Corporate Profile
AGE-WELL NCE Inc. (“AGE-WELL”) is a federally-funded Network of Centres of Excellence established in 2015 to support Canadian research and innovation in the area of technology and aging. AGE-WELL is dedicated to the development and delivery of technologies, services and policies/practices that benefit older adults and caregivers. Our aim is to help older Canadians maintain their independence, health and quality of life through technology-based solutions that increase their safety and security, support their independent living, and enhance their social participation.

As Canada’s technology and aging network, AGE-WELL brings together more than 300 funded and affiliated researchers from 50 universities and research centres across Canada. More than 440 industry, government and non-profit partners work closely with us on solutions for healthy aging. AGE-WELL also trains the next generation of leaders in the field of technology and aging. We have supported over 1,300 trainees since our inception. Our research projects align with AGE-WELL’s eight Challenge Areas, which are designed to move the dial when it comes to supporting older adults and caregivers in Canada—and achieving social and economic impact.

Our Values
EXCELLENCE
Based on a strong and leading scientific research foundation

COLLABORATIVE IMPACT
Using a transdisciplinary approach, we share knowledge, ideas and resources across disciplines and stakeholder groups to generate better outcomes

CAPACITY BUILDING
We train the best and brightest academic and industry talent

LEADERSHIP
We are recognized globally in the area of technology and aging

INNOVATION
We are engaged in a continuous process to create new ideas and solutions

INTEGRITY
We uphold the highest ethical and intellectual standards in our research and business activities

EQUITY
We are committed to equity, diversity and inclusion in all aspects of our network

Our Vision
Canada’s leadership in technology and aging benefits the world.

Our Mission
To develop a community of researchers, older adults, caregivers, partner organizations and future leaders that accelerates the delivery of technology-based solutions that make a meaningful difference in the lives of Canadians.
Message from the Scientific Director and CEO

Every day at AGE-WELL, I see the impact of what we do together: older adults and caregivers benefiting from our work, traineeships, startups creating products and jobs, and our expertise in wide demand. For nearly a decade, AGE-WELL has served as a catalyst for technological innovation that promotes healthy aging, while driving Canada’s AgeTech sector. We continue to grow in size and reach. AGE-WELL now comprises more than 300 researchers from 50 Canadian universities and research centres, over 1,300 trainees, and more than 440 industry, community, government, and academic partners. We support 68 Canadian startups that are commercializing and selling products. Approximately 5,000 older adults and caregivers are engaged in all aspects of AGE-WELL’s activities. Our track record in nurturing research and innovation in AgeTech is underpinned by 180 products (technologies, services, policies and practices) in development or already on the market. Systems that connect people, platforms that promote physical and cognitive health, and remote therapies are just a few of the innovations making a difference in people’s lives. It is not an exaggeration to say that the world needs AGE-WELL to create the future of aging through technology-based solutions.

AgeTech supports healthy and independent aging

AgeTech can enable Canadians to age in place safely in a location of their choice, and transform care and support across all settings that older adults call home. It can also help caregivers and ease pressures on health-care systems. It is not an exaggeration to say that the world needs AGE-WELL to create the future of aging through technology-based solutions. AGE-WELL, that will catalyze Canada’s AgeTech ecosystem by helping companies deliver solutions. The other, Healthy Aging Canada, is a unique research collaboration launched by AGE-WELL and the Canadian Frailty Network that is critical to driving research excellence that will feed the innovation pipeline. We are also expanding and extending AGE-WELL’s successful EPIC training program through federal funding and partner contributions. There’s more about these initiatives on pages 8-10.

AGE-WELL is privileged to have recently joined the Institutional Strategic Initiatives (ISI) portfolio at the University of Toronto. ISI supports large-scale interdisciplinary high-impact research networks. It goes without saying that we will always maintain our strong connections to key partners such as the KITE Research Institute at University Health Network. Everything we do is grounded in our eight AGE-WELL Challenge Areas, which drive our research and innovation agenda, and overall strategic direction. This approach was validated during virtual roadshows we carried out in 2021, supported by our partner CanAge. We are using these Challenge Areas to inform our forward-looking plans, including a focus on what we call the three key pillars of Canada’s aging innovation ecosystem: research, capacity building and adoption.

Message from the Chair of the Board

AGE-WELL has cemented its place as a go-to authority in AgeTech, consulted by government, industry and the media. Following our earlier work with the Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) Ministers for Seniors Forum Stakeholder Symposium, AGE-WELL was contracted to consult with the PPT Seniors Forum Working Group on The Role of Technology to Enhance Aging in Place. We are providing advice and collaborative feedback on three research projects in order to issue recommendations to the FPT Ministers for Seniors to support government policies for older Canadians.

Policy submissions are another way we share our expertise. So are the profiles we prepare with our Advancing Policies and Practices in Technology and Aging (APPTA) hub for the purpose of advancing knowledge related to provincial programs and governance structures that serve older Canadians. AGE-WELL’s leadership in AgeTech is widely recognized. This past year, network and research leaders participated in a record number of media interviews, showcasing AGE-WELL’s successes and raising the profile of AgeTech. We saw our scientific director and CEO Dr. Alex Mihailidis selected as one of the Healthy Ageing 50-50 leaders working to transform the world to be a better place to grow older. The Healthy Ageing 50 is an initiative under the banner of the UN Decade of Healthy Ageing. Dr. Mihailidis also led the development work for the CSA Group of a new national standard for long-term care homes, released in December 2022. AGE-WELL is giving visibility to AgeTech across Canada. One example of many: this year, we hosted an AgeTech Showcase to highlight work being done in Atlantic Canada, where almost one-quarter of residents are over the age of 65. I also want to acknowledge AGE-WELL’s four national innovation hubs (based in British Columbia, Ontario and New Brunswick). As you will read on pages 16-17, these hubs have been incredibly successful and play important roles in their own right as part of Canada’s AgeTech ecosystem. Critically, AGE-WELL’s work continues to be stakeholder-driven and includes perspectives, preferences and insights from older adults and caregivers who are deeply involved in everything we do. You are our inspiration.

Message from the Managing Director and COO

This year has been enormously eventful. We were thrilled to host AgeTech Innovation Week (ATIW), the premier event for technology and innovation for aging and caregiving in 2023. It was amazing to see over 750 people from the AgeTech universe gathered together in Toronto. ATIW was built around two anchor events: the AGE-WELL Annual Conference and the inaugural envisAGE Annual Forum. Dozens of presenters animated these and other special events during five packed days. It was a great follow-up to our first in-person annual conference since the pandemic, held in Regina, Saskatchewan in 2022. AGE-WELL has become known for its national startup competitions. The AGE-WELL National Impact Challenge – Bold Innovations for Living, powered by AGE-WELL and SE Health, brought together eight selected finalists to pitch their technology, innovative programs or service for aging with choice and dignity in Canada. The pitch competition was held in front of an enthusiastic audience in downtown Toronto.

We were excited to introduce new programming and supports this year. AGE-WELL, in collaboration with the Canadian Frailty Network, announced 17 new research projects through the newly-launched Catalyst Funding Program in Healthy Aging. The projects will drive forward the new healthy aging Canada research collaborative with technology-enabled solutions that improve the lives of older Canadians from diverse populations. Importantly, one of the special funding streams in our Catalyst Funding Program in Healthy Aging is directed at research involving underrepresented groups. AGE-WELL also launched a new summer program to engage older adults and caregivers including Connections, Conversations, a virtual social event for older Canadians to discuss experiences with aging-in-place. We know that older adults want technology in their lives, but we must remember there is a digital divide between technology haters and have-nots. Technologies must be accessible, affordable and available to all. AGE-WELL is deeply committed to this.

We thank our funder, the NCE, and our host institution, the University Health Network, as well as KITE and the University of Toronto. We also thank Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada for its funding of envisAGE through the Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF), and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for funding our new EPIC AT training platform. We are also indebted to the AGE-WELL Board of Directors, committee members, researchers, trainees, staff members, partners, older adults and caregivers who work with us so devotedly on solutions for healthy aging.
by the Numbers

as of October 2023

2,900

Total Number of Publications

312

Innovators of Tomorrow Certificates Awarded

300+

Researchers

30%

Services

180+

AGE-WELL Solutions

50%

Technologies

153

Postdoctoral Fellows

1,376

HQP members

457

Professionals

*includes research associates, technicians and summer students

60+

AGE-WELL-Supported Startups

317

Master’s Candidates

428

AGE-WELL-Supported Startups

60+

Research Projects

186

Undergraduate Students

263

Doctoral Candidates

28

Countries

86

Policy Submissions

110+

International Collaborations Across

50

Member Universities and Research Centres across 9 Canadian Provinces

1,376

HQP members

5,000+

Engaged Older Adults and Caregivers

4

National Innovation Hubs

*includes active and alumni HQP

5,000+

Engaged Older Adults and Caregivers

5,000+

Engaged Older Adults and Caregivers

20%

Policies/Practices

317

Master’s Candidates

457

Professionals

*includes research associates, technicians and summer students

440+

Partners

- Industry
- Non-profits
- Government
- Academia

186

Undergraduate Students

440+

Partners

- Industry
- Non-profits
- Government
- Academia

223

Research Projects

312

Innovators of Tomorrow Certificates Awarded

110+

International Collaborations Across

28

Countries

50

Member Universities and Research Centres across 9 Canadian Provinces

180+

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Professionals

*includes research associates, technicians and summer students

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Research Projects

186

Undergraduate Students

263

Doctoral Candidates
The Exciting Future: Four Big Developments You Should Know About

A major achievement this year relates to securing support for AGE-WELL’s post-NCE phase. We are rolling out new programs that will drive the future of AGE-WELL and build upon all that we have accomplished since 2015.

The new programs described below are built around three pillars: technology adoption, capacity building and research. It all comes together to support a world-class aging innovation ecosystem.

EnvisAGE

Technology Adoption:

EnvisAGE is a new pan-Canadian initiative co-led by MEDTEQ+ and AGE-WELL, and funded through the federal government’s Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF). Announced in December 2022, envisAGE was created to catalyze Canada’s AgeTech ecosystem by helping companies deliver technology solutions that will make a difference in the lives of older adults.

This large-scale initiative provides resources and supports to startups and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to validate and integrate their technologies at community sites. EnvisAGE will accelerate access to innovative solutions for older adults, caregivers and health care providers.

