Keynote Presenters

George Heckman MD MSc FRCPC
Dr. George Heckman holds an undergraduate degree in Engineering Physics from Laval University (1988) and a Master of Mathematics in Computer Science from the University of Waterloo (1991). He graduated in 1995 with a Doctor of Medicine at University of Toronto, Ontario. He completed residency training in Internal medicine (1999) and Geriatric medicine (2000) and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. He completed a Master of Science Degree in Health Research Methodology at McMaster University in 2006. His most recent academic achievement was the Hockey Trainer Certification Program (Level 1 – he is not allowed to perform CPR). He holds the Schlegel Research Chair for Geriatric Medicine at the University of Waterloo Research Institute for Aging, and is presently an Associate Professor with the School of Public Health Systems at the University of Waterloo. His is also an Assistant Clinical Professor of Medicine at McMaster University. He is the Lead Geriatrician for the Waterloo Wellington LHIN. Research interests include management of heart failure in long term care and other frail seniors, chronic disease management of frailty in various care settings, and vascular aging.

Debbie Kwan BSc Phm MSc FCSP
Debbie is a Pharmacist with the Family Health Team at the Toronto Western Hospital, University Health Network. Prior to this, she worked in a Falls Prevention Program and Seniors Wellness Clinic. She is cross- appointed to the Faculties of Pharmacy and Medicine at the University of Toronto as Assistant Professor. Debbie teaches and precepts students in the undergraduate, international graduate and Doctor of Pharmacy programs. Her research interests are in the areas of ambulatory care, geriatrics, medication management and interprofessional education.

Concurrent Session Presenters

Louise Carrier and Panel

Louise Carrier Dr. Carrier is a geriatric psychiatrist, medical director, at Geriatric Psychiatry Community Services of Ottawa (GPCSO). She works collaboratively with her team of case managers at GPCSO, with family physicians and community partners for the well-being of vulnerable seniors with mental health issues living in the community.

Daniel Levine MD CM FCFP. Dr. Levine is in his 25th year on staff at Hillel Lodge and has been the Medical Director for 20 of those years. Born and raised in Montreal, he graduated from the School of Medicine at McGill University. While completing his Family Medicine residency at the Jewish General Hospital in Montreal, his interest in geriatrics began to develop. Dr. Levine completed an additional year of training in geriatrics/internal medicine at the Ottawa Civic Hospital. Dan has devoted much of his career to geriatric medicine. His practice covers a wide variety of institutions in the Ottawa area including his work as the Attending Physician at Saint Patrick’s Home, the Glebe Center and Elizabeth Bruyere Continuing Care. Dr. Levine is also a respected member of the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Ottawa.

Jennifer Cavanagh BSc OT Reg (ON)
Jennifer is an Occupational Therapist with over 17 years of experience in psychiatry and community-based health care. She has a passion for understanding the factors that contribute to successful aging, the tolerance of risk and providing interventions that are meaningful to seniors and their families. She is currently a Case Manager with Geriatric Psychiatry Community Services of Ottawa.

Patricia Barrett-Robillard RN MNrs CCHN(C) GNC(C) (PCO) Patricia has been working as a community health nurse for over twenty five years, primarily with the geriatric population. She has Canadian Nurses Association Certification in Community Health and Gerontology. She is currently working at Southeast Ottawa Community Health Centre as an outreach nurse for the Primary Care Outreach to Frail Seniors team as well as working at the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation as a Cancer Coach.

Joyce Hamelin MSW RSW Joyce Hamelin received diplomas in Nursing (RNA) and Early Childhood Education. These were followed by an Honors Bachelor Degree in Social Work and Sociology at McMaster University in Hamilton (1985), and an Honors Master's Degree in Social Work from Carleton University (1990). She has extensive work experience with seniors in the Ottawa community and currently holds a community position with the Geriatric Assessment Outreach Team and maintains a busy private practice providing counseling and support services in the community. Joyce is a people-person who appreciates that everyone deserves to be heard, respected and cared for. In her practice she creates a sense of belonging and connection to family and community. She has been working in the Ottawa region since 1985, and is well versed on the community services and programs offered in our city for seniors.

Jennifer Blaise Jennifer is a Registered Social Worker, working with the Champlain CCAC for the past 4 years as a Care Coordinator with the Complex Senior team. She is also currently involved in a pilot project involving relationships between Primary Care practices and the CCAC. Prior to this, she was with the Hamilton CCAC as a Care Coordinator for 7 years working with various teams including Primary Care attachments, Seniors, Intake and Staff Education.
Dr. Jill Rice
Dr. Jill Rice is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Palliative Care at the University of Ottawa. She is also a physician for the Champlain Regional Palliative Consultation Team and a member of the Department of Palliative Care at Bruyere Continuing Care. The Regional consultation team is an inter-professional program providing support to physicians caring for palliative care patients in the community. Dr. Rice graduated from the University of Ottawa medical school in 1997. After completing a residency in rural family medicine at Memorial University of Newfoundland she worked in Twillingate, Newfoundland before returning to Ontario. In 2002-3 she completed fellowship training in Palliative Medicine at the University of Ottawa and in 2014 her MHSc in Bioethics at the University of Toronto. Dr. Rice worked as a palliative care physician and GP in Oncology associated with Grey Bruce Health Services, Owen Sound, Ontario through 2010 before returning to Ottawa to join the Division of Palliative Care.

Dr. David Grimes
Dr. Grimes is the Director of the Parkinson’s Disease and Movement Disorders Clinic at The Ottawa Hospital. He is the Chair and Chief of the Division of Neurology and an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Ottawa. His research interests are in the genetics of movement disorders and clinical studies in Parkinson’s disease. His clinical focus is in the diagnosis and treatment of a wide variety of movement disorders.

