

Baycrest Matters

A bi-weekly update for Baycrest staff, families, clients and volunteers

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Baycrest is an academic health sciences centre fully affiliated with the University of Toronto

Celebrating a resident's artistic career



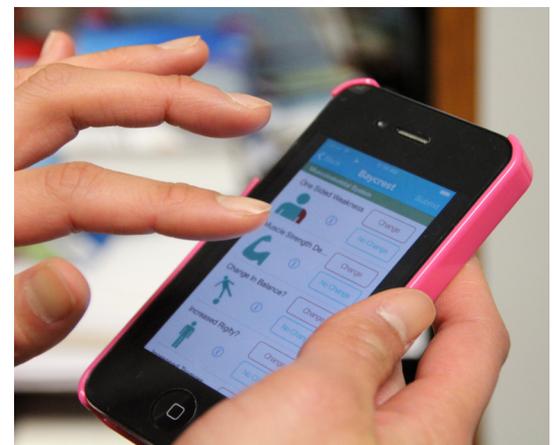
On January 6, residents and staff in the Apotex Centre, Jewish Home for the Aged had the opportunity to see a different side of resident Elias Isgut: the talented and prolific artist. An Apotex recreation room became a temporary art gallery for an afternoon, displaying a selection of Isgut's works. Isgut took up painting full-time in the 1980s when he was 55. Although he started late in life, he went on to create more than 500 works of art in a variety of media including coloured pencil on paper and oil on canvas. Isgut's works have been shown at exhibits in his native Argentina as well as in Europe.

Isgut (centre) is pictured here with his wife Ana, their son Alberto, and one of his favourite pieces. The show was coordinated by Kathleen Connolly, social worker, Helen Braun, recreation therapist, and Kelly Rose, recreationist.

Mobile app aims to expand Baycrest's educational reach

Baycrest's Centre for Learning, Research and Innovation (LRI) in Long-Term Care and the Innovation, Technology and Design (ITD) Lab are collaborating to use the power of technology to enhance long-term care. The two teams will work together to create a digital version of a learning tool for a Sensory Observation System (SOS).

"SOS was originally a set of pocket cards we created to assist frontline staff to recognize, prioritize and report meaningful information about changes in client condition," says Jennifer Reguindin, interprofessional educator, LRI. "This



With its clean, easy-to-use interface, the Sensory Observation System (SOS) is a mobile app designed to replace pocket cards used by staff to monitor client conditions. The app is expected to help take Baycrest's SOS system to long-term care facilities province-wide.

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tool is one part of a larger educational curriculum we developed to enhance resident care and support the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's goal to reduce emergency transfers from long-term care homes to hospitals."

Reguindin says that the SOS lends itself to the creation of a mobile application. "The system is designed to help frontline staff use their learning at the bedside.

A mobile version will be even more user-friendly and extend the potential reach of SOS across the province and beyond."

The Baycrest Centre for Learning, Research and Innovation in Long-Term Care is part of the Centre for Education and Knowledge Exchange in Aging at Baycrest.

Flu immunization rates increase for second year in a row

Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) has wrapped up another successful flu campaign with Baycrest's immunization rates increasing for the second year in a row.

The rates reported to Toronto Public Health as of December 15, which include uptake by staff, physicians, private companions, volunteers and students, were 73.5 per cent for the hospital and 74.8 per cent for the Apotex Centre, Jewish Home for the Aged.

Nadia Boroja, manager, OHS, says the gains were largely due to increased uptake by private companions, volunteers and students. "This year we increased our efforts to reach these groups and saw a tremendous response," says Boroja.

Overall, Boroja says the numbers are encouraging. "For the past two campaigns we've been working to make annual influenza immunization a routine part of our culture of health and safety. The numbers show we're making progress."

Aim for 80 Challenge Competition winners:

- Apotex 4 has won our flu champion trophy for 2013, with an immunization rate of 83 per cent.
- In the hospital, 4 West is the overall winner with an immunization rate of 75 per cent.
- Congratulations also to our other competition winners: Food and Nutrition Services; The Baycrest Foundation; Allied Health; and the team comprised of Quality, Safety and Best Practice, Innovation, Arts and Design, Nursing Administration, and Education. Each of the winning teams will receive "Flu Champ" badge stickers.
- The winner of the \$300 gift card draw was Precy Laforteza, a PSW on Apotex 6.



▲ Joni Kent, vice president, Strategy and chief human resources officer (right) visited staff areas including Food and Nutrition Services as an executive champion of this year's flu campaign.

