



CENTRE FOR AGING  
+ BRAIN HEALTH  
INNOVATION  
Powered by Baycrest

# the time for seniors is **now**

*2020–21 Annual Report*

**CABHI** is a solution accelerator  
focused on driving innovation in  
the aging and brain health sector.



## VISION

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A world in which people not only age but *thrive* in the setting of their choice, maintaining their cognitive, emotional, and physical well-being and independence, for as long as possible.

## MISSION

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To accelerate the development, validation, commercialization, dissemination and adoption of innovative products, services, and best practices to support aging and brain health.

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# Accelerate Innovation + Amplify Impact

## The time for seniors is **now**

The COVID-19 pandemic that began in March 2020 cast the brightest possible spotlight on the challenges faced by older adults and the healthcare and long-term care systems upon which they depend. The devastating physical, emotional, and cognitive health consequences of the novel coronavirus affected older adults, especially those living with dementia, and their caregivers the most.

The time for seniors is *now*. The **Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation** (CABHI) is critical for advancing that cause.

CABHI was founded at Baycrest six years ago, with the single-minded goal of driving innovation in the aging and brain health sector to significantly improve the lives of older adults living with dementia and their caregivers. CABHI has helped people like 68-year-old Roy in Thunder Bay, Ontario, who worries that episodes of forgetfulness mean he is developing Alzheimer's disease. People like 80-year-old Caroline in Saint-Luc-de-Vincennes, Quebec, who deals with daily challenges trying to dress, bathe, and feed her 83-year-old husband as he resists her care due to Lewy body dementia. And people like Shanice, a long-term care music therapist in Westlock, Alberta, who has an innovative idea on how to foster a sense of community among lonely residents, but isn't sure how to take it to the next level. Today, CABHI continues to lead, supporting the needs of older adults, individuals at risk for or living with dementia, and their caregivers.

The breadth and impact of CABHI's achievements since inception are outstanding. We have engaged more than 78,000 older adults and caregivers in innovation projects and supported the development, evaluation, and introduction of over 345 projects. We have connected with more than 70,000 individuals through our knowledge exchange and implementation activities. CABHI-funded innovators and companies have secured follow-on investments totalling \$167M to date.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in March 2020, CABHI mobilized its ecosystem to tackle the unprecedented challenges faced by older adults head-on. We gathered and documented real-time experiences of living in a pandemic from older adults, caregivers, and healthcare providers. Their insights enabled CABHI-funded innovators to pivot and target their telehealth, digital, and virtual solutions to address pandemic recovery. We supported Implementation Science Teams in partnership with Health Excellence Canada, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, and other organizations to facilitate the spread of innovations to strengthen pandemic preparedness and response in long-term care. CABHI also launched **Spark-ON**, a new funding opportunity for frontline healthcare workers in Ontario to develop solutions that improve the lives of older adults, people living with dementia, and their caregivers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. CABHI Scientific Officers at Baycrest's Rotman Research Institute began studying the effects of COVID-19 on the brain, and their results highlighted an urgent need to address both direct and indirect impacts of the pandemic to protect older adults against cognitive decline and dementia.

In addition to these pandemic-related initiatives, CABHI continued to drive innovation in the aging and brain health sector through other programs and services. We launched two new Mentorship, Capital, and Continuation (MC<sup>2</sup>) programs, in partnership with National Bank: the **MC<sup>2</sup> Capital** program, which supports early-stage Canadian healthtech companies through investment and acceleration services; and the **MC<sup>2</sup> Market Readiness** program which connects Ontario healthtech companies to the Silicon Valley ecosystem, helping them scale and grow their businesses. CABHI also launched the new **MC<sup>2</sup> Growth and Scalability** program, which supports seniors care organizations in trying out and adopting new solutions, and helps innovators make essential first sales – bridging the gap between procurement and adoption.

We hosted our third annual conference, the **CABHI Summit 2021**, just over a year into the pandemic. Building on the success of last year's What's Next Canada virtual conference, this year's event went global with an expanded, two-day format featuring 90 international speakers and thought leaders and the longevity sector's largest combined pitch competition for agotech, neurotech, and healthcare solutions with a combined funding pool of \$1.5M. We also launched **Leap**, our revolutionary new learning, engagement, solution acceleration, and community-building platform that puts older adults and their care partners right at the centre of innovation.

The challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic only intensified our dedication to improving the lives of older adults and their caregivers. In 2020-21 alone, despite budgetary and social interaction challenges, we engaged more than 6,700 older adults and caregivers in innovation projects and introduced 22 solutions into real-world clinical and commercial settings. We engaged more than 5,000 individuals in knowledge exchange, implementation activities, and events, and we supported CABHI-funded innovators and companies to secure additional follow-on investments totalling \$55M.

These significant achievements would not be possible without our funders, partners, investors, and supporters within and beyond Canada, including the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities, the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Baycrest Foundation; and our Board of Directors, Innovation Advisory Council, Seniors Advisory Panel, wider Baycrest community, and phenomenal CABHI staff. Collaboration enables CABHI and the entrepreneurs and companies we support to build and grow a broad culture of innovation.

