



Welcome to the December 2021 edition of the Geriatric Health Systems Research Group (GHS) Bulletin, which contains recent events and accomplishments of the GHS Group, as well as updates on ongoing projects. We hope that you find the bulletin informative and that it provides material to stimulate dialogue and generate new ideas. For more frequent updates on our work, follow us on Twitter @GHS\_UW.



**Canadian  
Frailty  
Network**

**Réseau canadien  
des soins aux  
personnes fragilisées**

We are nearing the end of the CFN project and working on products that will disseminate our findings, which will be highlighted in the next issue of the GHS Bulletin.

## Meet a GHS Student



**Leonardo Romano**  
**MSc Student**

### **Can you tell us the focus of your recent research?**

My thesis work is concerned with the provision of home care and care management, particularly identifying which professional groups are best suited to coordinating care for aged clients. Additionally, outside of my thesis work, I'm working with some peers on assessing the

current landscape of interventions for improving the cultural competence in healthcare professionals working with racialized foreign-born older adults. I'm also lending a hand on a scoping review looking at the use of Smart assistive technology in rehab for older adults.

**Can you provide one interesting finding from your research?**

Through all three of these projects, I've been shocked to see just how much heterogeneity there is in the research currently available. It's really made me appreciate tools and methods that consolidate original research into something more unified.

**What were some of the challenges you faced while conducting this type of research?**

I've found writing concisely to be more difficult than I expected. It's easy to write, but when you're passionate about a subject, it may become too easy, and after a while, you find you've written all together too much. Writing concisely on a narrower-than-you'd-like topic requires more focus.

## Meet a GHS Partner



Dr. Neil Arya is a partner of GHS as a Co-Investigator on our CIHR-funded research project, "Understanding racialized older adults' experiences navigating the healthcare system and co-designing solutions" (2021-2024). In this project, Dr. Arya shares his experience and guidance for working with immigrants as patients and research participants. Dr. Arya draws on deep community connections to assist with this research.

Neil is a family physician in Kitchener and chair of the PEGASUS Institute. He directed the Global Health Office from 2009-2013 and was Scholar in Residence at WLU from 2018-2020. He is also a part-time assistant clinical professor in family medicine at McMaster University and an adjunct professor in Environment and Resource Studies at the University of Waterloo. Dr. Arya is a past vice-president of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War

(IPPNW), which won the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize, and former president of Physicians for Global Survival (PGS). He has written and lectured around the world about achieving peace through health.

Dr. Arya continues as the director of the Kitchener/Waterloo Refugee Health Clinic in collaboration with the Kitchener Waterloo Reception House, where he provides case-specific care to newcomers and those in need of specialized care. He was a lead physician developing the Psychiatric Outreach Project, providing mental health care for those who are at risk or are living with homelessness at St. John's Kitchen in Kitchener. These tasks led to him receiving the 2009 College of Family Physicians of Canada Geeta Gupta Award for Equity and Diversity.

We are grateful to be learning from and collaborating with Dr. Arya.



The Seniors Helping as Research Partners (SHARP) group is an engaged group of older adults and caregivers who are interested in partnering with health researchers in a wide variety of ways. Our goal is to learn from seniors and their families, to develop a sustainable network, and to advance the development of research priorities and collaborations with the ultimate objective of improving the health care system for older adults.

For an update on some of our recent work, please see the recorded team presentations at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Hfna6078SU>

If you are **65+** and interested in more information or volunteering with the SHARP network, please visit our website at [www.uwaterloo.ca/ghs/sharp](http://www.uwaterloo.ca/ghs/sharp)

Or contact **Alexandra Whate**

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## New Grants and Projects

Canadian Institutes of Health Research Project Grant:

- *Developing strategies and resources to support patient and family engagement with racialized immigrant older adults.* Stolee, P. (PI), Arya, N., Elliott, J., Grindrod, K., Lopez, K., Sims-Gould, J., Tong, C.

Canadian Institutes of Health Research Project Grant:

- *Why aren't we engaging our most at-risk older patients? Developing an in-depth understanding of patient/family engagement across care transitions.* Stolee, P. (Co-PI), Elliott, J. (Co-PI), Van Wyk, P. (Co-PI), Butler, R, Giosa, J., Johnson, H., Sims-Gould, J., Tong, C.

Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement & Brain Health Innovation/Canadian Institutes of Health Research Implementation Science Team Grant:

- *Presence of Family: (Re) Integrating Essential Care Partners in Ontario's LTC Homes.* Conklin, J. (PI), Kothari, A., Stolee, P., Archibald, D., Sveistrup, H., Hsu, A., Elliott, J.

## In the News

Dr. Stolee was featured in a column on the Toronto Star website!

