

# BAYCREST BULLETIN

*A snapshot of Baycrest news and events / June-July 2022*

## IN THIS ISSUE

**INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO ENHANCING CLINICAL AND CLIENT EXPERIENCES**

**CABHI LAUNCHES LEAP, ITS VIRTUAL INNOVATION COMMUNITY**

**SCREENING FOR HEARING LOSS HELPS IN MANAGEMENT OF IMPORTANT RISK FACTOR FOR DEMENTIA**

**INNOVATION UPDATES**

## Innovative Approaches to Enhancing Clinical and Client Experiences



Dr. Jessica Cuppage, Chief Medical Innovation Officer.

When it comes to healthcare innovation, clinicians are uniquely positioned to contribute critical insight into the unmet needs of the patient population. By embedding clinicians into the innovation process, the outcomes lead to high-impact solutions with increased efficiency and specificity.

Baycrest is fortunate to have a burgeoning innovator community that consists of many clinician innovators including our very own Chief Medical Innovation Officer, Dr. Jessica Cuppage.

In this unique role, Dr. Cuppage supports the development and adoption of innovations into clinical practice, education and research through a medical lens.

Working across all departments and with peers in IT/e-Health and the Baycrest Innovation Office (BIO), Dr. Cuppage acts as a bridge, connecting Baycrest physicians to innovative collaborations with scientists, educators, technologists and informatics specialists.

Based on her experience as a physician, Dr. Cuppage is currently working on a variety of initiatives, including the acquisition of a new health information system, a medication safety and management program that leverages the use of technology, and an enhanced physician dashboard that uses real-time data to help inform clinical practices.

“Jessica is an incredible asset,” says Ran Manor, Director of the Baycrest Innovation Office (BIO). “The intersection of innovation and clinical expertise provides our team with the know-how to support clinical practices through meaningful innovation. Physician innovators like Jessica draw on their experiences to identify the utility of tools such as artificial intelligence for better data capture or the use of

*Continued on the next page*

...from page 1

novel technologies that enable physicians to access real-time data that inform individualized clinical practice.”

When it comes to supporting physicians on their innovation journey, Dr. Cuppage’s advice for healthcare institutions is to

frame innovation accurately and as it applies to physicians. She also suggests exploring and demonstrating how they are already innovating and finding ways to highlight their already innovative practices.

---

## CABHI Launches Leap, a Virtual Innovation Community

Congratulations to staff at the Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation (CABHI) on the public launch of their virtual innovation community, Leap.

Since its inception in 2015, CABHI has engaged older adults and caregivers in its solution acceleration work through its Toronto-based Seniors Advisory Panel (SAP). SAP members have been integrally involved in the design, development and refinement of Leap.

Leap will significantly scale up the reach and diversity of older adults and caregivers bringing their insights to the design, development, validation and dissemination of new innovative solutions.

Leap connects innovators developing products, programs and services with their intended end users to understand users’ lived experiences, needs and preferences. By joining Leap’s community of older adults, caregivers, innovators and thought leaders in the aging and brain health innovation space, Leap members can connect socially while learning and building new collaboration and technology skills. Membership is free to adults 55+ and anyone who identifies as a caregiver. Leap members enjoy a wide range of events they can participate in, learning resources about aging and brain health, and opportunities to share their stories.

Leap is also looking for innovators – researchers, clinicians and companies – who would like to engage older adults and caregivers in providing input on projects and solutions that involve older adults as participants or end users. The Leap team is ready to work with you to facilitate Leap member input, whether it is to help frame a research question, gain further insight into a problem area you are addressing or help you refine a prototype you are building.

Learn more at [www.CABHI.com/Leap](http://www.CABHI.com/Leap) and visit Leap’s Facebook page @theleapcommunity.





# Screening for Hearing Loss Helps in Management of Important Risk Factor for Dementia

A new study led by a Baycrest clinician-scientist titled “Enhancing Clinical Visibility of Hearing Loss in Cognitive Decline” demonstrated that point of care screening for hearing loss in patients of a memory clinic raised physicians’ awareness of its high prevalence among their patients and led to more frequent referrals for hearing help. The study was recently published in the *Journal of Alzheimer’s Disease*.

Marilyn Reed, Practice Advisor with Baycrest’s Department of Audiology and the study’s lead author, noted that “hearing loss is highly prevalent among older adults, yet goes largely unreported, unidentified and untreated, at great cost to their health and quality of life.”

However, screening for hearing loss is not typically recommended by physicians for older adults. As such, the study set out to demonstrate the feasibility and value of hearing screening for older adults at risk for dementia, in order to enhance physicians’ awareness of hearing loss and improve access to timely hearing care.

For this study, participant-patients of two academic medical clinics for memory disorders, the Baycrest Sam & Ida Ross Memory Clinic and the Bruyère Memory Program, were

offered hearing screening as part of clinical protocol.

Screening took place in-office, pre-pandemic, with a tablet-based automated screening tool, and online at home when pandemic precautions prevented in-person consultations and research. Patients with hearing loss were recruited to the study if they consented to a post-appointment telephone interview and chart review. Memory clinic physicians were surveyed about the usefulness of the screening information and referral of patients with hearing loss to audiology.

The study found that hearing loss could be reliably detected in most memory clinic patients tested, with both in-office and online screening tools. Physicians reported that screening enhanced their awareness of hearing loss and helped them decide if a referral to audiology was needed.

In all, the study determined that hearing screening in memory clinic patients is a useful component of clinic protocol that facilitates timely access to hearing management and addresses an important risk factor for dementia.



Thank you  
Team  
Baycrest

FEAR NO AGE™

Baycrest

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

or [www.baycrest.org](http://www.baycrest.org) and sign up to get email notifications when there are COVID-19 updates. Please also refer to the list of Frequently Asked Questions, which we continue to update. If you have questions or comments, please email [covidquestions@baycrest.org](mailto:covidquestions@baycrest.org)

# Innovation Updates - Upcoming Webinars



## Baycrest@Home's Patti O'Neill featured in The Toronto Star: "Building Community Supports for a Vibrant Late Life"

The Toronto Star joined Patti's Seated Exercise class on April 27, to show Ontarians how programs like Baycrest@Home are successfully helping older adults stay connected and promoting healthy aging. Congratulations Patti for giving a wonderful introduction to B@H by the impactful work of Therapeutic Recreationists by the joyful impact of movement and music, and the benefits of community - whether in-person or virtual. Watch the video and Patti's interview here: <https://baycrestathome.ca/>

## Technology Enablement for Older Adults (TEA) 2.0 has launched at the Baycrest Terraces

Recognizing that technology is at the heart of many innovations that help older adults age in their setting of choice, Baycrest is supporting programs to help older adults bridge the digital divide through its Baycrest Innovation Office (BIO). One example is Technology Enablement for older Adults (TEA), an eight-week program that empowers older adults to take charge of their digital literacy journey. The program was first launched in the spring of 2021, and BIO has now launched another TEA program for residents at the Terraces. To learn more about the TEA program, contact BIO at [innovation@baycrest.org](mailto:innovation@baycrest.org)



## 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.

Please also wear eye protection when you are in close contact with a patient or resident.



FEAR NO AGE™

Baycrest



UNIVERSITY OF  
TORONTO

Baycrest is fully affiliated  
with the University of Toronto

3560 Bathurst Street  
Toronto | ON | M6A 2E1  
416 785 2500 | [www.baycrest.org](http://www.baycrest.org)

Contribute your  
Baycrest stories,  
news and events at  
[marketing@baycrest.org](mailto:marketing@baycrest.org)