As we move past the pandemic, CABHI will continue building on its impressive foundation, supporting new ways to improve older adults' quality of life and enabling them to age and thrive in settings of their choice, with a particular focus on those living with dementia. We will:

- Bring together more older adults, caregivers, care providers, innovators, researchers, and system partners to identify, develop, evaluate, implement, and adopt the most promising solutions.

- Improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the healthcare system by accelerating and disseminating solutions that improve the quality of care and care outcomes.
- Amplify our economic and social impact by attracting investments and innovation into Ontario and Canada and by helping Ontarian and Canadian innovators test, launch, and scale their innovations globally.

By growing our innovation pipeline and accelerating new approaches and solutions to improve the lives of older adults, CABHI will increasingly enhance the efficiency of the healthcare system, grow longevity-focused and healthtech companies in Ontario and Canada, and improve health, social, and economic outcomes in our broader ecosystem.

CABHI is working to ensure that the lessons learned in this pandemic lead to good. Our society cannot return to the status quo; we need to continue treating seniors care with the same urgency seen during the pandemic. The time for seniors is *now*.



**William E. Reichman, MD**  
*President and Chief Executive Officer*  
**Baycrest and Centre for Aging +  
 Brain Health Innovation**



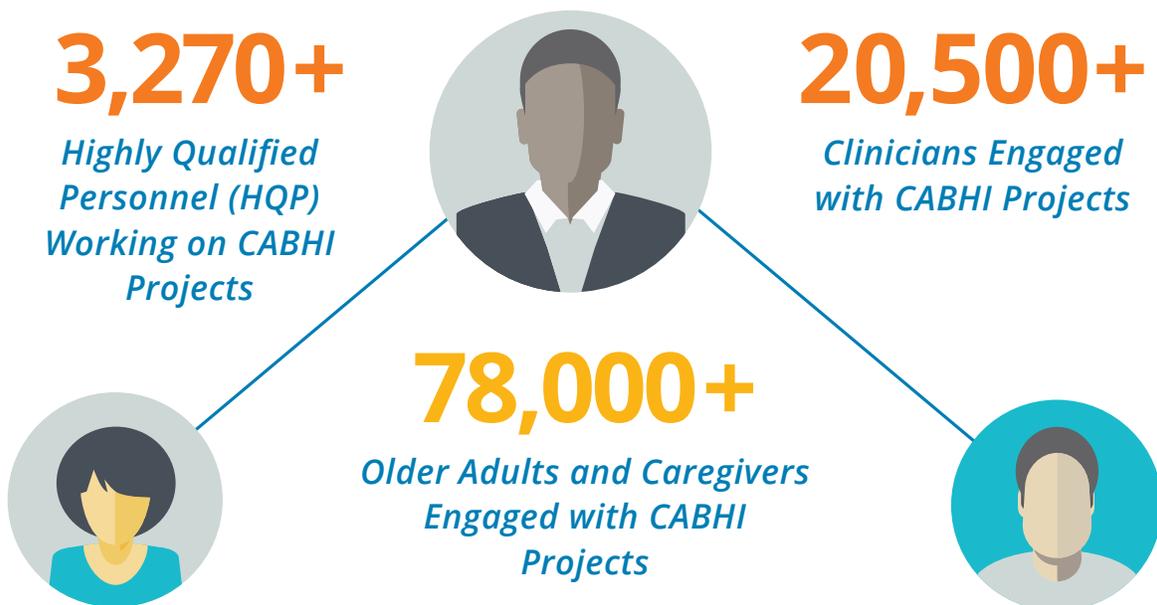
**Allison Sekuler, PhD**  
*Managing Director*  
**Centre for Aging +  
 Brain Health Innovation**  
*Vice-President Research and  
 Sandra A. Rotman Chair  
 in Cognitive Neuroscience;  
 Managing Director, Rotman  
 Research Institute*  
**Baycrest**

# CABHI'S IMPACT TO DATE

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**\$127 M+**

**FUNDING DIRECTED TOWARD  
ADVANCING HEALTHCARE INNOVATIONS**



Figures as of March 31, 2021.



**\$167M+**

SECURED FOLLOW-ON INVESTMENTS BY  
CABHI INNOVATORS AND COMPANIES

**\$54M+**

IN JOBS CREATED  
AND SUSTAINED

**345**

*Projects  
Approved  
& Launched*

**275**

*Unique Solutions  
Funded by  
CABHI*

**104**

*Solutions Introduced into  
Real-world Clinical and  
Commercial Settings*

# CABHI'S REACH TO DATE

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**210,000+**

**PEOPLE REACHED THROUGH  
CABHI-SUPPORTED EDUCATIONAL  
EVENTS, INFORMATION-SHARING  
ACTIVITIES, AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Figures as of March 31, 2021.