Flu shots still available

Although the campaign is over, flu season is still underway. The flu shot continues to be available at Occupational Health and Safety until the end of flu season on April 1.

RESEARCH STRATEGIC PLAN 2013-2018

Sharing our research excellence with the world

In this concluding piece in a series of articles about the new Research Strategic Plan for 2013-2018, we're focusing on the third strategic goal: Increase our capacity to transfer knowledge.

The Research Training Centre (RTC) at the Rotman Research Institute is a key part of RRI's efforts to disseminate knowledge and train future scientists and clinicians in research methods. The RTC trains more than 100 students from around the world each year, providing a rich learning experience.

"Baycrest is very international and the different backgrounds of our researchers foster creativity and collaboration," says Luiz Kobuti Ferreira, a trainee from Brazil who has been at RRI for the past year. "Promoting creativity and collaboration out of diversity is something very valuable. I was fortunate to see it happening many times."

In addition to the RTC, there are a number of other initiatives underway in 2014 to promote transfer of knowledge at RRI, including:

- The 24th annual RRI conference from March 10 to 12 which will bring together internationally renowned neuroscientists, clinicians and students and highlight research on memory conducted in Canada and around the world.
- A partnership with the Dana Alliance for Brain Initiatives and European Dana Alliance for the Brain to share research during *Brain Awareness Week*, a global campaign to raise awareness of the benefits of brain research, taking place this year on March 13 and 14.
- A monthly blog, *The Aging Brain*, highlighting current research studies at www.baycrest.org/participate/research-studies.

To see the full RRI strategic plan, visit www.baycrest.org/research/strategic-plan

New committee gives nurses a say in policy and professional development

Nursing staff have a new forum for providing input on nursing practice at Baycrest through the newly-formed Nursing Practice Affairs and Professional Development (NPAPD) Committee. Led by director of Nursing Anne Marie Shin, the NPAPD committee is made up of frontline nurses from clinical areas across the organization advanced practice leaders, and the policy and procedure coordinator.

The committee will review and provide input on all policies, initiatives and programs related to nursing practice and professional development.

"As frontline staff this committee gives us a voice and lets us contribute to decision-making and see first-hand the process involved in new initiatives and policies," says Georgy Djanashvili, a registered nurse on 3 East hospital and nursing informatics

specialist, eHealth. Djanashvili is also one of the committee members. "Our input will be valuable because we can make recommendations on what's working and areas for improvement based on our everyday practice at the bedside."

The NPAPD committee will meet quarterly, with the next meeting scheduled for late January. All nursing staff are encouraged to talk to the committee members in their program areas to learn more, or to share feedback or questions.



◀ Frontline nurses gathered in late November for the first meeting of the Nursing Practice Affairs and Professional Development Committee.

Staff announcements

Congratulations to Barbara Ochendoski who has assumed the role of interim executive assistant to Paul Katz, vice president and chief of staff. In addition to this role, Barbara continues to provide administrative support to Dr. Terumi Izukawa.

Congratulations to Marilyn Reed, Audiology practice advisor, on her induction into the honour roll of the College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario (CASLPO). Marilyn was recognized for her work in patient advocacy and her leadership in developing CASLPO's Practice Standards and Guidelines for Audiologists. She is the fifth inductee to the honour roll and the first audiologist to receive this honour.



The people around us: A staff feature

Haydie Maqui

Meet one of the friendly faces of Baycrest: Haydie Maqui, porter, Mailroom. In a position that takes her all across the Baycrest campus, Haydie says the greatest pleasure of her job is interacting with clients and fellow staff. Baycrest's people, she says, are kind and share much of themselves with each other.

Living in Toronto with her husband and two daughters, Haydie has a happy young family who strengthen their own familial bond by volunteering through their church. The girls are Keilah, 14, who loves cooking and mastering family

recipes and Stephanie, 12, who loves sports and belongs to volleyball, soccer and basketball teams. With the children growing so quickly and beginning to pursue their own independence, Haydie and her husband spend as much time as possible with their girls, teaching them household responsibilities and getting away for weekend family trips at camp sites and cottages.

Where to catch her: Say hello to Haydie in the halls and offices of the entire Baycrest campus as she keeps our mail system running smoothly and efficiently.

New hand hygiene dispensers on the way

The Infection Prevention and Control Department is upgrading and increasing the number of hand hygiene dispensers throughout the Baycrest campus. The new dispensers will be compatible with electronic systems that monitor hand hygiene compliance – a system that is currently being explored for implementation at Baycrest.

Look for the new dispensers in the coming weeks.



▲ Alcohol-based hand rub dispenser



▲ Hand soap dispenser