Dr. Tom Foreman
Dr. Foreman holds a Doctor of Health Care Ethics degree from Duquesne University, and completed a post-doctoral Fellowship at the Joint Centre for Bioethics at the University of Toronto. He is currently the Director of the Department of Clinical and Organizational Ethics at The Ottawa Hospital and the University of Ottawa Heart Institute, Director of the Champlain Regional Centre for Health-Care Ethics, Assistant Professor University of Ottawa Faculty of Medicine, Division of Palliative Medicine, Canada Chair of the Cambridge Working Group for Bioethics Education.

Dr. Tim Lau
Dr. Lau is the Chair of the Canadian Organization of Undergraduate Psychiatric Educators, the national group of directors of education for psychiatry at the 17 medical schools. He sits on the Committee on Education for the Canadian Psychiatric Association. He is the Director of Postgraduate Education for Psychiatry at the University of Ottawa. He has received awards for mentorship from the Faculty of Medicine and the Royal College. He sits on the national examination board and chairs a test committee for psychiatry. He is a Distinguished Teacher with the Faculty of Medicine and is an invited speaker to national, provincial and local conferences. He is a sought after speaker in the area of Happiness and has given talks across the country. He has an interest and passion for spirituality and bioethics and is the founding President of the Canadian Federation of Catholic Physicians’ Societies. Together with his wife he is part of Family Enrichment Ottawa and the International Federation for Family Development and coordinates couples and parenting courses. He is also the Chair of the Board of Directors for Maryvale Academy. He is a husband and father of 6 children.

Dr. Linda Lacroix
Dr. Linda Lacroix is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the University of Ottawa and full-time staff, consultant in Hematology at Hôpital Montfort since 2005. She has been a clinical hematologist and internist for over 20 years, practicing both in Ottawa and previously at McGill University, Montreal General Hospital in Montreal. Dr. Lacroix received her MD degree from McGill University, followed by her internal medicine fellowship in hematology at Harvard University in Boston. Dr. Lacroix was previously the program director for the hematology training program both at University of Ottawa and McGill University, as well as Hematology Block Chair for the undergraduate hematology course at both universities. She is a former chief examiner of Royal College Hematology Exams.

Rachel Ozer and Panel
Rachel Ozer, PhD, MHA - CRSN Community and Long-Term Care Coordinator
Rachel recently joined the Champlain Regional Stroke Network as the Community and Long Term Care Coordinator after completing her Master of Health Administration at the University of Ottawa. She was previously employed as a project manager at the Almonte General Hospital, working on accreditation preparation, patient safety and an electronic learning system for the CASH group of small hospitals. She has completed several other projects in the Ottawa area including at the Royal Ottawa Health Care Group and with the Community Diabetes Education Program of Ottawa. She has a background in quality and continuous improvement in the pharmaceutical manufacturing sector and is committed to changes that improve services for clients and satisfaction for providers.

Marianne Thornton, BScPT, MA; Education Coordinator, Champlain Regional Stroke Network. Marianne is the Education Coordinator for the Champlain Regional Stroke Network (CRSN). Prior to commencing this position in 2011 Marianne worked as the physiotherapist with the best practice team for the CRSN. She has participated on numerous conference planning committees regionally, provincially and nationally and has experience in teaching and research.
Dr. Frank Molnar, MSc, MDCM, FRCPC; Medical Director, Regional Geriatric Program of Eastern Ontario, Associate Professor, University of Ottawa, Affiliate Investigator at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute, Clinical Epidemiology Program, Affiliate Schietist at the Elizabeth Bruyere Research Institute, Co-Chair Regional Geriatric Advisory Committee, Co-Chair Champlain Dementia Network, Executive, Canadian Geriatrics Society

Lisa Herlehy RN, MN, CDE; Diabetes Educator, The Ottawa Hospital Academic Family Health Team. For the past 26 years Lisa has been working as a Registered Nurse in acute, primary and community care settings. During this time she has advanced her nursing studies with a special interest in the meaning of health and quality of life. In her current role as diabetes educator at the Academic Family Health Team at The Ottawa Hospital Lisa is regularly called upon to support elderly clients with increasingly complex diabetes management living in the community. In 2013 she completed a fellowship to advance her own knowledge of diabetes and dementia and to create a toolkit for primary care nurses and diabetes educators. She continues to advocate for supporting clients in environments where they feel safe and supported.

Jaime Constable B.A. Psy is the Manager – First Link Partnerships for the Alzheimer Society of Ottawa and Renfrew County. Her primary role is to build and sustain partnerships with health-care and community service organizations to ensure that people living with dementia, their caregivers, family, and friends are connected to supports, education, and resources as early as possible in the disease journey. Jaime participates on numerous regional and provincial committees and working groups whose missions are to improve the systems of care, individual services, and the coordination of care across the continuum of dementia.

Suzanne McKenna has a dual role not only as the Champlain System Navigator for Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) at the CCAC but, most decisively her own personal experience as caregiver of her son with a traumatic brain injury. Since Suzanne began her work in October of 2011, she has helped to connect more than 150 individuals in need of specialized services and supports and has researched and created an ABI Primary Health Care Resource Guide available on the Champlain Healthline for physicians, professional partners, families and the individuals themselves. Last June, Suzanne received the 2014 OACCAC Individual CCAC Staff Award for Excellence recognizing her research on acquired brain injury. Her work on the acquired brain injury resource guide brought to life her vision to improve patients’ quality of life. Suzanne was honoured for her advocacy on behalf of patients, her effective collaboration with other agencies, and her strong sense of empathy.