

# WORKING TOGETHER TO END DEMENTIA

OCTOBER 14, 2020  
SESSION DESCRIPTIONS AND BIOS

## Opening Statement and messages

A pre-recorded session featuring a prayer from Elder Jean McGregor-Andrews, Team 18 member and Dr Michael Strong, President of CIHR)



*Howard Chertkow is a cognitive neurologist, Professor of Neurology at the University of Toronto, Chair in Cognitive Neurology and Innovation at the Rotman Research Institute, and director of both the Clinical Trials Unit and the Kimel Family Centre for Brain Health and Wellness at the Baycrest Centre in Toronto, and is the CCNA's Scientific Director.*



## Research panel on dementia and COVID-19

**Moderator:** *Dr Zahinoor Ismail is a Clinician Scientist and Associate Professor of Psychiatry, Neurology, and Epidemiology at the Hotchkiss Brain Institute and O'Brien Institute for Public Health, at the University of Calgary. He has certification in Behavioral Neurology & Neuropsychiatry, and Geriatric Psychiatry, and his dementia research includes: i) rating scale development and measurement-based care; ii) non-cognitive markers of dementia; iii) neuroimaging and biomarker studies; and iv) clinical trials. He is Chair of the Canadian Conference on Dementia and is Academic Lead of the Alzheimer's Association ISTAART neuropsychiatric symptoms professional interest area. He is funded by Brain Canada, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, and the Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging, and is a member of CCNA teams 7,9, and 11.*



**Panelist:** *Dr. Isabelle Vedel is a public health physician and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at McGill University. She is also an investigator at the Lady Davis Institute at the Sir Mortimer B. Davis - Jewish General Hospital. She did her post-doctoral fellowship in health service research in chronic disease management (health care services organization, health management, information technology) at McGill University.*

*She has received an investigator award from the Canadian Institute of Health Research and a Dawson Scholar. Dr. Isabelle Vedel's research interests are mainly in health care organization and primary health care services for persons with multiple chronic diseases and older patients. Her research work focuses on health services research in chronic disease management, particularly Alzheimer's or related disorders. Dr. Vedel's research agenda currently includes programs on the implementation, evaluation, and organization of health care services for older patients and patients with multiple chronic diseases. She is presently conducting studies on the implementation and impacts of new models of primary care, such as integrated care services and transitional care for complex patients with multiple chronic diseases including Alzheimer's or related diseases. Dr. Isabelle Vedel is also undertaking research studies on the implementation of health information technologies in the context of chronic disease management.*



**Panelist:** *Dr. Eric Smith is Professor of Neurology, Radiology and Community Health Sciences at the University of Calgary, where he directs the Cognitive Neurosciences Clinic and is a member of the Calgary Stroke Program. He holds the endowed Katthy Taylor Chair in Vascular Dementia at the University of Calgary. Dr. Smith's research uses neuroimaging to investigate the risk factors for, and consequences of, cerebral small vessel disease in healthy populations and in patients with mild cognitive impairment or cerebral amyloid angiopathy. He leads the Vascular Cognitive Impairment team of the Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging (Canada's national research network for dementia) and is a consultant to the Coordinating Center of the NINDS MarkVCID biomarker consortium.*



**Panelist:** *Katherine McGilton, PhD, RN, FAAN is Senior Scientist and Research Division Head with KITE, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute-University Health Network. Dr. McGilton is a Professor at the University of Toronto's Lawrence S Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing and is currently the co-lead of the Quality of Life Theme for the Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging (CCNA). She has spearheaded the International Consortium of Professional Nurses in Long-Term Care Facilities (LTCF) founded in 2011 – focused on building capacity to contribute to interdisciplinary research, practice, education and policy in LTCF. Dr McGilton's research interests in LTCH have focused on staffing, job satisfaction of personal support workers and regulated nurses, leadership, and implementation of evidence informed practices. Dr McGilton's research also focuses on care of persons with cognitive impairment, particularly in identifying interventions and models of care delivery that improve outcomes.*

## **iTRIC: Trainee research innovation challenge presentations**

The iTRIC Program is a Training and Capacity Building (T&CB) initiative focused on trainee development and intended to provide a unique collaborative learning experience that increases exposure to an interdisciplinary research approach. The iTRIC Program will add value to formal training and supervision by having trainees stretch beyond discipline-specific boundaries to enhance communication and interdisciplinary teamwork with peers and future colleagues. iTRIC Research Teams will develop innovative research proposals that cross CCNA strategic priorities: Prevention, Treatment, and Quality of Life. In this Training & Capacity Building session of the CCNA Annual Meeting, recorded video pitches will be presented and reviewed by the iTRIC Review Committee and each team will receive live feedback during a Q & A follow-up.



**Presenter:** *Amanda Duncan is the Training and Capacity Building Program Coordinator for the Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging (CCNA).*

## How close are we to the holy grail of dementia prevention?

With Dr Kaarin Anstey, Keynote speaker, presented by Dr Howard Chertkow

This talk will provide a critical review progress in the field of dementia risk reduction and prevention, emphasizing a non-pharmacological perspective. I will explain concepts in population-level approaches to dementia prevention, which differ substantially from those in clinical trials. The findings from recent multi-domain trials will be critically reviewed, along with findings from some single domain trials and epidemiology. Issues to consider when evaluating the literature will be discussed. These include effect sizes of recent trials, cost and participant burden of multi-domain risk reduction approaches, duration of exposure to interventions and sample characteristics. Other factors which influence interpretation of the literature and that need to inform future research will be discussed such as times scales over the life-course, surrogate endpoints, person-centered outcomes, biomarkers of cognitive health, social determinants, and environmental risks.



*Professor Kaarin Anstey is an ARC Laureate Fellow and Scientia Professor of Psychology at the University of New South Wales. She is also Director of the University of New South Wales Ageing Futures Institute, and a Senior Principal Research Scientist at Neuroscience Research Australia. Anstey also co-Directs the Australian Dementia Centre for Research Collaboration and is Chair of the International Research Network on Dementia Prevention. Anstey's research programs focus on the causes, consequences and prevention of cognitive ageing, dementia, and common mental disorders in adulthood. Dr Anstey is Principal Investigator on the PATH Through Life project which is a 20-year long population-based study focusing on risk factors for cognitive decline and dementia. Anstey is also an investigator on several multi-domain risk reduction trials. Anstey led the Body Brain Life multi-domain risk reduction trial in Primary care, is a co-investigator on the Mind Your Brain Trial and the soon to commence AU Arrow trial. She is a member of the Governance Committee of the Global Council on Brain Health and was a member of the WHO Guideline Development Committee for the guidelines on risk reduction for cognitive decline and dementia.*