With $47 million in funding from Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), over five years, the $134-million envisAGE network will support 100 SMEs to work towards the adoption of their technologies wherever older adults live, while building Canada’s leadership in the AgeTech market.

Training Future Leaders

In 2022, AGE-WELL launched a federally funded national training program that equips graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and early career researchers to accelerate the delivery of digital health solutions for older Canadians with complex health needs, and their caregivers.

The Early Professionals, Inspired Careers in AgeTech (EPIC-AT) Health Research Training Platform is powered by AGE-WELL and led by researchers from 11 universities and research hospitals across six Canadian provinces. EPIC-AT is hosted at the University of Toronto.

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) is funding EPIC-AT at $2.5 million over six years. We also have over $10 million in cash and in-kind commitments from our partners.

A competency-based experiential learning platform, EPIC-AT is an extension of AGE-WELL’s globally-leading EPIC training program. To date, one-year fellowships have been provided to 26 graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and early career researchers at Canadian institutions. Participants are equipped to develop, implement and evaluate digital technology solutions across areas such as information and communication technologies (ICT), telemedicine, artificial intelligence, sensors, smart environments and wearables.
AGE-WELL Joins the Institutional Strategic Initiatives Portfolio at the University of Toronto

AGE-WELL is proud to be a new member of the University of Toronto’s Institutional Strategic Initiatives (ISI) portfolio, which supports large-scale interdisciplinary research networks that address grand challenges. The ISI portfolio provides AGE-WELL with valuable additional supports.

Healthy Aging Canada is designed to ensure that cutting-edge research continues to fill the pipeline, so that it does not dry up. We are seeking funding for this initiative through the federal Strategic Science Fund (SSF) program. AGE-WELL and CFN are committed to advancing Healthy Aging Canada, which provides the essential research foundation for Canada’s aging innovation ecosystem that will deliver healthy aging solutions for Canadians.

Under Healthy Aging Canada, we recently announced 17 research projects through the 2023 Catalyst Funding Program in Healthy Aging that will drive forward the Healthy Aging Canada collaboration with technology-enabled solutions that improve the lives of older Canadians from diverse populations. The 2023 Catalyst Funding Program in Healthy Aging included two special funding streams: one for projects focused on innovative ways to prevent, mitigate or reverse frailty; the other for research involving underrepresented groups.

Real-world impact is at the heart of AGE-WELL research.

More than 180 technologies, services, policies and practices are moving through our innovation pipeline—or already making a difference in the lives of older adults and caregivers. Every project involves at least one partner from industry, government or the community. Older adults and caregivers take part in all aspects of AGE-WELL research. We call it “the AGE-WELL way.”

We fund projects across our Challenge Area framework that was developed through extensive consultations with more than 1,000 stakeholders across Canada. This allows us to channel all our efforts into moving the dial in key areas of older adults’ lives where technology can bring benefits. (See our eight Challenge Areas on pages 46-47.)

Over the past year, we managed and supported 52 projects through the following research programs:

- **Core Research Program:** Consists of 18 three-year research projects. It is the largest research funding program in the network.
- **Platform Project Program:** Consists of 4 three-year projects that benefit all initiatives across the network.
- **Challenge Area Research Projects:** Consists of 3 eighteen-month projects that advance knowledge or knowledge mobilization in AGE-WELL Challenge Areas.
- **AgeTech Implementation Response Program:** Consists of 9 projects. This program is focused on implementing and scaling up validated AgeTech innovations in a variety of settings. A 10th implementation project was subsequently added through a responsive Action Fund Program.
- **Catalyst Funding Program in Healthy Aging:** Launched in 2023, this program supports 17 projects focused on technology-enabled solutions. They will drive forward the new Healthy Aging Canada collaborative established by AGE-WELL and the Canadian Frailty Network (see page 10).
We are also incredibly proud of our four AGE-WELL National Innovation Hubs that cover the key areas of policy (Fredericton, New Brunswick), sensors and analytics for mobility and memory (Ottawa, Ontario), digital health solutions (Vancouver, British Columbia) and technology adoption in rural and remote settings (Prince George, British Columbia). For details, see pages 16-17.

AGE-WELL research is solutions-driven. Our researchers create real-world products that help older adults and caregivers in their daily lives, and deliver social and economic benefits. From smart-home technology for aging-in-place to remote therapies and virtual exercise systems, AgeTech can support older adults to stay independent, active, healthy and connected, and transform care across all settings.

There are so many great examples. One team is implementing a validated, easy-to-use smartphone-based memory aid. HippoCamera can actually boost lasting recall of memories. Another group is conducting a ground-breaking study looking at how technology can help older adults with their mobility—a vital health indicator.

Drs. Morgan Barense and Bryan Hong of the University of Toronto have demonstrated that a new smartphone app called HippoCamera (shown above) helps to significantly improve memory recall.

Research involving underserved populations

We need to make sure that technologies are accessible, affordable and available for all. Despite the increasing use of technology by older adults, some people are still losing out, and there is a digital divide between the technology haves and have-nots.

The Centre for Technology Adoption for Aging in the North (CTAAN), our innovation hub in northern B.C., is making AgeTech more available in Canada’s northern and rural communities.

AGE-WELL-supported researchers are also working to create an Indigenous-led plan for developing digital health approaches to support health initiatives among Indigenous seniors, including digital health campaigns, online healing and wellness campaigns.

Our newest research funding program included a special stream for research involving under-represented groups.

Key Innovations

- Medication and daily life management app and service for people living with dementia
- Smart-home technology for aging-in-place (sensors, lighting, voice-activated reminders and prompts)
- Apps and remote therapies to help people manage their health at home, while staying connected to health professionals
- Non-intrusive health monitoring technology (no video or sound recording)
- Virtual exercise programs designed for older adults
- Digital games that connect, stimulate and encourage learning
- Socially assistive robots that prompt older adults with cognitive impairment to do daily tasks such as getting dressed, preparing meals and exercising

Donna McAloney (left), a Prince George, B.C. resident and University of Northern British Columbia PhD student Aderonke Agboji (right), who is conducting research with the CTAAN innovation hub.
AGE-WELL ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

Research Excellence

AgeTech and long-term care

Technology can enhance safety and quality of life for people who live in long-term care, and ease stresses on staff.

Take, for example, the ALTA Platform™, a robotic patient transfer technology that allows a single caregiver to transfer a person to and from a bed, without contact and without risking injury to either, in a dignified way. AGE-WELL funded this ground-breaking work from the start, from research and early testing through to implementation.

Able Innovations’ ALTA Platform™, an innovative patient transfer device, has been procured by Bruyère, an Ottawa hospital. AGE-WELL funded this innovative work from research and early testing through to implementation. Our SAM National Innovation Hub played a key role in research and testing. The device, developed by Able Innovations, became part of care at Bruyère in Ottawa in 2023.

Another example: an exergaming product called 2RaceWithMe, which promotes physical and cognitive health through interactive and rewarding technology-based activities. AGE-WELL is a proud supporter of Centivizer Inc., which developed 2RaceWithMe, now being used in five Canadian provinces.

AGE-WELL’s scientific director and CEO Dr. Alex Mihailidis led the development work for CSA Group of a new national standard for long-term care homes. Published in December 2022, the standard provides guidance on safe operating practices and effective infection prevention and control practices (see page 26). A complementary standard focused on the delivery of high-quality long-term care services was also published.

Impact

Alan Hackel
Alabama man eases hand tremors with Canadian invention

In 2008, when Dr. Alan Hackel retired from his role as dean of continuing education at Auburn University at Montgomery in Alabama, he spent much of his time doing more of what he loves best—being with his wife, Joan, and his standard poodle, volunteering on the board of directors of Service Dogs Alabama and enjoying favourite meals like fresh, locally caught catfish. But, about three years ago, he began experiencing Essential Tremor, like that which had affected his father.

The tremors in his right hand made it especially challenging for him to eat. Using cutlery became difficult. “The tremors only became a serious issue then. I had a hard time keeping food on my fork.”

He tried several prescription medications to help ease the tremors, but with little success. They either didn’t work or had side effects that negated their benefits.

One day while surfing the Internet, his wife came across something interesting—a glove designed to stabilize the wrist joint and forearm to reduce hand tremors. It was created by Steadiwear, a Canadian startup co-founded by Mark Elias and Emile Maamary. When Elias saw his grandmother spilling coffee on herself because of her hand tremors, he made it his personal mission to come up with a solution. He used his experience in vibration mechanics to develop a device to help those living with tremors—an estimated 10 million North Americans. Supported by AGE-WELL and the University of Toronto, Elias and Maamary started Steadiwear in 2015 and launched it with the introduction of a lightweight, battery-free tremor-dampening glove.

Dr. Hackel ordered a Steadi-Two, the second generation of the glove, in hopes that it could help him eat. “It has been a game changer,” he says. “Though I was managing with my left hand, when the Steadi-Two came along, it really made a big difference.” Quickly, he became a vocal proponent of the device. When he’s out at a restaurant, he’s happy to talk to anyone who wonders about what he’s wearing on his hand.

He also approaches strangers who he sees struggling with tremors to share his positive experience with his special glove and encourage them to look into it themselves. He recalls seeing a woman on the golf course who had severe tremors. He told her about his new glove. “She was just incredulous,” he says. “She had no idea there was something she could do to help with this condition.”

In the coming months, Dr. Hackel is keen to try the newest version, Steadi-Three. Steadiwear reached out to him after he wrote to tell them about the trouble he had using a button on the side of the glove. The developers listened and the glove’s latest prototype does not have it. “It will be interesting to see what they’ve come up with,” he says.

Listening carefully to customer feedback is something Steadiwear has done since the very beginning. Each version of the glove design is tested with the help of people with Essential Tremor or Parkinson’s.

In the meantime, Dr. Hackel is happy to see that his hand no longer shakes when he wears his glove. “It has made a huge difference. I can put food on a fork or a spoon and it doesn’t fall off. It just feels normal now. It has made life easier.”

Smart clothing: A socially assistive robot helps older adults select clothing and prompts the user through the steps of getting dressed. The new system was developed by a University of Toronto team.
The mission of AGE-WELL National Innovation Hubs is to engage a range of stakeholders in a specific location to advance innovation and adoption of technology-based solutions, policies and practices for healthy aging.