# 1,300+

**PARTNERSHIPS AND  
COLLABORATIONS ACROSS  
CABHI'S GLOBAL NETWORK**

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# 400+

**NEWS STORIES ON  
CABHI INNOVATIONS  
IN THE MEDIA**



**CANADA**



**AUSTRALIA**



**HONG KONG**



**IRELAND**



**ISRAEL**



**JAPAN**



**NORWAY**



**PORTUGAL**



**SOUTH KOREA**



**TAIWAN**



**UK**



**USA**

# 2020-21 MILESTONES

## 2020

### APRIL

*CABHI begins a series of focus groups with older adults about the COVID-19 pandemic, gathering real-time insights and sharing them with CABHI-supported companies – guiding innovators to pivot their existing solutions to pandemic recovery quickly and effectively. CABHI continued working with older adults throughout the year, co-designing a novel community engagement platform based on our learnings.*

### JUNE

*CABHI's **Community of Innovation** podcast launches a four-part COVID-19-focused miniseries with **Baycrest@Home**. The series explored the topic of social isolation and showcased perspectives of older adults and caregivers, as well as the healthcare innovators working on solutions to address it. The series aired throughout 2020, and wrapped up in December.*

### AUGUST

*CABHI's **Mentorship, Capital, and Continuation (MC<sup>2</sup>)** program, in partnership with National Bank, launches **MC<sup>2</sup> Market Readiness** – a first-of-its-kind collaboration with California-based accelerator Berkeley SkyDeck. The program mentors and connects Ontario healthtech companies to the Silicon Valley ecosystem, where they can scale and grow their businesses competitively.*

### NOVEMBER

*CABHI launches **Spark-ON**, a new funding opportunity for Ontario-based frontline healthcare workers to develop solutions that benefit older adults, people living with dementia, and their care partners during the COVID-19 pandemic.*



# 2021

## DECEMBER

CABHI partners with **Healthcare Excellence Canada** (previously the Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement and the Canadian Patient Safety Institute), the **Canadian Institutes of Health Research**, and health ecosystem partners across Canada to strengthen pandemic preparedness and response in the **LTC+** program, supporting Implementation Science Teams working with 69 long-term care homes from coast to coast.

## FEBRUARY

CABHI's **Mentorship, Capital, and Continuation (MC<sup>2</sup>)** program, presented in partnership with National Bank, launches **MC<sup>2</sup> Capital**, a program dedicated to supporting healthtech companies through funding and acceleration services.

## MARCH

The Government of Ontario announces **\$23.5M in funding** over five years for CABHI.

CABHI partners with the **Ontario Brain Institute** to accelerate the translation of healthtech innovations in Ontario to address challenges around healthy aging and cognitive health, including dementia and other brain-related disorders.

This year's annual conference, **CABHI Summit 2021: Accelerating Innovation & Amplifying Impact**, attracts 800+ thought leaders, innovators, investors, healthcare providers, researchers, older adults, visionaries, and companies from around the world. The two-day global virtual event featured 90 speakers, 85 exhibitors, and 11+ hours of programming, as well as the longevity sector's largest combined pitch competition for agotech, neurotech, and healthcare companies with a funding pool of \$1.5M.

CABHI launches **Leap**, a new global learning, community-building, and innovation acceleration platform giving older adults and caregivers a leadership role in driving research, innovation, and policy.

# Innovation to Impact

CABHI-supported innovations improve the quality of life of older adults and caregivers. Here are just a few of them.



## Supporting caregiver education through the pandemic

Family members play a vital role in providing safe and competent care for loved ones with dementia living at home. Yet these informal caregivers often have limited access to seniors care training. Enter Ontario company **Trealta**, which creates multimedia training and support tools to help family caregivers build the skills they need to assist loved ones in continuing to live at home safely. Topics include managing behaviours such as wandering and lowering the risk of falls, which can be especially dangerous for individuals living with dementia. Over the past year, Trealta has proactively updated their resources with COVID-19-specific information—including content on remote caregiving and how to soften the blow of a loved one's social isolation—to support caregivers and their families during the pandemic.

## Remote patient monitoring makes independent living possible

**Hospital Without Walls** is a pilot program helping older adults who make frequent hospital trips for medical treatment age independently for longer, by having their health monitored from the comfort of their own homes. The program, serving older adults in western Prince Edward Island, sets up digital devices (think equipment that measures blood pressure or blood oxygen levels) in participants' homes so that healthcare providers can monitor and provide care remotely when needed. The CABHI-funded pilot found a 59% reduction in emergency department visits and a 60% reduction in acute care admissions, and the participating older adults and family caregivers reported the service gave them greater peace of mind. The program has been so impactful that the pilot has been extended and expanded to serve more older adults, and the program team is exploring how the solution can be further scaled—especially to older adults in surrounding rural communities. As one 89-year-old participant put it, "I live alone and am awfully lucky to be home. I know that this program is helping me to do that!"



## Virtual mental health support

The COVID-19 pandemic has only highlighted the pressing need for mental health support for older adults, many of whom have been more socially isolated than ever due to pandemic restrictions. With CABHI's support, San Francisco-based virtual mental health startup X2AI created **Coach Cabi**: a chatbot designed to help older adults reduce depression, loneliness, and social isolation during the pandemic and beyond. Built by clinical psychologists, Coach Cabi is a safe, on-demand, confidential, and stigma-free source of support that older adults can access via

text message or voice-activated programs like Google Home and Amazon Alexa. Through a CABHI-brokered partnership with Ontario-based home healthcare organization SE Health, X2AI's chatbot service has provided relief to more than 20,000 older adults in Ontario experiencing social isolation.