"We need to address the weaknesses in long-term care, but that's not all"

<https://www.thestar.com/local-new-hamburg/opinion/2021/05/07/we-need-to-address-the-weaknesses-in-long-term-care-but-that-s-not-all.html>

## Awards

Congratulations to Dr. Paul Stolee on being awarded

- Distinguished Member, Canadian Association on Gerontology, 2021-2022.
- Award of Excellence in Graduate Supervision, University of Waterloo, 2020-2021.

Congratulations to GHS collaborator Dr. Kenneth Rockwood for receiving a prestigious international award:

<https://globalnews.ca/news/8453596/ken-rockwood-ryman-prize-dementia/>

## New Publications

Sims-Gould, J., Elliott, J., Tong, C., Giguère, A., Mallinson, S., Stolee, P. (2021). A national intervention to support frail older adults in primary care: A protocol for an adapted implementation framework. *BMC Geriatrics*, 21(1), 453. doi: 10.1186/s12877-021-02395-4. PMID: 34348660; PMCID: PMC8336337.

Stolee, P., Elliott, J., Giguère, A., Mallinson, S., Rockwood, K., Sims-Gould, J., Baker, G.R., Boscart, V., Burns, C., Byrne, K., Carson, J., Cook, R.J., Costa, A., Giosa, J., Grindrod, K., Hajizadeh, M., Hanson, H.M., Hastings, S., Heckman, G., Holroyd-Leduc, J., Isaranuwachai, W., Kuspinar, A., Meyer, S., McMurray, J., Puchyr, P., Puchyr, P., Theou, O., Witteman, H. (2021). Transforming primary care for older Canadians living with frailty: mixed methods study protocol for a complex primary care intervention. *BMJ Open*, 11(5). e042911. doi: [10.1136/bmjopen-2020-042911](https://doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2020-042911)

Van Damme, J. K., Lemmon, K., Oremus, M., Neiterman, E., Stolee, P. (2021). Understanding Frailty Screening: A Domain Mapping Exercise. *Canadian Geriatrics Journal*. 24(2), 154-161. <https://doi.org/10.5770/cgj.24.401>

Giosa, J.L., Stolee, P., Holyoke, P (2021). Development and Testing of the Geriatric Care Assessment Practices (G-CAP) Survey. *BMC Geriatrics*, 21(1), 220. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12877-021-02073-5>

Brooks, L., Stolee, P., Elliott, J., Heckman, G. (2021). Transitional Care Experiences of Patients with Hip Fracture Across Different Health Care Settings. *International Journal of Integrated Care*, 21(2), 2. <http://doi.org/10.5334/ijic.4720>

Ashbourne, J., Boscart, V., Meyer, S., Tong, C.E., Stolee, P. (2021). Health Care Transitions for Persons Living with Dementia and their Caregivers. *BMC Geriatrics*, 21(1), 285. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12877-021-02235-5>

Whate, A., Elliott, J., Carter, D., Stolee, P. (2021) Performance of the interRAI ED Screener for risk-screening in older adults accessing paramedic services. *Canadian Geriatrics Journal*, 24(1), 8-13. <https://doi.org/10.5770/cgj.24.451>

Kim, B., Ghasemi, P., Stolee, P., and Lee, J. (2021). Clinicians and older adults' perceptions of the utility of patient generated health data in caring for older adults: an exploratory mixed-methods study. *JMIR Aging*, 4(4), e29788. doi: [10.2196/29788](https://doi.org/10.2196/29788)

Elliott, J., Whate, A., McNeil, H., Kernaghan, A., Stolee, P., & the SHARP Group. (2021). A SHARP Response: Developing COVID-19 research aims in partnership with the Seniors Helping as Research Partners (SHARP) Group. *Canadian Journal on Aging*, 40(4), 661-668. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0714980821000453>

Bogza, L. M., Patry-Lebeau, C., Farmanova, E., Witteman, H. O., Elliott, J., Stolee, P., Hudon, C., & Giguere, A. (2020). User-centered design and evaluation of a web-based decision aid for older adults living with mild cognitive impairment and their health care providers: Mixed methods study. *Journal of Medical Internet Research*, 22(8), e17406. doi: [10.2196/17406](https://doi.org/10.2196/17406)

Koch, M., Stolee, P., MacNeil, M., Elliott, J., Morita, P., Kuspinar, A., & Juzwishin, D. (2020). Innovation processes for ageing-related health technologies. *Healthcare Management Forum*, 34(1), 34-42. doi: [10.1177/0840470420936715](https://doi.org/10.1177/0840470420936715)

