

BAYCREST BULLETIN

A snapshot of Baycrest news and events / November - December 2022

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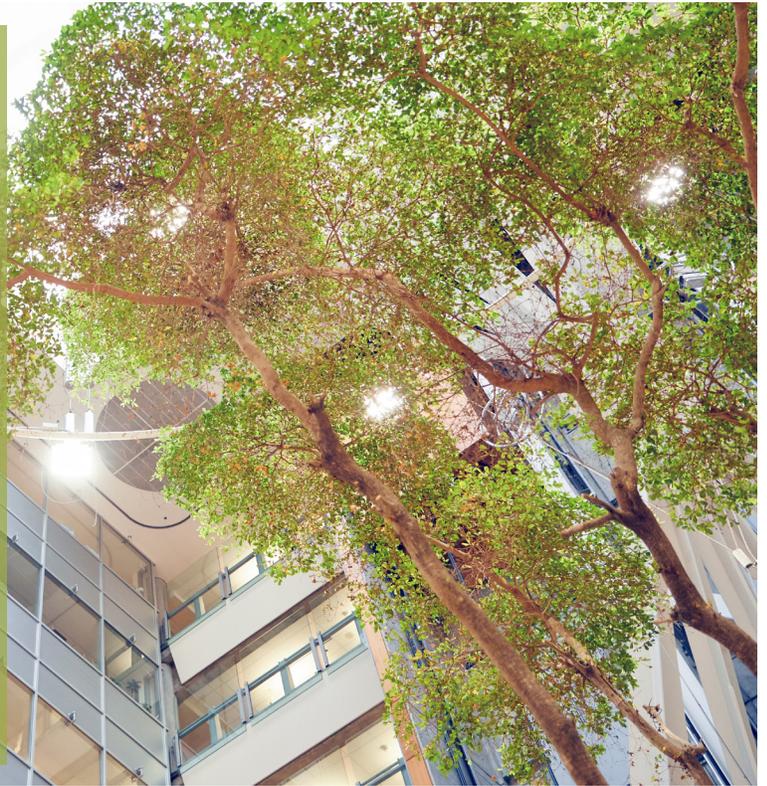
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Baycrest Receives \$2.6M Investment for Virtual Behavioural Medicine Program



Dr. Morris Freedman

Baycrest has been granted a \$2.6M investment to sustain and expand its Virtual Behavioural Medicine program (VBM), as part of Ontario's Plan to Stay Open: Health System Stability and Recovery. Provided by the Ministry of Long-Term Care (MLTC), the funding will allow the program to serve up to 300 patients per year, supporting the government's plan to expand access

to specialized supports and services, including behavioural support for individuals with dementia.

Baycrest's VBM program was created at Baycrest in 2020, under the leadership of Dr. Morris Freedman, to help individuals with dementia and responsive behaviours access highly specialized care in a more timely way. The program helps reduce the pressure on acute care hospital beds by offering virtual assessment and management for individuals with dementia in acute care hospitals, long-term care homes or in the community who are exhibiting severe responsive behaviours such as aggression, agitation and hallucinations.

VBM is a collaboration between the Sam and Ida Ross Memory Clinic at Baycrest and the Toronto Central Behavioural Support for Seniors Program (TC-BSSP), which sees patients through virtual visits over the secure Ontario Telemedicine Network, rather than in person.

The VBM team of specialists includes behavioural neurologists, neuropsychiatrists, nurses, pharmacists, mental health professionals, and the Behaviour Support Outreach team. Together, this team provides a rapid response and works in collaboration with care teams and specialized geriatric services across acute care hospitals and long-term care homes. In addition, it extends its network to family members in the community to help them develop and implement care plans, access behavioural and social supports and provide follow-up.

The announcement is part of \$30M in new funding that will be available this year to support MLTC-led initiatives, growing to \$62 million in the out-years. This investment will improve the VBM program's success and ensure that many patients receive the custom care they greatly need.

