategies to Maintaining Safe Driving in Older Adults".

**The** Bank of Montreal Institute for Learning in Toronto was the site of the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the OGA, which was co-sponsored by the RGPs of Ontario. The Conference entitled "Coming of Age" was very well attended by members of the RGAP team. Presenters at this year's conference included Dianne Rossy, Fara Aminzadeh, Dr. Frank Knoefel, Joanne O'Keefe, Tammy Kyle, Kathleen Nunn and Christine Gagné-Rodger.

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## RESEARCH HAPPENINGS

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**A** pilot project to improve pain management in the Geriatric Assessment Unit and the emergency department has been awarded one of the two Zagerman Family clinical nursing project awards valued at \$1500. Palliative care will work with both the GAU and emergency to develop a program based on the successful Pain Resource Nurse model from the City of Hope Medical Center in California. Pain management is a significant issue amongst the geriatric population and is frequently not well managed. The project that will begin in the fall of 2002 will include a four-day course in pain management for interested nurses and other multidisciplinary team members.

This core group will function as pain management clinical resources on the team, providing support and guidance in delivering evidence-based best practice in the treatment of pain. The Zagerman award will ensure funding to do an evaluation of the program on each unit as well as conduct a feasibility study on the potential for hospital-wide implementation.

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## FACTS ON AGING

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**Despite** the presence of committed teachers and clear learning objectives, the teaching of geriatric content in undergraduate Canadian medical school programs is variable, and consists of *less than one per cent of the estimated 7,000 hours* in the overall curriculum. (Annals RCPSC, Vol.27, No 8, 1994)

**Older** adults are the fastest growing group of computer buyers and Internet users. In 1999, 25 percent of households headed by a person 55-64 years old used the Internet from home. In the 65 and over age group, 10 percent did. Internet use in the 65 and over age group is growing faster than in all other age groups. (Nova Scotia Centre on Aging, 2001)

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