Meisner, B. A., Boscart, V., Gaudreau, P., Stolee, P., Ebert, P., Heyer, M., Kadowaki, L., Kelly, C., Levasseur, M., Massie, A. S., Menec, V., Middleton, L., Sheiban Taucar, L., Thornton, W. L., Tong, C., van den Hoonaard, D. K., & Wilson, K. (2020). Interdisciplinary and collaborative approaches needed to determine impact of COVID-19 on older adults and aging: CAG/ACG and CJA/RCV joint statement. *Canadian Journal on Aging / La revue canadienne du vieillissement*, 39(3), 333–343. doi: [10.1017/S0714980820000203](https://doi.org/10.1017/S0714980820000203)

Stolee, P., Ashbourne, J., Elliott, J., Main, S., Holland, N., Edick, C., Ropp, C., Tong, C., & Bodemer, S. (2020). Whole person, whole journey: Developing a person-centred regional dementia strategy. *Canadian Journal on Aging / La Revue Canadienne Du Vieillissement*, 1-15. doi: [10.1017/S071498082000015X](https://doi.org/10.1017/S071498082000015X)

Tong, C., & Sims-Gould, J. (2020). Conducting a mixed-methods study with older adults in five languages: Lessons from the field. *Canadian Journal on Aging / La Revue Canadienne Du Vieillissement*, 1-10. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0714980820000100>

## New Conference Presentations

Chowdhury, D., Romano, L., Sacco, V., Hajj, K. E., & Stolee, P. (2021, April). *Cultural competence interventions for health professionals working with racialized immigrant older adults: Protocol for a systematic review*. Canadian Association on Gerontology 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific and Education Meeting. Virtual.

Chowdhury, D., Stolee, P., Sims-Gould, J., & Tong, C. (2021, April). *“Think positive and don’t die alone” - Foreign-born, South Asian older adults’ perceptions on healthy aging*. Canadian Association on Gerontology 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific and Education Meeting. Virtual.

Nasir, M., Stolee, P., Tong, C. (2021, October). *A Scoping Review on the Health and Well-being Benefits of Intergenerational Programs for Older Adults Living in Long-Term Care*. Poster presentation at the Canadian Association on Gerontology 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific and Education Meeting. Virtual.

Nicholas, C., Tong, C., Stolee, P. (2021, October). *Healthcare Experiences of Tamil Older Adults*

*with Limited English Proficiency in Southern Ontario*. Poster presentation at the Canadian Association on Gerontology 50th Annual Scientific and Education Meeting. Virtual.

Sacco, V., Stolee, P., Boscart, V., MacEachen, E. (2021, October). *The client-provider relationship: Health care workers' perspectives on relationship building with older homeless adults in outreach settings*. Poster presentation at the Canadian Association on Gerontology 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific and Education Meeting. Virtual.

Sharma, A., Tong, C., Stolee, P. (2021, October). *Older adults' experiences of lockdown during the first wave of COVID-19 in India*. Poster presentation at the Canadian Association on Gerontology 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific and Education Meeting. Virtual.

Wood, J., Tong, C., Stolee, P. (2021, October). *Understanding and improving the patient experience of foreign-born older adults: A scoping review of older immigrants in receipt of health care in Canada*. Poster presentation at the Canadian Association on Gerontology 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific and Education Meeting. Virtual.

Acakpo, G., Dionne, E., Coudert, L., Elliott, J., Stolee, P., Fortin, J., Carmichael, P.H., Gregg, S., Sims-Gould, J. Giguere, A., (2021, October). *Implementation of an integrated care pathway in primary care clinics to improve the health of older adults: a realist evaluation*. Poster presentation at the North American Conference on Integrated Care. Virtual.

Whate, A., Kernoghan, A., Elliott, J., Apostolides, H., Stolee, P., Sivananthan, S. (2021, July). *The Development of a National Evaluation Framework for the First Link<sup>®</sup> Program Across Canada*. Poster presentation at the Alzheimer Association International Conference. Virtual.

Sacco, V., Stolee, P., Boscart, V., MacEachen, E. (2021, May). *Health care providers' perceived challenges and rewards of supporting older homeless adults in outreach settings*. Poster presentation at the Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research Conference. Virtual.

Sacco, V., Stolee, P., Boscart, V., MacEachen, E. (2021, May). *Health care providers' experiences supporting older homeless adults in outreach settings: An interpretive description study*. Poster presentation at the Canadian Geriatrics Society conference. Virtual.

Brooks, K., Stolee, P., Elliott, J., McAiney, C. (2020, October). *Evaluation of the Waterloo Wellington Behavioural Supports Program in LTC*. Poster presentation at the Canadian Academy of Geriatric Psychiatry Annual Scientific Meeting. Virtual.

## New Conference Workshops

Juzwishin, D., Stolee, P., & Tong, C. (October, 2021). *Ask the editors: A student-focused workshop on preparing and submitting your frailty and integrated care manuscripts for peer review*. Workshop at the International Federation on Integrated Care Conference. Virtual.