## At-home stroke rehabilitation

Stroke is the leading cause of disability in North America, and the third leading cause of death – and age is the single most important risk factor for stroke. Rehabilitation is the standard of care, but it is constrained by limited client/patient access and compliance, as well as high costs. Halifax-based startup **Axem Neurotechnology** has developed a rehabilitation system for stroke survivors to use from the comfort of their own homes. Axem's technology uses a brain-sensing headset that guides users through their home exercise programs, providing encouraging feedback and the ability for healthcare professionals to monitor progress. The system's enhanced accessibility has the potential to bridge the rural-urban divide in cognitive rehabilitation. CABHI is currently supporting Axem in getting their technology procured and adopted in the Canadian healthcare sector.



## Falls prevention technology

It's every family member's nightmare: a call from the long-term care home that Mom or Dad has had a fall. Falls prevention is an important element in maintaining the health and well-being of older adults in long-term care. But not only is prevention vital to keep residents – especially those living with dementia – safe, falls are costly to the healthcare system. For example, falls in memory care facilities cost Ontario an estimated annual amount of \$760M. CABHI-supported

company **SafelyYou** has created a technology using wall-mounted cameras enabled with artificial intelligence to evaluate resident falls in long-term care. Studies have shown that the use of SafelyYou technology can decrease falls by 40% and emergency room visits by 70%. With brokering by CABHI, SafelyYou announced a partnership in June 2020 with leading U.S. senior living solutions distributor Direct Supply. This partnership will allow healthcare providers across Canada and the United States to access the SafelyYou technology to reduce falls in long-term care.

## Culturally affirming seniors care

Culture is an oft-ignored but significant determinant of health. *Tamaduni*, a Swahili term meaning culture or tradition, is the inspiration for the CABHI-supported project **Tamaduni Connect**: a trustworthy web app for older adults and their families that enables them to locate companions and residential care facilities with compatible cultural perspectives. Having the support of companions who share similar values, languages, and traditions better equips older adults to advocate for their own care needs and preferences. Strengthening ethnocultural identity in this way can also negate social isolation. The project team, based in Victoria, British Columbia, is exploring how they can implement virtual companionship within their solution to further support older adults through the COVID-19 pandemic.





## Supporting women's health in aging and dementia

Pelvic floor disorders affect half of women over 80, yet it's a health issue treated as part of 'normal' aging. Weakness in pelvic floor muscles – which in women support the bladder, bowel, and uterus – can drastically affect quality of life, and can lead to prolapse and incontinence. The issue is made even more difficult in those living with dementia. But with the gynecological prosthetics currently available, it's difficult for women to find a good fit; many will stop wearing them and

most will experience complications like chronic pain. Ontario-based startup **Cosm Medical** developed a novel ultrasound-based measurement system and a digital platform that uses 3D printing to provide women with a prosthetic made for their specific body and needs. CABHI is currently working with Cosm to secure strategic partnerships and investments in order to accelerate their technology to market and help senior women age with dignity – the way they should.

## Virtual dance program for seniors

With community centres closed and recreational activities indefinitely paused due to the COVID-19 pandemic, older adults face limited opportunities for physical activity. They also face isolation, which increases the risk for falls and mental health challenges. **GERAS DANCE (DANCing for Cognition & Exercise)** is a CABHI-supported, clinically proven dance program for older adults with early cognitive and mobility issues, developed by rehabilitation and geriatric medicine specialists at Hamilton Health Sciences and McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario. With additional funding from CABHI this year, the program is being developed into a new model of care called LiveWell@Home, which will be delivered virtually in a senior-friendly online community. The program aims to help older adults living at home keep healthy, active, and socially connected.



## Caregiver training for remote communities

Caregiving is an all-encompassing experience no matter where one lives, but caregivers in remote and rural communities can face additional challenges accessing support. **Shine a Light on Dementia** is a free training program for family caregivers and frontline workers in Yukon providing care for people living with dementia. The program brings caregivers together to engage in meaningful conversations and develop skills around hot topics like understanding dementia, how to navigate the healthcare system, and the legal and financial obligations that come with the territory of being a caregiver. Pre-pandemic, the program was offered in person in Whitehorse. The first offering of the program, which was jointly supported by CABHI and the Government of Yukon, was so successful that the territory is continuing to invest in this much-needed resource. Now the training is offered online, in both English and French, on an ongoing basis – providing welcome relief for many Yukon-based caregivers who rely on the program for high-quality, easy-to-access information.

## Elder-led care in Indigenous communities

A new CABHI-funded project, led by the Edmonton-based Indigenous & Global Health Research Group alongside community partners, is supporting the cognitive health of Indigenous older adults and empowering them to remain in their home communities. Building on longstanding community relationships and guided by a Community Advisory Board made up of Elders, knowledge holders, policymakers, caregivers, and healthcare professionals, this project developed a culturally relevant, **Elder-led health program** to support positive health outcomes for Indigenous older adults and caregivers living in the Northwest Territories. Through information sharing and engaging activities, the program aims to enhance nutrition and physical activity; support self-management, self-advocacy, and optimal use of healthcare services for managing chronic conditions; and provide culturally safe resources to improve experiences with, and navigation of, the healthcare system. All activities involve Elders and local knowledge holders, as well as other members of the communities.