AGE-WELL’s four hubs are flourishing:

### Advancing Policies and Practices in Technology and Aging (APPTA)
**FREDERICTON, N.B.**
APPTA supports governments in generating opportunities to assess the policy and practice challenges of an aging population. This hub is a partnership between AGE-WELL and ResearchNB (formerly New Brunswick Health Research Foundation).

APPTA maintains strong connections with the federal, provincial and territorial governments in Canada by hosting regular meetings with policy stakeholders. In 2022-2023, APPTA hosted meetings to present work on virtual care, and recruitment and retention of personal support workers. Additionally, APPTA established an expert task force representing organizations that work to prevent and respond to elder abuse. APPTA co-hosted a public webinar series, produced podcast episodes, and published Research Roundups on topics such as intergenerational housing models and social prescribing.

### The Centre for Technology Adoption for Aging in the North (CTAAN)
**PRINCE GEORGE, B.C.**
CTAAN supports aging in northern and rural communities by making technologies more available to older adults, caregivers, and the health care systems that support them. Built on a partnership between the University of Northern British Columbia, the Northern Health Authority and AGE-WELL, CTAAN’s programs focus on testing, piloting, implementing and promoting new and existing AgeTech solutions tailored to northern and rural communities.

Launched in 2020, CTAAN has established a network of partners to allow for the testing and validating of AgeTech in real-life settings. CTAAN employs a partnered approach to ensure technologies enable, empower and engage those aging in northern and rural areas.

### Circle Innovation
**VANCOUVER, B.C.**
Circle Innovation is a Vancouver-based not-for-profit organization that works with companies to guide the development of their digital health and other technologies or services. Circle helps companies connect with consumers, tech providers and other stakeholders to solve R&D challenges, grow revenues, create jobs and develop emerging technologies across Canada.

Launched in 2016 in partnership with AGE-WELL and Simon Fraser University (SFU), Circle has worked with companies like Ayogo Health, ALAWDA, Cherry Health, BC Tech, Curatio, myMomentum, Kintec, Fraser Health Authority and the Digital Technology Supercluster, to name a few. In 2023, Circle Innovation received $4.6 million in support from PacifiCan, the Government of Canada’s economic development agency dedicated to British Columbia.

### Sensors and Analytics for Monitoring Mobility and Memory (SAM³)
**OTTAWA, ONT.**
SAM³ is driving the development of sensor-based smart technologies that monitor older people’s health and well-being to keep them healthy, safe and as independent as possible. The hub is a joint initiative of AGE-WELL, Bruyère Research Institute and Carleton University.

In the past year, SAM³ has worked on a growing number of projects with startups and research partners, including Tacticas Technologies and the National Research Council of Canada. Work with Able Innovations Inc. contributed to the procurement by Bruyère of the startup’s innovative patient transfer device. Projects with Best Buy Health and TELUS are ongoing.

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Michael Fergusson (centre), CEO of Ayogo Health Inc., with Rabia Ahmed, director of product design, and Elliot Stone, vice-president of product management. Ayogo benefited from Circle Innovation’s help in “making sure the technology we deliver is useful and that it’s possible to actually sell it to the health-care system,” says Fergusson.

Michael Fergusson (centre), CEO of Ayogo Health Inc., with Rabia Ahmed, director of product design, and Elliot Stone, vice-president of product management. Ayogo benefited from Circle Innovation’s help in “making sure the technology we deliver is useful and that it’s possible to actually sell it to the health-care system,” says Fergusson.

Innovation Hubs

CTAAN’s director Dr. Richard McAloney and academic director Dr. Shannon Freeman with long-time Prince George resident, Donna McAloney (centre).
We are passionate about supporting startups as crucial players in Canada’s growing AgeTech sector.

We now support 68 Canadian startups, which have more than 50 products on the market, benefiting older adults and caregivers. These dynamic startups have raised almost $53 million, created over 350 jobs and provided more than 430 internships and other experiential opportunities to our trainees.

Since launching our AGE-WELL Startup Affiliate program in 2019, we have supported startups in so many ways. For example, AGE-WELL provides access to funding, competitions, expert services, mentorship, potential research collaborations and connections that help startups succeed in the AgeTech sector. We’re proud to have Michael Tamblyn advising startups in his volunteer capacity as AGE-WELL’s chief entrepreneur. As president and CEO of Rakuten Kobo, he is a standout in Canadian business circles.

And now, AGE-WELL is co-leading with MEDTEC+ a new initiative that will help Canadian companies deliver AgeTech solutions. envisAGE is a large-scale initiative that provides resources and supports to startups and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to validate and integrate their technologies at community sites. Announced in late 2022, envisAGE is funded through the Government of Canada’s Strategic Innovation Fund. Details on page 8.

There was a lot of buzz last year when we released an updated version of Canada’s AgeTech Startup Map (see page 19). It shows how the AgeTech space is evolving and growing larger every year, delivering new products and creating social and economic benefits for Canadians.

The inventiveness of these companies is impressive. So is the breadth of their work, from smart-home systems and virtual therapies to exergames and social robots. On pages 22-24, you will see three AGE-WELL-supported startups up close.

Jessica Yang

Bed alarm and sleep tracker

Jessica Yang, CEO of Tochtech Technologies, with Sleepsense, a device that monitors vital signs and sleep quality. It also notifies caregivers if a resident is out of bed or has not returned to bed. Sleepsense is being used in a growing number of seniors’ homes.
National Impact Challenge

National competition showcases solutions for aging with choice and dignity

Every year, AGE-WELL is proud to host a national startup competition to identify and invest in great new technologies and services to support healthy aging. Over 150 startups have participated in this competition to date, with over $200,000 in cash support through sponsors.

In 2023, we teamed up with SE Health to host the National Impact Challenge – Bold Innovations for Living, powered by AGE-WELL and SE Health. The event brought together eight selected finalists from across Canada to pitch their technology, innovative program or service for aging with choice and dignity in Canada.

Congratulations to the winner in the Community category: Root & Seed, whose service connects generations and preserves family stories. The platform is a “phygital” experience that offers a variety of means—digital and physical—to explore family histories.

The winner in the Startup category was UVX, developers of a device designed to protect people from infections. The device uses a human-safe form of UV light to disinfect spaces. The first-place prizes each bring $25,000 in cash plus in-kind prizes.

The runner-up in the Community category, receiving the National Impact Challenge Runner-up Spotlight on Community award, was AGING ProACTIVELY. In the Startup category, the runner-up was ElderPRIME.

There was also a People’s Choice Award, for which hundreds of votes were cast online before and during the competition. Recipients of the People’s Choice Award were: Root & Seed (Community category) and ElderPRIME (Startup category).

AGE-WELL thanks the generous sponsors of the National Impact Challenge – Bold Innovations for Living: Ontario Brain Institute (OBI), Spotlight Development Inc. (presenting sponsors), Metro (gold sponsor), the Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation (CABHI) (silver sponsor), Sodexo, SPACES and Bereskin & Parr (supporting sponsors).

Jennifer Siripong Mandel and Anika Chabra, Root & Seed

A year ago, PragmaClin won the 2022 AGE-WELL National Impact Challenge, and Singular Hearing was runner-up. Sponsors of the 2022 competition were key sponsor OBI, and Bereskin & Parr.
App alerts people who are deaf or hard of hearing to critical sounds

Eyra Abraham has been hard of hearing since she was three years old and regularly wears hearing aids except at certain times, like sleeping. In the early 2010s, Abraham landed in a condo building where she had the unfortunate experience of sleeping through a late-night fire drill.

“It made me realize my vulnerability in situations I am not wearing my hearing aids, but require me to hear, and I was certain ‘this is a problem’ to solve,” says Abraham, founder of Lisnen.

“I went looking for a listening device that would address my problem—I needed a device that moved with me and could provide alerts using another form of sensory communication, such as vibration or a visual cue. But, unfortunately, there wasn’t an available solution that could do this.”

Originally from Nova Scotia, Abraham graduated from McGill University with a computer science degree. It was during a recession and that led to pivoting her career plans to focus on marketing and communications in the non-profit and government sectors. Tech was a new professional space for Abraham, and she was delighted by the opportunity to return to her computer science roots and help further empower her community.

As an essential next step, Abraham tapped into the community to validate the market demand: “When looking at the problem space, you must verify whether it’s universal. So while I understood the problem from my experience, I consulted and validated it with others in the community to ensure it was not unique to me.”

Abraham also understood how cell phones had transformed communication in daily life for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. “We’re pretty much married to our cell phones as a way to communicate, so I wanted to piggyback my solution on that trend by leveraging smart phones, tablets, etc., so no matter what space a person is in, they can depend on having effective awareness of their environment through alternate sensory alerts.

“When I was travelling abroad by myself recently, I was grateful to have Lisnen to give me a sense of convenience and security when I wasn’t using my hearing aid. I knew that as I moved through different environments and situations, I would be alerted through my phone if needed.”

The technology uses artificial intelligence (AI) via a smartphone app and microphones to record sounds or alerts based on the user’s preferences. Then, it issues a vibration or visual notification when particular sounds are detected.

Lisnen, an AGE-WELL startup affiliate, launched in the fall of 2022. The company’s app is offered as a subscription-based solution.

“As a founder, my partnership with AGE-WELL has been critical, providing access to their vast, interdisciplinary network,” says Abraham. “Further, it has given me a greater understanding of the older adult perspective, which is important because people tend to lose their hearing later in life, and most people with hearing loss are older adults.”

Abraham has successfully partnered with key industry, government and community stakeholders from North American, European, British and Australian markets to pinpoint how the Lisnen app can evolve to align with new accessibility standards and regulations, and address emerging challenges.

Abraham and her team continue to co-create with the community and benefit from Ali’s ability to continuously collect data from the user’s experience to improve the algorithm and detect the targeted sounds in different environments.

When she considers what’s next, she’s laser-focused on integrating technologies (e.g., smartphones, tablets, etc.), so no matter what space a person is in, they can depend on having effective awareness of their environment through alternate sensory alerts.

“When I was travelling abroad by myself recently, I was grateful to have Lisnen to give me a sense of convenience and security when I wasn’t using my hearing aid. I knew that as I moved through different environments and situations, I would be alerted through my phone if needed.”

