

2015 TVN Frailty Knowledge Synthesis Study



Frailty measure for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities using aging care

Funding:
\$38,481

Persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities make up 1 to 3% of Canadians. They are living longer; by 2021, it is projected that the number of seniors (65 years +) with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Ontario will almost double. They are higher users of health care and aging care. For example, they are twice as likely to use home care and are admitted to long-term care approximately 25 years earlier than those without these disabilities.

Closure of large institutions historically established to provide segregated care was recently achieved in Ontario, but continues in some provinces. There is concern that admissions to long-term care is another form of institutionalization. Early identification of frailty offers promise in promoting appropriate use of long-term care.

Our overall goal is to improve community care and clinical outcomes of Canadians with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are frail by providing a tool to measure frailty in this population. Development of the tool will be based on a literature review and clinical information available in interRAI instruments (which are used in multiple sectors in Ontario, Canada, and worldwide). Learnings from key informant interviews will inform recommendations for implementation of the frailty tool in home care settings.

Principal Investigator:

Hélène Ouellette-Kuntz, PhD



Host Institution:

Queen's University

Dr. Ouellette-Kuntz is a Professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences at Queen's University. She is also appointed to a community-based agency for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities in Southeastern Ontario (Ongwanada) where she works as an epidemiologist. She obtained her BSc in Nursing from St. Francis Xavier University, MSc in Epidemiology from Queen's University, and PhD in Human Geography also from Queen's University. Dr. Ouellette-Kuntz's research involves working with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, family members, service providers, and policy makers, and has included analyses of administrative datasets in British Columbia, Manitoba, and Ontario.

Co-Investigator:

Lynn Martin, PhD



Dr. Lynn Martin is an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Health Sciences at Lakehead University. She obtained her BA in Psychology at the University of Ottawa, and completed an Honours Diploma in Psychology at Laurentian University where she also obtained a MA in Human Development. She completed a PhD in Health Studies and Gerontology at the University of Waterloo. Dr. Martin's research involves working with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, families, service providers, and policy makers, and focuses on health, service utilization, and outcomes of vulnerable populations across health and social service settings.

Knowledge Users and Partners:



Reena is a non-profit social service agency which promotes dignity, individuality, personal growth and community inclusion for people with developmental disabilities within a framework of Jewish culture and values.

Reena felt the impact of an ageing population in the late 1990s. In response Reena created OPADD in 2000. The purpose of OPADD is to bring together two sectors (developmental disability and seniors). For this purpose Reena has proactively pursued a number of community development strategies to promote and sustain cross-sector dialogue. These efforts have resulted in the implementation of several significant provincial activities including: training, knowledge sharing networks, regional workshops and improved access to services.

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