## Preventing pressure injuries in older adults with dementia

Pressure injuries, more commonly known as bedsores, affect up to 2.5 million patients across North America each year and are considered one of the most expensive and deadly hospital-acquired injuries. Pressure injuries also disproportionately affect older adults and those living with dementia. Edmonton-based company **Rehabtronics** has created a technology designed to help alleviate pressure injuries in at-risk patients. Their attachable electric stimulation device is powered by algorithms that

trigger muscle contractions in the body, increasing the oxygenation and blood circulation needed to keep skin healthy and ward off sores. Designed with intuitive features, the device is adaptable and easy to use across multiple care settings, such as hospitals and long-term care facilities, as well as in homes. CABHI is collaborating with Rehabtronics to validate their pressure injury technology, an important step in ensuring the company can grow and scale their life-saving innovation to the older adults that need it most.

## Maintaining self-care for seniors

Wearables promote physical activity, self-care, and social engagement. They may be beneficial for helping older adults aging at home, but existing devices don't support communication with loved ones and care teams – until now. The **WellAssist** service by telecare company Routinify links to wearable devices and monitors the health, safety, and well-being of older adults living at home. The service provides reminders about appointments and medications, information on time and place, and a way to share activity and health information with family members and care teams. CABHI supported a pilot study that evaluated the effects of the WellAssist platform with a group of older adults living in various New Brunswick communities. The study found that the older adults' wellness scores improved, including increases in morale and daily living activities. The project team is now exploring how the platform can be deployed to support older adults living in rural and remote areas who have ongoing health issues and limited access to health services.



## Assistive communication technology helps older adults with declining speech find their voice again

*If you had asked Guyatree Kralovic to describe her father, Bobby, a few years ago, she would have told you he was a social butterfly. But after his stroke, Bobby's speech was reduced to "yes" and "no," pointing, and gestures. Once the life of the party, Bobby could no longer participate in conversations.*

Older adults who have strokes or live with advanced dementia often experience a loss of verbal communication. This can limit interaction and quality of life. There are only a few digital systems that can help people with speech limitations communicate more effectively, and nearly all are unaffordable or complex to use – until now.

The **Linggo app**, developed by Board Certified Behaviour Analyst (BCBA) Ling Ly Tan, helps people with limited speech – such as those living with dementia, acquired brain injury, stroke, and other neurodegenerative diseases – communicate with the world around them using an iPad or tablet.

Linggo uses a list of relevant words that match users' daily needs and preferences. Through intuitive visual representation, users select words to build phrases and sentences, which are then communicated onscreen and out loud. Machine learning allows the app to adapt to individual language patterns and communication history, making the technology highly personalized.

Ly Tan, who has worked with alternative communication systems for more than 15 years, says she always wanted to create a communication technology of her own. Her dream was made possible by CABHI, which provided support to develop and test her idea through the Spark Program for early-stage solutions.



Ling Ly Tan developed and tested the Linggo app with CABHI's support.

With CABHI funding, Ly Tan piloted an exploratory study of the Linggo prototype with a group of older adults living with dementia and stroke who had lost the ability to speak, along with a group of non-verbal children with autism.

"We've seen encouraging results. Some participants began speaking in words and phrases after three months of using Linggo," Ly Tan says. Not only has the app supported communication, she reports, but in some cases has also helped maintain a sense of agency and reduced challenging behaviours.



## Palliative care app to be implemented in healthcare settings across Canada

*The growing number of older adults in Canada means more people are living longer with chronic conditions that can reduce their quality of life as they enter the palliative stages of care. To get the care they require, many palliative patients are forced to wait four to six weeks for a physician's assessment.*

The demands on our healthcare system have more than doubled since the start of the pandemic, undoubtedly making these wait times even longer. Palliative patients with unbearable symptoms often turn to emergency rooms for help. However, this means they are often forced to endure crowded wait rooms and unnecessary diagnostic testing.

Researchers from Humber River Hospital, William Osler Health System, and the Bruyère Research Institute have created a solution to address the growing demand for palliative care, called the **RELIEF app**. The app can be accessed online or on any mobile device so that patients can self-report their symptoms on a regular basis from their homes. Care teams monitoring the app can provide immediate virtual or in-person support as needed.

The research team, led by palliative care physician Dr. Martin Chasen, developed the app alongside digital healthtech company uCaret Technologies, with support from CABHI's Spark Program. The Spark Program provides support to point-of-care staff to test and validate their early-stage aging and brain health solutions.

Initial results from the pilot study showed that the app has significant potential to reduce the wait time for physician assessments and the need for emergency room visits. Only 10% of the older adults participating in the study

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**Subsequent to CABHI's support, the research team was awarded \$1.4M in funding from Health Canada.**

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needed in-person urgent care; the remaining 90% were able to receive care through the app in the comfort of their own homes. By providing care to these older adults at home, the RELIEF app saved the healthcare system an estimated \$62,000 across 60 participants during the two-month study period.