New Tanenbaum Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience Is Using Eye Movements to Detect and Prevent Brain Health Decline



Dr. Jennifer Ryan

Baycrest is pleased to announce that Dr. Jennifer Ryan has been appointed as the new Anne and Max Tanenbaum Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience, a joint position at Baycrest and the University of Toronto. A leading neuroscientist in the field of aging and brain health, Dr. Ryan will harness her expertise in eye tracking to develop tools that detect changes in cognition and mental health, as well as cognitive strategies to keep people healthier for longer.

Dr. Ryan's research has already shown that eye movements are closely linked to memory, potentially playing an active role in helping us create memories and retrieve them later. She is now exploring ways to use this link to screen for dementia risk and cognitive decline.

"Eye tracking has the potential to be a great tool to assess memory and other cognitive functions because, unlike many existing neuropsychological tests, it doesn't rely on language or education. This could make it particularly useful in diverse communities such as Toronto," says Dr. Ryan, Senior Scientist

at Baycrest's Rotman Research Institute (RRI). "The earlier we can detect cognitive decline, the earlier we can prescribe interventions to help individuals maintain their brain health for as long as possible."

Building on the link between eye movements and memory, Dr. Ryan is testing whether there are optimal visual scanning strategies for memory. This knowledge could lead to the development of training to help older adults better remember the things they see as they age.

"We look forward to seeing the results of the critical research that Dr. Ryan will conduct in her role as the new Tanenbaum Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience, and we thank Anne and Max Tanenbaum for their generous support of this vital work," says Dr. Allison Sekuler, President and Chief Scientist of the Baycrest Academy for Research and Education. "In line with the RRI's focus on predictive neuroscience for precision aging, Dr. Ryan's research will lead to the development of personalized approaches in care to prevent dementia and preserve brain health for older adults."

Leading Practice Designation Given to Apotex 5 OBIE Initiative

Congratulations go out to our Apotex Centre fifth floor team for receiving a Leading Practice designation from the Health Standards Organization (HSO), a group that works with Accreditation Canada to focus on people-centred approaches to improve health care.

Earlier this year, with the support of the Baycrest Innovation Office (BIO), the team piloted a novel technology called Obie, which provides a meaningful and cognitively stimulating experience to residents by projecting virtual games onto a surface so they can play using simple movements. This Leading Practice designation is a significant achievement and helps Baycrest set a standard in adopting innovative technologies to enhance the lives of our residents.

For more information about the pilot or Obie, contact BIO at innovation@baycrest.org.



To read about the Obie pilot in the fall/winter 2022 issue of Brain Matters Magazine, visit www.baycrestfoundation.org/brainmattersmagazine.

Centre for Education Annual Report

We are pleased to present the Centre for Education and Knowledge Exchange in Aging 2021-2022 Annual Report. The annual report highlights the Centre for Education's innovative and creative educational programs, services and partnerships. It also demonstrates how the Centre for Education continues to provide responsive, innovative, evidence-informed

education for all our learners. To view the annual report, visit www.baycrest.org/Baycrest/Academic-Education-Training.



Employee Spotlight: Janet Edwards



Janet Edwards

The Baycrest Bulletin is shining a light on our employees, who are helping create a world where every older adult enjoys a life of purpose, inspiration and fulfillment. In this edition, meet Janet Edwards, a registered nurse and the team leader of Hospital 5 East, Complex Continuing Care.

Janet has been a nurse for nearly four decades, including 34 years at Baycrest. Her role includes attending to patients, being a team leader on the unit, scheduling, problem solving and helping with team communication.

“Nursing has always been my passion,” she says. As a young girl, she looked up to nurses and appreciated the respect they received for their work. Now, as the worker she once admired, people look up to her.

Janet has a wealth of knowledge and is passionate about helping other nurses learn. She receives much respect for the way she advocates for clients and supports staff. She advises people in a similar role to “be the patient’s voice and look out for them when they can’t independently. There is joy and happiness in supporting them in this way.”

During her day-to-day work, Janet truly enjoys helping patients get better. She says, “To see a wound heal is like a miracle, and those things make you feel so good.”

Janet’s commitment to Baycrest and especially to nursing is a testament to the joy she feels on campus. “Baycrest is a motivating place to work. I very much enjoy the family atmosphere.”