In 2019, Tracey McGillivray, a retired tech executive, was looking for a mobility device to help her parents remain independent. But every product she found was too heavy or too limited in function—walkers, mostly, some with attached, cumbersome seats fixed in place and lifts that required assembly and were limited between 50 and 85 pounds. With an idea of what she wanted, she called Liam Maaskant, then a mechanical engineering student at her alma mater, Acadia University, to ask if he would help her invent it.

McGillivray knew of Maaskant because she had been a varsity volleyball player at Acadia more than three decades earlier and was still heavily involved with the alumni association. He was a former business student who had changed his focus to building things, and an accomplished athlete who was captain of the Axemen, the university’s ice hockey team.

Maaskant agreed to help McGillivray, thinking it would be a “neat summer project.”

“It turned out to be so much more,” laughs the 29-year-old whose hockey background has helped him to make the consummate team player, able to pivot and handle problems as if they were a puck, always looking for another way through.

Near the 3 ½ years later, their startup, the Nova Scotia-based Axton Independence Mobility Inc., has introduced what they say is the final prototype of their “Ibex Lift,” a combination roller walker and motorized seat that easily descends from a height of 24 inches to flush with the ground.

The result is a product that will help people with mobility problems not only walk with confidence, but also participate in everyday activities such as gardening, playing with the playgrounds and even cooking.

“You can lower the seat to the level of a low kitchen cupboard, pull out a heavy cast-iron pan, put it down to raise and raise the seat again,” says McGillivray. “It sounds so simple, but it can be really life-changing.”

In 2022, Maaskant was given a $30,000 university award when he received the AGE-WELL Emerging Entrepreneur Award. Axton was also selected as a finalist in the National Impact Challenge 2023 – Bold Innovations for Living, and the 2022 AGE-WELL National Impact Challenge, but it had to withdraw from the latter competition because of a family emergency (Tracey was caring for her Mom at end-of-life).

The next step for the Ibex Lift is FDA clearance, which McGillivray and Maaskant expect soon. It will first be marketed in Florida, where more than one-fifth of the population is over 65, in the first quarter of 2024.

Health Canada, which can take a little longer to review products than its US counterpart, is expected to give Axton the go-ahead in the near future, too. “Working on this has changed the direction of my life,” says Maaskant. “I can’t wait for it to positively change the lives of those with mobility issues, too.”
So, if your mother is using the bathroom and she falls, you will be notified with a stick figure animation to show what happened, not a full video of her.

Sentinare also provides daily analytics that offer a wealth of health information about, for example, sleep habits and the amount of physical activity a person is getting.

In fact, that aspect has served the inventor and his family well. Dr. Liang had Sentinare installed in his mother’s home. “She is 80 and lives alone. Early last year I began to notice changes in her daily activity. I did not pay much attention at the beginning, but a few months later her situation was worse and she was diagnosed with dementia. I then realized that Sentinare really has the potential to help identify some disease symptoms earlier.”

The product was a CES 2021 Innovation Award Honoree, and has been selling well, with customers in about 10 countries, says Dr. Liang. In particular, in 2023, it was selected by Amazon as one of only three fall detection devices in its Alexa Together emergency service, and has received the best customer review. Most Amazon customers purchase Sentinare for their parents living independently, but their positive reviews have helped AltumView to get Sentinare into the residential care and remote patient monitoring sectors as well.

AltumView was recently selected as one of five Canadian companies to expand their healthy aging solutions into the United Kingdom and even Europe as part of the coveted UK Canada AgeTech Innovation Exchange program. The product was a CES 2021 Innovation Award Honoree, and has been selling well, with customers in about 10 countries, says Dr. Liang. In particular, in 2023, it was selected by Amazon as one of only three fall detection devices in its Alexa Together emergency service, and has received the best customer review. Most Amazon customers purchase Sentinare for their parents living independently, but their positive reviews have helped AltumView to get Sentinare into the residential care and remote patient monitoring sectors as well.

AltumView Monitoring system for seniors puts privacy first

Of course your mother wants to stay in her own home. She’s lived there for 40 years, from when you and your siblings were kids. While alone now since your dad passed away and everyone’s moved out, she has family and friends over, and loves the place.

But you still worry. You know that older adults are more likely to fall. And you get the feeling your mother’s been getting more forgetful lately.

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Dr. Jie Liang and his startup company, AltumView, had you—and the global aging population—in mind when they decided to use their expertise in engineering to create technology that can assist older adults to live more safely—and with an eye on changes in their evolving health.

“How most of the existing technology available for remote monitoring of older adults is very old and there has been little focused on the seniors sector,” says Dr. Liang, professor in the School of Engineering Science at Simon Fraser University in Vancouver. “We have expertise in the video and image processing and artificial intelligence (AI) areas and thought that we could apply that to a new way for families and caregivers to make sure their loved ones are safe at home.”

Their solution is the Sentinare smart activity sensor.

Sentinare uses AI algorithms to perform a number of functions. One is around the safety of a person in their home. Sentinare mounted throughout the home monitors physical movement. If a fall out of bed, a slip or other abnormal movements are detected, Sentinare will send an alert to the person’s contacts via their smartphone.

And there’s a critical privacy-preserving feature Dr. Liang says is distinctive from traditional surveillance cameras: Sentinare will only send stick figure animations of the person, instead of the real video.

“Privacy is important. After all, Sentinare is used in places where people go about all the activities we do in our homes.

“Privacy is important. After all, Sentinare is used in places where people go about all the activities we do in our homes.

Dr. Jie Liang

Funding Emerging Entrepreneurs

Two talented young stars were selected to receive $50,000 awards through the 2023 AGE-WELL Emerging Entrepreneur Award. The award supports the development of emerging entrepreneurs to create and grow an innovative startup with potential for social and economic impact in Canada. AGE-WELL is grateful to the Yuen Family Foundation for their generosity in supporting the Emerging Entrepreneur Award Program.

Liam Maaskant

2022 Emerging Entrepreneur Award recipient

As co-founder of Action Independence Mobility Inc., Liam Maaskant is developing a solution that expands the functionality of a rollator walker to include a motorized seat that moves up and down, giving older adults greater independence at home.

Anika Munn

2022 Emerging Entrepreneur Award recipient

Anika Munn is a co-founder of LivingSafe, a startup developing a digital assessment tool for living older adults safer by providing their caregivers with physical status data, such as vital signs and alerts, for instance if a loved one wanders at night.

Bronwyn Bridges

2023 Emerging Entrepreneur Award recipient

Bronwyn Bridges is the co-founder and CEO of PragmoCIn, which has created a digital assessment tool for monitoring Parkinson’s disease symptoms. The ultimate goal is for people living with Parkinson’s to get help faster with more accurate results.

Lianna Genovese

2023 Emerging Entrepreneur Award recipient

Lianna Genovese is the founder of ImaginAble Solutions and creator of Guided Hands™, an international award-winning assistive device that enables anyone with limited fine motor skills to write, paint, draw and access technology.

We also announced the 2022 AGE-WELL Emerging Entrepreneur Award recipients in the last fiscal. These $30,000 awards included a cash top-up for both recipients, provided by the Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation (CABHI).
Knowledge Mobilization & Commercialization

AGE-WELL Expertise

A go-to authority for decision-makers

AGE-WELL’s expertise is widely sought-after by decision-makers across Canada.

In 2022, AGE-WELL was contracted to consult with the FPT (Federal-Provincial-Territorial) Seniors Forum Working Group on The Role of Technology to Enhance Aging in Place. We are providing expert advice and critical feedback on three research projects in order to issue recommendations to the FPT Ministers for Seniors to support government policies for older Canadians.

AGE-WELL also takes every opportunity to meet with federal and provincial ministers, parliamentarians and their staff to understand policy priorities and find windows of opportunity to support their goals. In December 2022, we presented at the Game Changers in Health Research and Health Innovation Luncheon, hosted by the Parliamentary Health Research Caucus and Research Canada.

We continue to work closely with our policy-focused national innovation hub in Fredericton, New Brunswick (N.B.), called Advancing Policies and Practices in Technology and Aging (APPTA), to engage with government stakeholders to understand and meet their emerging policy and evidence needs.

The devastating loss of life in long-term care homes during the pandemic made clear the need for national standards. AGE-WELL scientific director Dr. Alex Mihailidis was tapped by CSA Group to lead the development of a new national standard for long-term care homes. Published in December 2022, CSA Z8004 Long-Term Care Home Operations and Infection Prevention and Control is intended to provide guidance on safe operating practices and effective infection prevention and control practices in long-term care homes.

Sharing knowledge across platforms

AGE-WELL reaches many audiences through its webinars, videos, books and other publications. We have an entire book series now being published on each of AGE-WELL’s Challenge Areas. We also teamed up in 2022 with the Canadian College of Health Leaders on a special themed issue of the journal Healthcare Management Forum, focused on aging, technology and health in a post-COVID world.

Our thought leadership in aging and technology is also evident in op-eds published this past year in the Toronto Star, The Hill Times, Le Soleil and other publications. Journalists increasingly come to us for our expertise on aging-related issues. Last year saw a record number of media interviews, reaching millions of readers and viewers worldwide.

Farah Nasser of Global News interviews AGE-WELL scientific director and CEO Dr. Alex Mihailidis about technology for people living with dementia.

More than 750 people from across Canada and around the world gathered in Toronto for AgeTech Innovation Week, the premiere event for technology and innovation for aging and caregiving in 2023. Hosted by AGE-WELL and held October 23-27, the focus was on technology-based solutions for healthy aging.

The event brought together stakeholders in research, industry, government and community organizations, older adults, caregivers, future leaders and others committed to enhancing lives through technology.

Five days of activities were built around two exciting anchor events: the AGE-WELL Annual Conference featuring the latest research and innovation along with discussion of current issues by global thought leaders; and the inaugural envisAGE Annual Forum, co-hosted by MEDTEQ+ and AGE-WELL, spotlighting startup-driven innovation.

The week included a national AgeTech Virtual Tour for older adults and caregivers, a special Healthy Aging Canada Symposium, co-hosted by AGE-WELL and the Canadian Frailty Network, sponsored sessions, and the EPIC-AT Annual Meeting for members of a new training platform for future leaders in digital health solutions for older adults with complex health needs.