"Not only did CABHI provide the initial Spark grant, but they came through with a second grant to support an extension of the pilot study," says Dr. Chasen.

Subsequent to CABHI's support, the research team was awarded \$1.4M in funding from Health Canada to expand the system to healthcare settings across Canada, with a focus on serving diverse populations, including rural, Indigenous, and remote communities.



“The goal is to obtain additional data to help validate the pilot study conclusions and the financial projections, and to confirm the patient satisfaction levels through interviews,” explains Dr. Chasen. “The larger study also provides an opportunity to reach other patient populations that might benefit from the RELIEF app.”

With the RELIEF app, patients are given the peace of mind of knowing they are constantly being monitored for worsening symptoms, which may

make them less inclined to go to the emergency room for care. Health teams monitoring the app are better equipped to give appropriate care to their most critical patients. With CABHI’s contributions, and with funding from Health Canada, the RELIEF app is poised to provide palliative care patients and their families with comfort and support when they need it the most.

## CABHI accelerates growth for healthtech startup Braze Mobility, creator of “smart” wheelchair system

*Canadian startup **Braze Mobility** is disrupting the healthtech market. The company has created the world’s first-ever wheelchair sensor system, which helps users navigate their world by providing audio, visual, and vibration feedback so they can avoid accidents with nearby obstacles.*

The company is making waves in the aging and brain health world as an evidenced-based solution providing older adults with mobility, visual, and cognitive impairments a chance to regain independence – something CEO and founder Dr. Pooja Viswanathan says is vital for quality of life and well-being.

“Mobility is a huge part of aging gracefully,” explains Viswanathan. “Our product helps users stay independent for as long as possible.”

Since launching in 2016, the company has landed deals with some of the largest wheelchair manufacturers in North America. Braze Mobility has also been approved as a vendor by Veterans Affairs Canada and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

Viswanathan aims to expand the company into the long-term care and assistive living markets with support from CABHI’s MC<sup>2</sup> Market Readiness program. The program offers emerging entrepreneurs an investment of up to \$300,000 to achieve a critical business milestone – a crucial resource given the shortage of funding opportunities available for Canadian healthtech companies.

When it comes to securing dollars from investors, Canadian startups tend to lag behind their U.S. counterparts. When they are funded, it’s usually later in their development phase, which stunts their



Photo courtesy of Jacklyn Atlas

**Braze Mobility’s wheelchair sensor system helps users avoid nearby obstacles safely and effectively.**

growth and makes them less attractive to future investors. The gap in early-stage funding is even more pronounced among agetech startups like Braze Mobility.

As the strain of the COVID-19 pandemic continues to weigh heavily on our healthcare ecosystem, calls for healthcare technology that decreases costs and improves system efficiencies are growing, even as funding support struggles to catch up.

*“Mobility is a huge part of aging gracefully. Our product helps users stay independent for as long as possible.”*

*– Braze Mobility founder,  
Dr. Pooja Viswanathan*



To help close the funding gap among agotech startups, MC<sup>2</sup> Market Readiness also provides entrepreneurs with coaching, mentorship, and a coveted connection to the Silicon Valley network, which has one of the highest concentrations of investors and advisors in the world.

“MC<sup>2</sup> Market Readiness allowed us to benefit from workshops that covered all major aspects of any business,” shares Viswanathan. “All the mentors we now have through CABHI’s Coaches Community are helping us achieve key milestones that will allow us to grow and bring our wheelchair blind spot sensors to millions of users around the world.”

After joining CABHI’s accelerator program, Braze Mobility was also accepted into the first cohort of the Future of Longevity Accelerator program. The program, a joint initiative between Melinda Gates’ Pivotal Ventures and TechStars, supports startups building products and services for older adults and caregivers.

The company is also in the middle of negotiations with manufacturers to create a standard sensor system for all powered wheelchairs.

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**When it comes to securing dollars from investors, Canadian startups tend to lag behind their U.S. counterparts. CABHI’s MC<sup>2</sup> Market Readiness program offers emerging entrepreneurs an investment of up to \$300,000 to achieve a critical business milestone.**

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Thanks to their commercial success, Braze Mobility’s sensors are making a positive impact on the lives of wheelchair users across North America. With CABHI’s continued support, the company is set to amplify its impact and achieve its mission of helping older adults around the world access mobile independence, safety, and quality of life.



# Programs and Services

## Innovation Themes

CABHI is the pre-eminent innovation accelerator in the aging and brain health sector with a targeted focus on dementia. Each project funded by CABHI aligns with one or more of our core innovation themes as it moves through the innovation pipeline. We assess these themes regularly to ensure they meet ongoing and emerging needs.

### Core Themes

**Aging at Home.** Enabling older adults and people living with dementia to live in the setting of their choice and remain active in their communities for as long as possible.

**Caregiver Support.** Aiding or simplifying day-to-day caregiving responsibilities, providing education or training on caregiving topics, or helping caregivers maintain their own well-being while they care for older adults and people living with dementia.

**Care Coordination and Navigation.** Helping older adults and people living with dementia and their caregivers navigate the healthcare system to access timely and appropriate care, while also supporting healthcare providers to align their practice with long-term care standards.