We thank Janet, every nurse and all of our dedicated staff for their tremendous work.

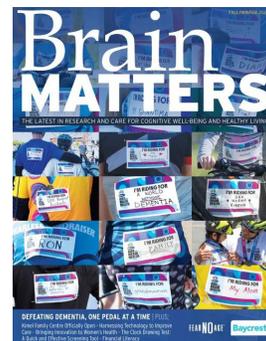
Latest Issue of BrainMatters Magazine Now Online

The Fall/Winter 2022 issue of our Baycrest Foundation-produced BrainMatters Magazine is now online and on newsstands across our campus.

This issue includes a spotlight on the inaugural Mattamy Homes Bike for Brain Health, which raised more than \$3 million in support of Baycrest; a look at how artificial intelligence technologies and research into the benefits of

exercise are helping to create healthier brains; an update on Baycrest’s critical work with the new Kimmel Family Centre for Brain Health and Wellness; and a brain-healthy recipe you can use in your fall menu planning.

Read this edition of BrainMatters or browse the magazine archives by visiting www.baycrestfoundation.org/News-Media/Brain-Matters-Magazine



How to Wear a Mask

For the safety of everyone, please wear your mask properly. Make sure your mask covers your nose, mouth and chin.



Updates, Questions and Comments

The health and well-being of everyone at Baycrest is our priority, and we are doing everything we can to serve the needs of our residents and patients during this time. Baycrest is committed to communicating with you about COVID-19.

or www.baycrest.org and sign up to get email notifications when there are COVID-19 updates. If you have questions or comments, please email covidquestions@baycrest.org

For the most up-to-date information, please visit the intranet

Innovation Updates

Using technology and innovation, staff continue to seek ways to provide better care and better opportunities for the aging population, developing tools and technologies to meet changing needs. Below are a few exciting ways staff have been innovating across the organization.



Virtual Reality (VR) - VR plays a large role in how Baycrest is integrating innovations into patient and resident experiences. For the past year, Therapeutic Recreationists in the Apotex have been bringing variety to residents' daily experiences, for instance by visiting places across the globe, all by using a VR headset. With thousands of sessions already completed, this initiative has truly developed a new way to create and relive experiences.

To learn more about the use of VR at Baycrest, visit: bit.ly/VRstoryFoundation



OBIE - Over the past few months, interactive gaming projectors have been installed in the Apotex (Obie) and the new Possibilities Memory Care Unit at the Baycrest Terraces (Tovertafel). These projectors are designed to project games and activities directly onto any surface, such as a table or floor, and stimulate cognition, social interaction and even physical movement. What makes this technology exciting is that many of the activities and games are designed for older adults and people with dementia.

To learn more about the story of Obie, visit: bit.ly/BrainMattersFall2022



Hearing Test -The recently launched Online Hearing Screening Tool by Baycrest's Audiology department has been expanded to the broader community. This new resource provides older adults with an effortless way to test their hearing outside the Baycrest campus. The online service is completely free and, for a limited time, is offering testers the opportunity to speak with an audiologist about their results for free. To access the screening test visit: bit.ly/TestMyHearing

If you would like to add to Baycrest's innovation process, share ideas or learn more, drop by the Innovation Office or engage through our online innovation hub on BrightIdea. **Visit bit.ly/BrightIdeaSelfReg to register today.**



Upcoming Caregiver Webinar: "Children and Youth: the Hidden Group of Caregivers" - Thursday, November 17 from noon to 1 p.m.

Join Dr. Adriana Shnall in conversation with Michelle Lewis, Executive Director of the Young Caregivers Association, a not-for-profit agency with a mission to serve caregiving children, youth, young adults and their families in Canada. Participants will learn more about the under-recognized role that children and youth play in supporting their families when there is illness and disability in the home. Michelle will address how to identify them, what to look for and how to best support them.

The presentation will be followed by a Q & A. To register, go to <https://bit.ly/NovemberCaregiverWebinar>.

Baycrest

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Baycrest is fully affiliated
with the University of Toronto

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