More than 40 exhibits and demos were on display. From smart-home sensors to wearables and reminder apps, it was wall-to-wall innovation.

The Honourable Raymond Sung Joon Cho, Ontario Minister of Seniors and Accessibility, spoke at the opening of the AGE-WELL Annual Conference.

Featuring curated panels, workshops, networking opportunities and catalytic conversations, AgeTech Innovation Week showcased cutting-edge research and innovation, new and emerging technologies, international insights and more.

Thank you to the generous sponsors of AgeTech Innovation Week: The University of Toronto Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering; Ontario Brain Institute; Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation; VHA Home HealthCare (Gold Sponsors); National Research Council of Canada; Osler (Silver Sponsors); Bereskin & Parr; The KITE Research Institute at University Health Network; and Ontario Bioscience Innovation Organization (Bronze Sponsors); and promotional partners CanAge and YouAreUNLTD.

Kickoff keynote speaker was Keren Etkin, author of The AgeTech Revolution and founder of The Gerontechnologist.com, addressing the topic of The Global AgeTech Ecosystem – 2023 and Beyond. A gerontologist and entrepreneur, Ms. Etkin was named one of the most influential people in aging by Next Avenue. She delivered a video presentation at the envisAGE Annual Forum.

Keynote Dr. Tracey Gendron, author of Ageism Unmasked: Exploring Age Bias and How to End It, talked about Disrupting Ageism. Dr. Gendron serves as chair for the Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Gerontology, and as director for the Virginia Center on Aging.

Dr. Zayna Khayat, in-house health futurist with Deloitte Canada’s Healthcare and Life Sciences practice, and growth advisor at Teladoc Health in Canada, delivered a keynote on The Future of Aging. She is the co-author of a book by that name.

Keynote speaker Dr. Christina Harrington focused on Considering Design’s Reach for Equitable Information Access among Marginalized Older Adults. A designer and qualitative researcher working at the intersection of interaction design and health and racial equity, Dr. Harrington is an assistant professor, Human-Computer Interaction Institute and director, Equity and Health Innovations Design Research Lab, Carnegie Mellon University.

120 research posters addressed pressing issues such as caring for caregivers and alleviating social isolation—and how technology can help.
AGE-WELL has been at the forefront of training in AgeTech since 2015 when we launched our EPIC (Early Professionals, Inspired Careers) program. We have now trained over 1,300 highly qualified personnel, or HQP, from over 100 institutions across Canada and 13 countries worldwide.

EPIC provides undergraduate students, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, early career researchers, and research and health professionals with the knowledge and skills to advance Canada’s leadership in AgeTech in academic and non-academic spheres.

It’s a rich and varied program consisting of disciplinary and professional development webinars and lectures, summer institutes, pitch competitions, experiential training opportunities such as internships and exchanges, as well as access to funding and multi-sectoral mentorship. Equity, diversity, inclusion and co-creation are integrated throughout all aspects of the program.

Our trainees are having a demonstrably positive impact on the lives of older adults and caregivers. You will meet some of these impressive individuals on pages 32-37. Notably, AGE-WELL trainees are securing positions in industry, government, academia and community organizations, and launching startups.

With new funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Health Research Training Platform, we are pleased to extend and expand our existing EPIC training program through to 2027. The new national training platform is known as Early Professionals, Inspired Careers in AgeTech (EPIC-AT). It equips graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and early career researchers to accelerate the delivery of digital health solutions for older Canadians with complex health needs, and their caregivers.

In 2022, we welcomed the first cohort of fellows into the EPIC-AT platform, which is powered by AGE-WELL and led by researchers from 11 universities and research hospitals across six Canadian provinces. EPIC-AT is hosted at the University of Toronto. See page 9 for more details.

"AGE-WELL is the supreme supporter of focusing on co-design and engaging the community very early on and, without their support, my kind of research wouldn’t be possible.”

Dr. Aaron Yurkewich, assistant professor, mechatronics engineering, Ontario Tech University, and recipient of a 2023 AGE-WELL Early Career Researcher Program Grant

Also last year, AGE-WELL launched an Early Career Researcher Program to provide cash and in-kind supports to AGE-WELL HQP who are now early career researchers, and ensure continued uptake of our network’s values and principles, which we call “the AGE-WELL way.”

Outstanding global event

Our EPIC Conference, now in its fourth year, is the largest virtual trainee conference at the intersection of health, aging and tech. This virtual event attracted over 1,100 attendees from 18 countries who tuned in to nine amazing sessions over nine days.
Dr. Jae-Yung Kwon, whose work aims to improve quality of life for older cancer patients living with frailty, was the recipient of an early career researcher award from AGE-WELL and Canadian Frailty Network. The grant will support Dr. Kwon, an assistant professor in the University of Victoria’s School of Nursing, to lead a pilot project designed to create a more personalized and empathetic cancer treatment experience for older adults living with frailty through improved clinician education.

Some of our distinguished award recipients:

### 2022 Karen Kobayashi Memorial Award in Technology and Aging recipient
#### Dr. Edith Munene
a PhD student at the University of Victoria in the School of Public Health and Social Policy, received the inaugural Karen Kobayashi Memorial Award in Technology and Aging. Dr. Munene’s research project takes a novel approach to examine how older African, Caribbean and Black immigrant women in British Columbia face diverse barriers to accessing virtual care.

### 2022 AGE-WELL-Alzheimer Society Research Program Doctoral Award
#### Adebusola Adekoya
a registered nurse and PhD candidate at the University of Waterloo, received a three-year doctoral award funded by AGE-WELL in collaboration with the Alzheimer Society Research Program (ASRP). Adekoya’s current research focuses on older adults living with dementia at risk of getting lost and going missing, and the use of innovative strategies to promote safe walking.

### 2023 Karen Kobayashi Memorial Award in Technology and Aging recipient
#### Aline Aboujaoudé
a doctoral candidate at the Université de Montréal, is the recipient of the 2023 Karen Kobayashi Memorial Award in Technology and Aging. The award will support Aboujaoudé “in gaining a better understanding of how we could improve the health care system’s responsiveness to the evolving needs of the aging Canadian population.”

### 2022 Michael F. Harcourt Policy Fellowship recipient
#### Dr. Natasha Gallant
assistant professor, University of Regina
Project: Long-Term Care Connects: Engaging Stakeholders to Inform Research & Teaching Activities

### 2022 Indigenous Graduate Student Award recipient
#### Casey Hewes
a PhD student, University of British Columbia
Project: Indigenous Self-Determined Health Systems Innovation

### AGE-WELL/Canadian Frailty Network Early Career Researcher Award
#### Dr. Shehroz Khan
scientist, KITE-UHN
Pilot Study to Predict Social Isolation in Older Adults Living in the Community with a Novel Cloud-based Digital Health Platform

### 2023 Karen Kobayashi Memorial Award in Technology and Aging recipient
#### Dr. Jessica Wong
Postdoctoral fellow, Ontario Tech University
Project: Developing an innovative population risk tool to reduce the burden of unmet health care needs in aging Canadians with musculoskeletal conditions; A comprehensive investigation to improve health services and health equity
Rebekah Churchyard

Inspiration to create agricultural program for people living with dementia came from family experience

Rebekah Churchyard’s grandfather was diagnosed with dementia at age 63. A former Christmas tree farmer, he found himself with little to do and increasingly confused in his environment. He’d sit on the stoop of his home, refusing to go to a day program designed for people living with dementia. His granddaughter vowed to find better options for Canadians with dementia, and for their caregivers.

In 2022, Churchyard opened Green Care Farms in Milton, Ontario—the first of its kind in Canada—a half-acre sensory garden with programming created for people living with dementia. Set amid the 165-acre Andrews Farm Market & Winery, it was the culmination of her education, including a Master of Social Work in Gerontology, work experience (providing specialized geriatric services at home and community care support services), and traveling down a long road to make her dream project a reality.

Green Care Farms couples a therapeutic supportive setting with agricultural activities. “We have two aims,” says Churchyard. “The other is that it’s a place where people can come and really love seeing them making jokes, brainstorming ideas and making plans to bring seeds and garden tools on their next visit.”

While there are care farms worldwide, they’re relatively new to Canada. When Churchyard heard about them at a conference, her journey to create one for those with dementia began. She spent five years with the Toronto Council on Aging, learning how charities work, how to develop programs, access grant funding and, most importantly, what older Canadians needed. Later, when she had a chance to lease some land for her sensory garden, she leapt at the opportunity.

She credits AGE-WELL’s training and programs for helping her hone her concept and being able to pitch it effectively by focusing on the need it fulfilled and having the research to back it up. From day one, researcher Dr. Arlene Astell, Churchyard’s mentor at AGE-WELL, believed in Green Care Farms and the vision behind it. “I love seeing them making jokes, brainstorming ideas and making plans to bring seeds and garden tools on their next visit.”

The facility primarily treats stroke and spinal cord injury patients and has a specialized geriatrics unit. Its work focuses on research and innovation, collaborating with clinicians to develop solutions for problems that arise. It’s the conduit where academic partners, industry, research, physicians and patients connect. Or, as Dr. Chan puts it, “I see what products we can create to make life easier for patients.”

He seeded the savings for his current career path as an undergrad studying mechanical engineering at the University of Alberta. The co-op program introduced him to what was then called the Glenrose Research Centre.

“I thought their approach was unique,” says Dr. Chan. “Many innovations come from engineers who think they will work, but in a clinical setting, they don’t. On the clinician side, they’re so focused on problems that they don’t have enough time to think of solutions. At Glenrose, those two groups could come together and make stuff happen. And I thought, ‘This is something I’d like to be a part of.’”

For example, a student team was able to help an older gentleman who had trouble maintaining a steady grip on his walker. One hand kept slipping off, causing him to fall. They designed a suit from various stakeholders to attach to his walker using a 3D printer. It was a $20 solution, which allowed him to go independent of拐杖。“It was life-changing,” says Dr. Chan. “Sometimes, it’s the simple things that can make a big difference.”

His interest in innovation lines up nicely with AGE-WELL, which he learned about when he was working with the Program to Accelerate Technologies for Homecare (PATH), an AGE-WELL research project involving testing and implementation of technologies to support aging-in-place. He went on to complete AGE-WELL’s EPIC training program in March 2023. “The biggest thing I appreciate about AGE-WELL is how practical they are,” he explains. “I’ve been to conferences that are too technical or too clinical. AGE-WELL’s approach is very much person-focused, which, for aging, is important. Innovation starts with the needs of an individual, then the evidence for efficacy and clinical trials builds from there.”