**Cognitive and Mental Health.** Ensuring early detection of cognitive impairment or dementia in older adults; implementing preventative care approaches to maintain or enhance older adults' brain health, including both cognitive and mental health supports; protecting the cognitive and mental health of seniors care and/or dementia healthcare providers and caregivers.

**Financial Health and Wellness (New).** Helping older adults remain financially independent, stay safe in the workforce longer, seek later-life employment, prepare for retirement, plan for financing care, and prevent financial exploitation.

### Cross-Cutting Themes

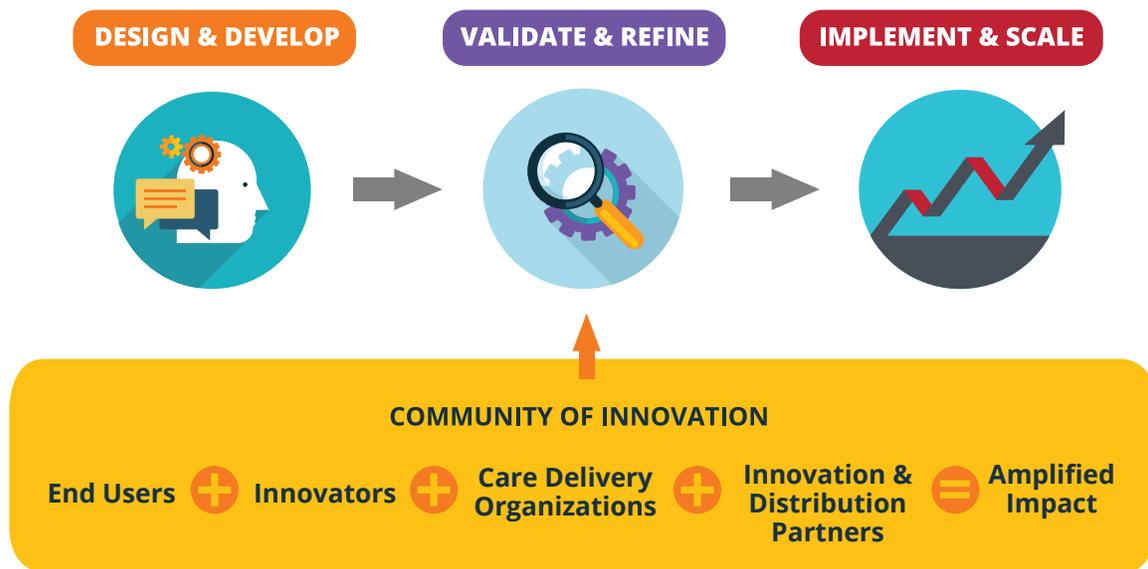
**Diversity, Accessibility, and Health Equity.** Ensuring aging and brain health needs are addressed, and solutions are accessible, for Indigenous, Black, or racially and culturally diverse communities; women; people living with disabilities; members of the LGBTQ2+ community; rural or Northern communities; or other vulnerable populations; and including issues of intersectionality.

**Promoting Social Inclusion and Preventing Stigma and Elder Abuse (New).** Creating opportunities and programs for enhanced engagement and social connection for older adults, including intergenerational programs, to combat ageism and stigma and support strong cognitive and mental health in older adults. Protecting older adults, particularly those living with cognitive decline and dementia, against elder abuse and other unsafe relationships.

# The CABHI Innovation Pipeline

The CABHI Innovation Pipeline accelerates promising solutions from design and development to validation and refinement, followed by implementation and scaling in real-world settings.

Supported by our innovation community, CABHI's programs and services accelerate innovations by overcoming barriers to adoption. The net result is higher adoption rates and a greater impact on the lives of older adults and their caregivers.



# Equity-Building Initiatives

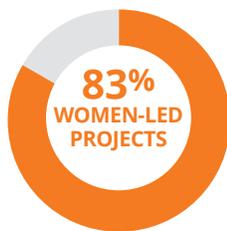
## CABHI's Commitment to Diversity and Inclusion Spans All Parts of our Mission

We strive to increase the percentage of projects led by innovators from or primarily serving marginalized groups, including women, people of colour, members of the LGBTQ2+ community, Indigenous peoples, and persons with disabilities. CABHI focuses on fostering entrepreneurship within diverse communities, rather than asking diverse entrepreneurs to become more traditional. Our new Leap platform will bring Canadians with diverse perspectives together, allowing them to participate in longevity innovation.

In 2020-21, we tracked diversity and representation within two of our major innovation programs, Spark-ON and MC<sup>2</sup> Capital. Diversity was reflected both in thematic content and in project leads or company co-founders.

### Spark-ON

**15 out of 18 Spark-ON projects (83%)** are led by women, far exceeding the national average of about 16% of small-medium enterprises.\*



**Among 18 total Spark-ON projects** awarded funding in 2020–21, projects addressing equity themes\*\* were as follows:



\*The State of Women's Entrepreneurship in Canada 2020, <https://wekh.ca/research/the-state-of-womens-entrepreneurship-in-canada/>  
\*\*Note that some projects address more than one equity theme.



### MC<sup>2</sup> Capital

Within our MC<sup>2</sup> Capital program, we tracked metrics for diversity among company co-founders through the application, shortlist, and finalist processes.

