



UNIVERSITÉ D'OTTAWA  
CENTRE DE  
Droit, politique  
et éthique de la santé

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA  
CENTRE FOR  
Health Law,  
Policy and Ethics



Networks of Centres | Réseaux de centres  
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**Title:** Post-Doctoral Fellow for Law and Ethics of Assistive Technology in Aging

**Location:** University of Ottawa: Centre for Health Law, Policy & Ethics, and Interdisciplinary School of Health Sciences

**Partners:** University of Ottawa Centre for Health Law, Policy & Ethics, ETHICS-TECH and AGE-WELL NCE.

**Start Date:** Interviews will begin September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, and will run until the position is filled.

**Duration:** One-year contract (*with possibility of renewal*)

**Salary:** Negotiable based on experience levels

## BACKGROUND

### Centre for Health Law, Policy and Ethics

The interdisciplinary Centre for Health Law, Policy & Ethics is an interdisciplinary hub for the generation of new ideas and evidence and the development and dissemination of research designed to tackle pressing health, health care and health system issues. The research conducted by the Centre's members addresses a broad array of health-related issues at the intersection of law, ethics and policy. The Centre has four primary research themes, two of which are: Technology & Innovation, and Aging. The first theme explores the paradox of emerging technologies giving great promise to patients, but also posing legal and ethical challenges for policy-makers and health professionals. The second theme is focussed on Canada's aging population, and the various legal, ethical and policy issues that arise in the context of Canada's health and health care system. For more information please visit: <https://commonlaw.uottawa.ca/health-law/>

### Ethical, Cultural and Social Aspects of Technology (ETHICS-TECH)

Significant social and ethical issues are bound up in the development, distribution and use of new advanced technologies in the care and support of older adults, particularly in areas such as robotics, artificial intelligence and sensors that collect potentially sensitive data. ETHICS-TECH will focus its research around developing a conceptual framework and methodologies for structuring research and facilitating policy reforms at the nexus of aging, disability and technology, and investigating ethical issues, such as privacy, security and equity that are most likely to contribute to disparities in the usage of emerging technologies. ETHICS-TECH will result in an understanding of the various factors that may affect the acceptance of assistive technologies, specifically the technologies being developed in AGE-WELL, by older adults and their caregivers.

### AGE-WELL NCE.

AGE-WELL NCE. (Aging Gracefully across Environments using Technology to Support Wellness, Engagement and Long Life NCE Inc.) is a national research network in technology and aging whose aim is to help older Canadians to maintain their independence, health and quality of life through accessible technologies that increase their safety and security, support their independent living, and enhance their social participation. Launched in 2015 through the federally funded Networks of Centres of Excellence program, AGE-WELL addresses a wide range of complex issues in technology and aging through receptor-driven transdisciplinary research, training programs, partnerships, knowledge mobilization and the commercial development of technologies. Our network spans 25 universities and research centres across Canada with more than 80 industry, government, and non-profit partners. For more information, please visit: <http://agewell-nce.ca/research>

### **Brief Job Description:**

We are seeking a skilled and enthusiastic postdoctoral fellow (PDF) to pursue an innovative research program at the intersection of law/ethics/technology with a focus on aging. We are open to all creative proposals. The selected person will be supervised in this post-doctoral work by leading health law, ethics/law and technology scholars from the University of Ottawa. Applicants are encouraged to set out their creative ideas for a post-doc in this regard that would make a new knowledge contribution. It is expected that this aspect of the work will absorb 50% of the successful candidate's time and result in a series of joint publications at the end of the year, with the post-doc as the lead author.

The balance of the PDF's time would involve applying ethics knowledge through supporting AGE-WELL NCE, in particular ETHICS-TECH. The PDF will take the lead on researching innovative approaches to ethics training and implementing them across the network. They will collaborate to design a research study with the purpose of informing network members on the development of ethical frameworks and processes. The first part of the program will be the creation of a practical guide on ethical issues relevant to assistive technology research, knowledge translation, and commercialization. Its second component will be the coordination of a support service available for AGE-WELL projects to help identify and respond to specific ethical issues. The PDF will be working in a transdisciplinary environment and involved in training and mentorship of network members in order to implement ethical framework.

The successful candidate will be registered as a post-doctoral fellow at the University of Ottawa and will enjoy all associated privileges. This individual will have a background in law and ethics, social ethics or bioethics, and will, further, become familiar with all AGE-WELL-funded research projects in order to identify ethical issues and develop analytic tools, resources and strategies to assist in addressing these ethical issues around technology. To be clear, however, it is not necessary the successful applicant's doctoral work may be in any related field, providing that they have some background in law and/or ethics.

### **Basic Requirements:**

- Doctoral degree in law or allied field (*e.g.*, ethics [social or bioethics], political science, public health) with undergraduate training in law. The preference will be on candidates with doctorates awarded in the last 5 years but all candidates will be considered.
- Research experience, preferably in law/ethics
- Computer skills
- English Proficiency

### **Assets:**

- Some expertise in health technology assessment, economic analysis, health intervention implementation research
- Bilingualism (English and French)
- Familiarization with AGE-WELL NCE-funded projects
- Experience in coordinating research projects or training programs
- Experience with knowledge translation and exchange



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**Application:**

Applications will be considered until a successful candidate is found. All qualified candidates are encouraged to apply; however, Canadians and permanent residents will be given priority.

To apply, please include:

- A cover letter
- A complete curriculum vitae
- A one-page (max.) description of research interests relevant for this position

The application must be emailed to:

Caroline Ethier (AGE-WELL Work Package 8 Coordinator) via email—[caroline.ethier@uottawa.ca](mailto:caroline.ethier@uottawa.ca)