As he creates new tools to improve patients’ lives, his family is on his mind. He saw firsthand how dementia affected his grandmother. It helped inspire his future goals, which include advancing Edmonton as a hub for strong academic research and product development alongside Canadian companies, and ensuring Glenrose is at the centre of this dynamic ecosystem. As Dr. Chan notes, “The grassroots innovations that can come from these partnerships would be very powerful.”
Dr. Shital Desai
Building blocks of knowledge in human-centred design

Dr. Shital Desai may have spent much of her academic life studying machines and robots, but she never forgets about the people who use them. In her role as an assistant professor, Interaction Design at the School of Arts, Media, Performance & Design (AMPD) and York Research Chair in Accessible Interaction Design at York University, her work depends on her ability to understand the needs of others. Her goal is to keep the human component of technology front and centre.

Her journey to Toronto has been a long one. Originally from India, Dr. Desai spent 25 years studying, living and working in Australia. She earned her PhD at the Queensland University of Technology in Interaction Design, focused on human-centred design for children. She learned much about how they interacted with technology by watching her daughter (then age 6) play, which inspired her to pursue a PhD in interaction design for children. It helped Dr. Desai gain knowledge she could apply later when she started a new chapter creating technology for older adults when she moved to Canada.

Life changed dramatically when she met Dr. Artene Astell (now director of the Dementia Aging Technology Engagement (DATE) lab at KITE-UHN and AGE-WELL researcher) through Dr. Deborah Fels (now at Toronto Metropolitan University). Together, they led AGE-WELL’s Tungsten (Tools for User Needs Gathering To Support Innovation) research project. They encouraged Dr. Desai to come to Ontario to pursue a postdoc with AGE-WELL with Dr. Astell.

That was five years ago. Dr. Desai and her family have settled into life in Canada and her work continues to inspire and challenge her. In the Social and Technological Sciences (SatSS) lab at AMPD, York University, she designs and develops accessible technologies, primarily for older adults and those with disabilities, supported by several grants including Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Discovery and Canada Foundation for Innovation grants. “My research is focused on how to keep people at home and in communities,” she says.

As part of her research, Dr. Desai is deeply engaged with the Jane and Finch, St. Jamestown and Rexdale communities. She collaborates with the Jane/Finch Centre and Albion Neighbourhood Services. Most importantly, she listens to their stories and experiences of how technology has failed them. “When people lack basic infrastructure to use technologies, how effective can those technology-driven solutions be in making a difference in their everyday lives?” she asks.

Co-creation is the answer, one that brings together a variety of stakeholders and people from various disciplines, from researchers and engineers to artists and experts in global health, to develop solutions. That’s just one aspect of AGE-WELL she appreciates. As someone who has completed its EPIC training, Dr. Desai has seen the benefits of multidisciplinary networking and funding opportunities, especially for students and post-grads.

Being able to figure out a puzzle with a multitude of moving parts continues to intrigue Dr. Desai, who did a degree in robotics. But when trying to solve complicated problems, she sometimes turns away from modern technology. Instead, she reaches for LEGO blocks—a handy tool to facilitate divergent thinking. She keeps some in her lab, office and home and uses them with students in her classrooms. “I use them to brainstorm ideas,” she says, “and it allows me to focus, to reflect and plan strategies.”

It’s a gentle reminder that creating technology, whether complex or simple, is most successful when people using it and the systems they live in are at the forefront. Something Dr. Desai understands so well.

Kelly Davison
Advocating for equitable access to health care for marginalized people

It’s difficult to define narrowly the work Kelly Davison does to advocate for the health of local communities and Indigenous people, including Metis like herself. It’s multi-faceted and spreads across multiple organizations, but health equity is always at the core.

He is a registered nurse working with the Ministry of Health in B.C., in the Downtown Eastside and Lion’s Gate Hospital. He is also a research coordinator for Dr. Lisa Bourque Bearskin, the B.C. chair of Indigenous Health Nursing Research, and a co-chair of the Sex-Gender Working Group with Canada Health Infoway, and trainee with the University of Victoria’s gender, sex and sexual orientation research team. He is currently working on his PhD.

Davison’s passion for improving health care runs deep. Born and raised in Calgary, Davison moved to B.C. in 2007 to set down roots. Early on, he knew the focus would be on health—“Everything connects to health—air and water quality, social engagement, education...” says Davison. “This is what many people don’t appreciate. Humans are a part of the ecosystem; our lives depend on the natural environment.”

It was something he learned from Elders he worked with as an anthropologist alongside Indigenous community members doing community-based Indigenous Knowledge Research. He helped bring community voices to the assessment of potential impacts of industrial projects. The Elders talked often about the connection between life, air, water, the land, spirituality and human health. “That understanding of holistic connections has inspired his current research supported by AGE-WELL.”

In 2020, Davison was awarded AGE-WELL’s Indigenous Graduate Fellowship in Technology and Aging, a scholarship award that provided funding for him to explore the effects of virtual care on community-dwelling older adults, including the unprecedented mobilization of virtual care services during the pandemic. Collaborating with Dr. Bearskin, he has shifted his work from Two-Eyed Seeing to Wise Practices for telehealth for Indigenous communities.

“Every community is different and the Wise Practices for each one will be different.” It’s also a chance to create change, explains Davison. “There’s always been a disparity in terms of health care services in communities versus that in bigger centres. That’s an economic and geographical factor, but a cultural one as well. There is an interesting opportunity to start closing that gap, especially in more remote areas, because not everybody wants to, or can, travel long distances to see a doctor or a specialist.”

Adding to the care disparity for Indigenous communities is the risk to individuals of “...being stigmatized, discriminated against, racialized and harmed, if you’re not from colonial cultures,” as Davison points out. Being an advocate means improving the experience for Indigenous people seeking health care. To help do that effectively, Davison’s AGE-WELL training has been a key to his success. “It provided me with an excellent foundation for my research and advocacy work,” he says. “It delved into ethics, diversity and inclusion, racism and stigma—all very important topics. The training also covered how to engage with policy change effectively and how to build networks. As an emerging scholar, health care professional and researcher, it was invaluable.”

As an EPIC training graduate, he is focused on improving access to health care, making it easier and safer, especially for marginalized people. Davison hopes he can affect change and help create a new path for accessibility and equity. 

Dr. Shital Desai
Kelly Davison

Alumni Profiles

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Alumni Profiles

Alumni Profiles
In June 2023, AGE-WELL brought together 15 trainees, including high school students, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, from across Canada for its 6th annual EPIC Summer Institute in Toronto, Ontario. The Summer Institute, Co-Creating Possibilities: Supportive Homes and Communities, focused on creating digital solutions to help older adults to live independently and with dignity in their chosen homes. Older Canadians overwhelmingly prefer to age-in-place and technology solutions to enable this are in greater and greater demand.

For this year’s Summer Institute, AGE-WELL partnered with SmartONE, a Canadian company that has created a smart community solution focused on multi-family residential developments, where smart homes are connected over a common building network and building services are integrated into the smart living experience. Working in multidisciplinary teams and mentored by older adult and caregiver stakeholders, trainees were challenged to develop an application solution to a problem posed by older adults themselves.

The event was held at the University of Toronto, with support from the PATH Project, SmartONE Solutions, and the University of Toronto Robotics Institute.

Team AgeUnity won the Summer Institute pitch competition for designing an app to decrease social isolation. Their solution connects older adults living in apartments and condos with others in their building and neighbourhood based on similar interests.

An intense week of highly innovative collaboration between generations, AGE-WELL did an amazing job bringing mentors and teams together.”

Richard Barham, PhD candidate, Université Laval

This unique opportunity strengthened my ability to work in diverse teams and extended my network of mentors and peers focused on developing technologies for healthy aging.”

Jessica Wong, postdoctoral fellow, Ontario Tech University
Networking & Partnerships

Our partnerships continue to grow in number and to diversify in nature.

AGE-WELL now counts more than 440 partners across sectors, as well as 68 startups. Best Buy Health, Canadian Red Cross, TELUS, Sun Life Financial, AgeTech Capital—these are among our many valued partners who are working with us to make a difference in the lives of older adults and caregivers.

Over the past year, we have seen an increase in engagement from stakeholders in long-term care, seniors living and home care around the implementation of technologies in these sectors. At the network level, there is increased involvement and contributions from partners looking to leverage AGE-WELL’s leadership and expertise in the AgeTech sector.

We are thrilled that our partnership with Quebec-based MEDTEQ+ has produced a hugely important new initiative called envisAGE, funded with $47 million through the federal government’s Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF), managed by Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED). Announced in December 2022 and co-led by MEDTEQ+ and AGE-WELL, envisAGE is a game changer that provides startups and SMEs with access to funding programs and services to help them innovate in AgeTech (see page 8).

AGE-WELL also has an exciting and evolving relationship with the University of Toronto Institutional Strategic Initiatives (ISI) portfolio, which increases the university’s capacity to support large-scale, high-impact interdisciplinary research. You can read more on page 10, where we also describe fruitful new partnerships with the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Canadian Frailty Network.

We are happy to provide expertise and contribute to the important work of partner organizations like HealthCities, which supports aging-in-place through technology-enabled homes in Alberta. AGE-WELL is also represented on the Canadian Space Agency research advisory council, and on the National Research Council of Canada’s Aging in Place Challenge program advisory council.

Generous support
Our partners also provide invaluable support for signature AGE-WELL activities, like AgeTech Innovation Week and the National Impact Challenge. A big thank you to all for helping us drive the AgeTech sector.

AGE-WELL’s commitment to fostering innovation has been paramount in empowering older adults to age in place, maintain independence and live with dignity. SE Health’s partnership with AGE-WELL, particularly through initiatives such as the National Impact Challenge and COURAGE: Action for Better Aging initiatives, is a testament to the profound value and transformative impact of working collectively towards a shared vision for the future of aging in Canada."

