

## **NEW FUNDING TO SUPPORT PATIENTS WITH DEMENTIA**

*Innovative new model to improve the quality of life and care for older adults with dementia*

**(Mississauga, ON) September 26, 2017** – Today, Trillium Health Partners (THP) was awarded \$570,050 in financial support by The Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation (CABHI) to support its Care Connector project, an electronic system aimed at reducing Emergency Department visits and hospital readmissions in patients with dementia. Support for CABHI's funding programs is provided by the Government of Canada through the Public Health Agency of Canada; the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Science; and by the Baycrest Foundation.

Care Connector was developed by THP's Institute for Better Health (IBH) with the goal of providing health care providers, their patients with dementia and patient families with an easy-to-understand electronic discharge summary designed to improve communication and increase the patients' ability to follow their care plan instructions once they leave hospital.

"Transitioning back to their homes after being discharged from hospital can be very challenging for patients with dementia and their families," said Dr. Terence Tang, Care Connector's project co-lead, who is also a scientist at the IBH and physician at THP. "Patients often need to adjust to changes in medications, new self-care responsibilities and complex discharge instructions that can be difficult to follow. Each of these factors can lead to situations where the patient winds up back in the emergency room, which we know is not the best place for them to be as they recover. Care Connector was developed to help patients and families before they need to come back to the hospital."

A secure, web-based tool that the patient's entire health care team can access from both a computer or mobile device, Care Connector is designed to seamlessly enable tasks such as patient hand-over, access to patient information, and the exchange of secure digital messages. A Patient Oriented Discharge Summary (PODS) is a core feature of the application, providing patients with the easy to follow discharge summary before they leave hospital. This gives them the opportunity to ask questions, take notes and ensure they feel confident with the discharge instructions. Patients are also able to refer back to the online PODS summary for further clarification or reminders once they are at home, so they can better follow their care plan and reduce occurrences of deterioration in their health that could land them back in the hospital.

According to the World Health Organization approximately 47.5 million people worldwide have dementia and 7.7 million new cases are diagnosed each year.

"Ontario is taking a leadership role in advancing innovation in the aging and brain health sectors in Canada, to improve the lives of older adults and their caregivers. Our investment in the Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation demonstrates our government's commitment to ensuring that innovators have access to the supports they need to help drive innovative growth and solutions in these critical areas," said Reza Moridi, Minister of Research, Innovation and Science.

"The IBH was established to lead research with the intention of improving health and transforming care on a system level," said Dr. Robert Reid, Chief Scientist, IBH and primary project lead for Care Connector. "The financial support from CABHI will be instrumental in allowing us to continue to refine Care Connector and implement it as a tool to create a seamless patient journey. We truly believe this work will produce better outcomes for our entire community and beyond."

The funding received by THP will allow researchers at the IBH to expand the Care Connector pilot within THP's three-site acute care hospital group while scaling the PODS tool and encouraging its adoption by other health care organizations who would benefit from this patient-centred approach to hospital discharges.

**Quick Facts:**

- The Centre for Aging and Brain Health Innovation at Baycrest Health Sciences is investing \$570,050 in Trillium Health Partners' Care Connector project through their Researcher-Clinician Partnership Program.
- Care Connector is one of 26 projects receiving more than \$8.3 million in investment support from CABHI to accelerate solutions that can help to improve the quality of life and care for older adults with dementia and cognitive health issues.
- Support for CABHI's funding programs is provided by the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Research, Innovation and Science; the Government of Canada through the Public Health Agency of Canada, and by the Baycrest Foundation.

**Additional Quotes:**

“As the Government of Canada works toward developing a national dementia strategy, we continue to engage with both public and private sector to lever innovations that will improve cognitive health and quality of life. Through CABHI's innovation programs, we are supporting collaboration among companies, seniors' care providers, healthcare organizations, clients and their families to accelerate the validation and adoption of innovations in aging and brain health.”

- The Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Health, Government of Canada

“CABHI is a key facilitator of collaborations among innovators, healthcare providers, private and public sector partners, government and consumers. Through CABHI, we are continually testing and scientifically validating brain health technologies and care practices both on our campus and offsite with partner organizations, leading to quicker adoption and uptake in the market. We will continue to do this critical work, thanks to the generous support from all our government partners.”

- Dr. William Reichman, President and CEO, Baycrest Health Sciences and CABHI

**About Trillium Health Partners**

Trillium Health Partners is one of the largest community-based acute care facilities in Canada. Comprised of Credit Valley Hospital, the Mississauga Hospital and the Queensway Health Centre, Trillium Health Partners serves the growing and diverse populations of Mississauga, West Toronto and surrounding communities. Trillium Health Partners is a teaching hospital affiliated with the University of Toronto. Trillium Health Partners is an associate member of the Toronto Academic Health Science Network. For more information please visit [trilliumhealthpartners.ca](http://trilliumhealthpartners.ca).

**About the Institute for Better Health**

Trillium Health Partners established the Institute for Better Health to help create a new kind of health care for a healthier community. The IBH is focused on health services research and population health, while building the infrastructure to support and enable research activity across THP. Being embedded in one the largest community-based hospitals in the country offers exciting opportunities to create and test solutions that can be adapted to impact health in our community and beyond. For more information please visit [trilliumhealthpartners.ca/researchandinnovation](http://trilliumhealthpartners.ca/researchandinnovation).

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