Dr. Tazim Virani, senior vice president, Social Impact & Global Initiatives, SE Health

Older adult and caregiver involvement
AGE-WELL greatly values the meaningful involvement of older adults and caregivers. It takes many forms. Older adults and caregivers sit on our Older Adult and Caregiver Advisory Committee (OACAC), Research Management Committee and International Scientific Advisory Committee. We know that our innovations will only succeed if end-users are involved in every stage of development. That is why older adults and caregivers take part in research projects, webinars and relevancy reviews. They also provide insights and feedback to startups and industry through Older Adult Insights Panels.

This past year, we launched a new program called Connections Conversations, a bi-monthly virtual social event for older Canadians to meet in a friendly and relaxed environment to discuss experiences with technology and aging. This series is hosted by members of our OACAC. And another new offering: Intergenerational Connections is a virtual networking event that aims to build more communications and professional connections between older adults, caregivers and network trainees.

The first envisAGE Annual Forum, co-hosted by MEDTEQ+ and AGE-WELL and held on October 24, 2023, was dedicated to the commercialization and integration of AgeTech solutions. Here, leaders from five organizations discuss how innovative approaches can help with key needs in long-term care, senior living, home care and aging-in-place.

Ron Beleno,
OACAC co-chair
Sherry Baker,
OACAC co-chair
Caron Leid,
OACAC vice-chair

AGE-WELL Older Adult
and Caregiver Advisory
Committee (OACAC) leaders

The first envisAGE Annual Forum, co-hosted by MEDTEQ+ and AGE-WELL and held on October 24, 2023, was dedicated to the commercialization and integration of AgeTech solutions. Here, leaders from five organizations discuss how innovative approaches can help with key needs in long-term care, senior living, home care and aging-in-place.
Networking & Partnerships

Honorary Fellowship Program

The AGE-WELL Honorary Fellow Award recognizes members who have made long-term and substantial contributions to research and innovation in the AgeTech sector, as well as a significant contribution to AGE-WELL.

Our sincere gratitude to the most recent recipients:

Rafik Goubran
2023 AGE-WELL Honorary Fellow Award

Dr. Rafik Goubran is vice-president (research and international) and Chancellor’s Professor at Carleton University. An AGE-WELL researcher from the very start, he is a founding member of Sensors and Analytics for Monitoring Mobility and Memory (SAM3), an AGE-WELL national innovation hub, and also leads our Challenge Area focused on Supportive Homes & Communities. Dr. Goubran is a widely-recognized expert in sensors and analytics. He co-leads several multi-disciplinary research programs on the design of smart environments for the independent living of seniors, and on vital sign monitoring.

Lili Liu
2023 AGE-WELL Honorary Fellow Award

Dr. Lili Liu is a professor in the School of Public Health Sciences, and dean of the Faculty of Health, at the University of Waterloo. Dr. Liu is a renowned researcher whose work examines how technologies can help older adults and family caregivers. Dr. Liu has also been an AGE-WELL researcher from the beginning, and leads our Challenge Area for Autonomy & Independence. She also mentors trainees, leads multiple projects, contributes to our publications initiatives, and does media interviews on behalf of the network.

Jim Mann
2023 AGE-WELL Honorary Fellow Award

A dedicated advocate for people living with Alzheimer’s, Jim Mann serves on multiple advisory councils and boards, including the CIHR Institute of Aging Advisory Board. He has been a member of AGE-WELL’s Research Management Committees for eight years, and has spoken at many AGE-WELL events, including the first Annual Conference in 2015 and AGE-WELL’s Day on the Hill in 2018. He is an inspiration to network members. His wisdom and lived experience are invaluable to do the work we do.

More than ever, we must work together globally to address the universal challenges of aging.

AGE-WELL does this through a burgeoning number of international partnerships and global activities. In 2023, a cool concept became an exciting reality with the launch of the UK Canada AgeTech Innovation Exchange healthy aging competition. AGE-WELL is a partner in the program, led by the Northern Health Science Alliance (NHSA) and Academic Health Science Networks (AHSN) in the United Kingdom, and funded by the Innovate UK Healthy Ageing Challenge.

Over 60 companies applied for a place in the coveted program designed to support businesses with innovative products that improve the health and well-being of older adults. Ultimately, eight U.K. companies and five Canadian companies were invited to take part in an in-person exchange that took place in June 2023 on both sides of the Atlantic.

Adding to the international momentum, 24 teams from around the world, including three in Canada, made it to the semi-finals of the Longitude Prize on Dementia. A total of $3 million (Can.) was awarded to these pioneering teams of developers, researchers and innovators. The competition is funded by Alzheimer’s Society and Innovate UK, and designed and delivered by Challenge Works. The prize is supported by AGE-WELL and CABHI in Canada.

continued on next page
In the global spotlight

AGE-WELL researchers serve in approximately 50 international leadership positions in countries such as the U.S., U.K., France, Chile, Germany and The Netherlands. Our members share their knowledge widely. One example of many: Dr. Shannon Freeman is part of an international consortium to survey technology use, social connections, loneliness and leisure activities during COVID-19 and is leading the survey to represent the northern and rural voice.

AGE-WELL-supported products are making their way around the world. Take, for instance, Guided Hands™, an international award-winning product that enables anyone experiencing limited hand mobility to write, paint, draw and access technology. Lianna Genovese, CEO & founder of ImaginAble Solutions, is thrilled that her product has gone from “3D printing and assembling our first 25 prototypes on the ping pong table in my basement, to now proudly manufacturing in Ontario and introducing Guided Hands to health professionals and people with disabilities across Canada, the U.S., the U.K., Europe and Australia.” Meanwhile, Able Innovations, makers of state-of-the-art patient transfer technology, recently began shipping to the U.S. Stay tuned for updates.

AGE-WELL is going to keep driving the AgeTech sector in Canada, creating jobs, supporting our economy and making life better for people everywhere.”

Dr. Alex Mihailidis, scientific director and CEO, AGE-WELL
Eight Challenge Areas drive AGE-WELL’s research and innovation in supporting older adults and caregivers.

**Supportive Homes & Communities**

Aging-in-place is about being able to live independently in one’s own home and community through appropriate supports and services.

*Example technologies:* smart homes, sensors to monitor safety at home, online portals for community groups and programs.

**Autonomy & Independence**

Older people try to maintain their autonomy and independence, even in the face of impairment, disability or illness.

*Example technologies:* assistive technology, stick-on hip protectors, rehabilitation technologies, stabilizing glove.

**Mobility & Transportation**

Older adults look for inclusive transportation systems that make them feel comfortable, respected and safe. Increased mobility and confidence allow for more equitable access to environments.

*Example technologies:* smart wheelchairs, autonomous vehicles.

**Healthcare & Health Service Delivery**

Older adults and caregivers face challenges like getting to doctor’s appointments, obtaining health records, navigating the system and affording new technologies that improve quality of care.

*Example technologies:* virtual doctor visits, digital health apps, continuous glucose monitors, bed transfer platform.

**Financial Wellness & Employment**

Many older Canadians experience financial vulnerability and workplace exclusion as they age.

*Example technologies:* employment portals tailored for older users and caregivers, financial apps.

**Cognitive Health & Dementia**

Cognitive health issues impact older adults and caregivers, but there are proactive approaches to managing them.

*Example technologies:* medication reminders, digital cognitive assessment tools.

**Staying Connected**

Staying connected is about strengthening the social networks of older adults and caregivers.

*Example technologies:* social platforms and apps, social and telepresence robots, hearing aids.

**Healthy Lifestyles & Wellness**

A healthy lifestyle is not just about making conscious choices about nutrition, exercise and self-management of mental and physical health. It is also about the social, economic and contextual factors.

*Example technologies:* wearables, virtual access to exercise, fitness apps.
Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Position
AGE-WELL NCE Inc.
As at March 31

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>506,467</td>
<td>435,373</td>
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<tr>
<td>Due from University Health Network</td>
<td>3,940,186</td>
<td>8,998,484</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unspent research grants held at participating institutions</td>
<td>2,586,549</td>
<td>3,210,906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>216,620</td>
<td>57,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>3,109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,254,822</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,705,297</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued liabilities</td>
<td>148,197</td>
<td>132,327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total current liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>148,197</strong></td>
<td><strong>132,327</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Deferred contributions | 6,590,027 | 12,132,831 |
| **Total liabilities** | **6,738,224** | **12,265,158** |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Net assets</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>516,598</td>
<td>440,139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>7,254,822</strong></td>
<td><strong>12,705,297</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

On behalf of the Board:

Mimi Lowi-Young, Chair, Board of Directors
Barbara Stymiest, Chair, F&A

Please refer to the audited financial statements on the AGE-WELL NCE website: www.agewell-nce.ca

Statement of Operations and Changes In Unrestricted Net Assets
AGE-WELL NCE Inc.
Year ended March 31

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUE</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Networks of Centres of Excellence grant</td>
<td>6,580,008</td>
<td>5,706,947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant from other partners/organizations</td>
<td>17,291</td>
<td>58,163</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other sources of funds</td>
<td>65,769</td>
<td>51,268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,663,068</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,816,378</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Research and training</td>
<td>6,586,609</td>
<td>76,162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Networking meetings and events</td>
<td>5,445,682</td>
<td>3,210,906</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications</td>
<td>76,348</td>
<td>57,467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professions fees</td>
<td>772,403</td>
<td>42,419</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>5,919</td>
<td>6,091</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td>761,328</td>
<td>772,403</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,586,609</strong></td>
<td><strong>5,770,526</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| Excess of revenue over expenses for the year | 76,459 | 45,852 |
| **Unrestricted net assets, beginning of year** | **516,598** | **440,139** |
| **Unrestricted net assets, end of year** | **6,590,027** | **12,132,831** |

Cash and in-kind contributions from partners held and spent at network member institutions are not included in these statements. The Network follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions, which include government and other grants. Deferred contributions represent unspent resources externally restricted for program expenses in future years. Changes in the deferred contributions balance are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2023</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance, beginning of year</td>
<td>12,132,831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amounts received during the year – NCE</td>
<td>1,026,995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amounts received during the year – Non NCE</td>
<td>27,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amounts recognized as revenue during the year – NCE</td>
<td>(6,580,008)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amounts recognized as revenue during the year – Non NCE</td>
<td>(17,291)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Balance, end of year</td>
<td><strong>6,590,027</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please refer to the audited financial statements on the AGE-WELL NCE website: www.agewell-nce.ca
Network Community

as of October 2023

Member Universities and Research Centres

Acadia University
Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care
Bruyère Research Institute
Carleton University
Centre de recherche de l'Institut universitaire de gériatrie de Montréal (CRIUGM)
Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Research Institute
Dalhousie University
École de technologie supérieure
First Nations University of Canada
George Brown College
Health Sciences North Research Institute
Laurentian University
London Health Sciences Centre
Memorial University
McGill University
McMaster University
Montreal Heart Institute
Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences
Ontario Tech University
Simon Fraser University
Sinai Health
St. Thomas University
Sunnybrook Research Institute

Partners

6Harmonics
AbbVie
Access Community Therapists Limited
Active and Assisted Living Programme (AAL)
Active4Care
Aldium Health
ADL Smartcare
AdvantAge Ontario
Aerial Technologies Inc.
Age Care Technologies Ltd
Aging 2.0
Aix-Marseille University
Alberta Association on Gerontology
Alberta Health Continuing Care
Alberta Health Services
Alberta Innovates
Alberta Seniors and Housing
Alberta Therapeutic Recreation Association
Algonquin College
AllerGen NCE
Alzheimer Society of British Columbia
Alzheimer Society of Canada
Alzheimer Society of Durham Region
Alzheimer Society of Manitoba
Alzheimer Society of Ontario
Alzheimer Society of Saskatchewan
Ambient Activity Technologies
Amplifly Inc.
Annapolis Valley Health
Ashbourne
ArtLifE Inc.
Association for Computing Machinery
Association pour l'intégration sociale d'Ottawa (ASIO)
Autonomous_ID
Barrie and Community Family Health Team
Baxter Corporation
Baycrest Centre for Learning Research and Innovation
Baycrest Health Sciences
Bayshore Healthcare
BC Care Providers Association
BC Ministry of Health
BC Hydro
BC Seniors Living Association
BC Silver Alert
BC Support Unit
BC Therapeutic Recreation Association
Behavoural Supports Ontario
Beiersdorf AG
Bell Canada
Bereskin & Parr LLP
Best Buy Canada
Bignotion Technologies Inc.
BioCanRx NCE
Blackberry
Blue Tree Medical Inc.
BOA Technology
Boston Engineering GmbH
Boston Scientific Canada
Bowmont Seniors Assistance Association
Brampton Venture Zone
Breton Ability Centre
British Columbia Academic Health Sciences Network
Bruyère Research Institute
Burnaby Multicultural Society
Burnaby North Secondary School
Cambridge Brain Sciences
Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH)
Canadian Assistive Devices Association (CADA)
Canadian Association on Gerontology
Canadian Automobile Association
Canadian Centre for Caregiving Excellence
Canadian Centre for Elder Law
Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging (CCNA)
Canadian Fall Prevention Curriculum
Canadian Frailty Network NCE
Canadian Homecare Association
Canadian Mental Health Association Midlands
Canadian Mountain Network NCE
Canadian Red Cross
Canadian Respiratory Research Network
Canadian Sleep and Circadian Network
Canadian Standards Association (CSA)
CanAge
CanAssist
CapitalCare
Cardiac Arrhythmia Network of Canada - CANet
CareBand Inc.
Caregiver Omnimedia Inc.
Caregivers Alberta
Carers Canada
CARF Canada
Cariboo Friendship Society
CARP
Carovy Society of Calgary
CBDS Health Inc.

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BC Hydro
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BC Silver Alert
BC Support Unit
BC Therapeutic Recreation Association
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BioCanRx NCE
Blackberry
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BOA Technology
Boston Engineering GmbH
Boston Scientific Canada
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Brampton Venture Zone
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Bruyère Research Institute
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Cambridge Brain Sciences
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Canadian Automobile Association
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Canadian Centre for Elder Law
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Canadian Frailty Network NCE
Canadian Homecare Association
Canadian Mental Health Association Midlands
Canadian Mountain Network NCE
Canadian Red Cross
Canadian Respiratory Research Network
Canadian Sleep and Circadian Network
Canadian Standards Association (CSA)
CanAge
CanAssist
CapitalCare
Cardiac Arrhythmia Network of Canada - CANet
CareBand Inc.
Caregiver Omnimedia Inc.
Caregivers Alberta
Carers Canada
CARF Canada
Cariboo Friendship Society
CARP
Carovy Society of Calgary
CBDS Health Inc.
AGE-WELL National Innovation Hubs
Advancing Policies and Practices in Technology and Aging (APPTA), Fredericton, N.B.
Daniel Dutton, Scientific Director
Centre for Technology Adoption for Aging in the North (CTAAN), Prince George, B.C.
Shannon Freeman, Academic Director
Richard McAloney, Director
Circle Innovation, Vancouver, B.C.
Sylvain Moreno, Chief Executive Officer and Scientific Director
Tom Philpott, Chief Operating Officer
Sensors and Analytics for Monitoring Mobility and Memory (SAM$), Ottawa, Ont.
Bruce Wallace, Executive Director

Startup Affiliates
Able Innovations
AceAge
Adrenalse
AIHTech
Altum View
Amintra
ArcTag
Axtion
Azimut Medical
Bisep
Blue Piar
Braze Mobility
Centivizer
Community ASAP
Curovate
Dornila
Eosa Therapeutics Inc.
EBT Medical
Enable Analytics
ElderPRIME
ElephasCare AI
eTreatMD
EvoHealth
Famil.net
GERAS Dance
Hexacap
HippoCamera
HomeExcept
Hyvix Health
ImaginAble Solutions
IOA
JLG Health Solutions
Lighthouse
Lisnen
LivingSafe
Marlena Books
MAKminder
Medley
Medtech-Motion
Memory on Hand
Mabisafe System
MouvMat/CatalystX
MyChirp
MyMatchWork
Nano-lit
Neighbori
Nightingale.ai
Novalite
OPEN Collaboration for
Cognitive Accessibility
PragmaClin
PhysioBiometrics
Press-IR
Project Whitecard Digital
Qoltom
Quantum Robotic Systems
Singular Hearing
Social Robots
Stable
Steadiwear
StrongerU Senior Fitness
TAGLAB Startup
Tensara
ThaAppX
Tochttech
True Angle Medical Tech
TrakTab
uCarenet Technologies
Virtual Gym
VitalTracer
Welbi
WeTraq
Winterlight Labs
Network Community as of October 2023

Board of Directors

Mimi Lowi-Young, (Chair) Health Care Executive and Health Systems Advisor
Barbara Stymiest, (Vice-Chair) Corporate Director
Jim Brooks, Retired Telecom Executive
Andrew Downes, Retired Physician Executive
Susan Kirkland, Professor, Dalhousie University
Anne Martin-Matthews, Associate Vice-President, Health, University of British Columbia
Alex Mihailidis, Scientific Director, AGE-WELL
Rebecca Rasa, Executive Vice President, Clinical Support & Performance, Corporate Director, UHN
Ian Struthers, Retired Financial Services Executive and CEO
Robyn Tamblyn, Professor, McGill University
Bridgette Murphy, (Observer) Managing Director, AGE-WELL

International Scientific Advisory Committee

Robyn Tamblyn, (Chair) Professor, McGill University
Anthea Tinker, (Vice-Chair) Professor, King’s College London, UK
James Barlow, Professor, Imperial College Business School, UK
Yeh-Liang Hsu, Professor, Yuan Ze University, Taiwan
Jon Sanford, Professor, Georgia Tech, US
G. Burn Evans, (Observer) AGE-WELL Older Adult and Caregiver Advisory Committee
Alex Mihailidis, (Observer) Scientific Director, AGE-WELL
Bridgette Murphy, (Observer) Managing Director, AGE-WELL
Andrew Sixsmith, (Observer) Network Advisor and Challenge Area Lead, AGE-WELL

Research Management Committee

Jennifer Campos, (Chair) Associate Scientific Director, AGE-WELL
Sandra McKay, (Vice-Chair) Vice President, Research and Innovation, VHA Home HealthCare
Jim Mann, Community Member and Alzheimer’s Advocate
Rich McLankey, Director, CTAAN, University of Northern British Columbia
Cosmin Munteanu, Assistant Professor, University of Toronto
Andrew Sixsmith, Network Advisor and Challenge Area Lead, AGE-WELL
David Wright, Founder and Partner, YouAreUNLTD
Bryan Hong, Graduate Student - Doctoral, University of Toronto
Bridgette Murphy, (Observer) Managing Director, AGE-WELL

Older Adult and Caregiver Advisory Committee

Ron Beleno, (Co-Chair) Ontario Region Representative
Sherry Baker, (Co-Chair), Pacific Region Representative
Caron Leal, (Vice-Chair), Ontario Region Representative
Phil Davis, Ontario Region Representative
Marjorie Moulton, Pacific Region Representative
G. Burn Evans, West-Central Region Representative
Chaitali Desai, Ontario Region Representative
Olive Bryant, Atlantic Region Representative
Ashley McAskill, (Observer), Program Coordinator, AGE-WELL
Alex Mihailidis, (Observer) Scientific Director, AGE-WELL
Bridgette Murphy, (Observer) Managing Director, AGE-WELL

HQP Advisory Committee

Bryan Hong, (President) Graduate Student - Doctoral, University of Toronto
Jaisie Sin, (Vice-President) Graduate Student - Doctoral, University of Toronto
Hui Chen, Graduate Student – Doctoral, Université de Sherbrooke
Cristina Getson, Graduate Student – Doctoral, University of Toronto
Kelsey Hozickiwicz, Graduate Student – Master’s, University of Regina
Jonathan Law, Graduate Student – Master’s, University of British Columbia
Lyna Ouellet, Graduate Student - Doctoral, University of New Brunswick
Rebecca White, Graduate Student - Doctoral, Simon Fraser University
Amel Yaddaden, Graduate Student - Doctoral, Université de Montréal
Samantha Sandassie, (Observer) Director, Education and Training, AGE-WELL
Alison Schneider, (Observer) Education and Training Coordinator, AGE-WELL

Industry Advisory Group

Sara Aghvami, Director, Best Buy Health
Rei Ahn, Program Research & Experience Lead, Best Buy Health
Michael Chrostowski, Director, Business Development and Partnerships, AGE-WELL
Chaitali Desai, Member, AGE-WELL Older Adult and Caregiver Advisory Committee
John Hamblin, Consultant, Smart Technology
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