70% of companies that applied, and 70% of companies that were shortlisted, were led by diverse co-founders – meaning one or more co-founders were women; Black, Indigenous, or people of colour; members of the LGBTQ2+ community; and/or people living with disabilities. We are pleased to report that **over 80% of MC<sup>2</sup> Capital finalist companies are led by diverse co-founders.**\*



\*To protect confidentiality, we are not able to provide a detailed breakdown of these diversity metrics.



# Core Programs

## Design & Development Programs

### Spark Program

Individuals working at the point of care often have the best ideas for improving the lives of older adults. Spark captures and nurtures grassroots ideas created by frontline healthcare workers and service delivery staff and moves solutions from development and testing to implementation in different settings. The program provides funding up to \$50,000 per project to support the development and testing of early-stage innovations within CABHI's network of healthcare and service provider organizations.

### Spark-ON Program

Frontline healthcare workers were in the best position to understand the challenges older adults faced during the COVID-19 pandemic and generate fresh ideas to overcome them. CABHI launched Spark-ON in November 2020 to capture and nurture promising solutions by Ontario innovators that aimed to address four critical priorities amplified by the pandemic: social connectedness, caregiver well-being, infection prevention and control, and training unregulated care providers. Spark-ON provided up to \$50,000 to support the development, testing, and/or scaling of solutions.

### Spark Program for Colleges & Universities (Spark-CU)

Recognizing the need for Canada's future innovators to build skills, we piloted our first Spark-CU program in April 2021. Students attending six Ontario colleges and universities applied to receive \$5,000 in funding toward achieving their business milestones over six months and mentorship to develop their innovations. After six months, nominated teams will have an opportunity to pitch to a panel of judges for an additional investment of \$25,000.

## Commercialization & Scale-Up Programs

### Mentorship, Capital, and Continuation (MC<sup>2</sup>) Program, in partnership with National Bank

Many innovations in the long-term care sector fail to achieve successful adoption or procurement. MC<sup>2</sup> provides additional support for promising projects already in CABHI's pipeline that are ready

for scale-up. The extra support accelerates market-ready innovations from validation and refinement to adoption and scale-up more quickly and efficiently. Additionally, companies gain access to CABHI's Innovation Network, bespoke support, and acceleration services that help them achieve a key milestone, such as making a first sale. To date, more than 50% of all CABHI companies have secured carry-on investment totalling \$167M+. In 2020–21, CABHI received 97 applications, an impressive number given the context of the pandemic.

CABHI recently created new verticals within MC<sup>2</sup> to address targeted needs as follows:

### **MC<sup>2</sup> Capital**

MC<sup>2</sup> Capital provides funding up to \$300,000 to early-stage Canadian companies located in Ontario or Nova Scotia or with headquarters and/or traction in Ontario.

### **MC<sup>2</sup> Market Readiness**

MC<sup>2</sup> Market Readiness provides funding up to \$300,000. It connects companies with market-ready solutions to Silicon Valley mentors, advisors, and investors through **Berkeley SkyDeck**, the University of California, Berkeley's accelerator program. To date, more than half of the companies participating in SkyDeck have received follow-on funding. Companies qualified as ready have an opportunity to showcase their solutions to more than 800 investors on SkyDeck's Demo Day.

### **MC<sup>2</sup> Growth & Scalability**

Long-term care facilities in Ontario sometimes find it challenging to adopt or move innovations beyond the pilot stage due to a lack of resources and time, and concerns about realizing a return on investment within a budget cycle. CABHI has created the new MC<sup>2</sup> Growth & Scalability program to overcome these obstacles. The program provides funding up to \$50,000 to cover all hardware and capital costs to purchase a solution. Care provider organizations implement CABHI-validated solutions for three to six months in their settings under a licencing and user fee agreement with innovators that covers training, implementation, and ongoing service and use costs. Facilities gain vital information to guide their use and purchase decisions at the end of the trial period.

## Industry Innovation Partnership Program (I<sup>2</sup>P<sup>2</sup>)

The I<sup>2</sup>P<sup>2</sup> program provides innovators with opportunities to validate their aging and brain health solutions in clinical settings. Successful companies receive up to \$1M in validation services across multiple care settings and gain valuable access to a range of CABHI's acceleration services and reinvestment programs, helping them reach procurement, adoption, and sales milestones faster. Acceleration services include business development, validation, solution implementation and customer acquisition support, marketing, financing, end-user feedback, and valuable access to CABHI's network of trial sites, strategic partners, and distribution channels.

Since its inception in 2016, I<sup>2</sup>P<sup>2</sup> has helped over 34 companies gain new customers, boost revenues from 15% to 400%, establish offices in Canada, and obtain carry-on investment funds.

## Strategic Programs

### Implementation Science Teams

There has never been a more critical time for mobilizing innovative approaches to support older adults living in long-term care and retirement homes than during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In November 2020, CABHI joined ecosystem partners in supporting Implementation Science Teams to strengthen pandemic preparedness and response in these settings. Led by Healthcare Excellence Canada (previously the Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement and the Canadian Patient Safety Institute), other partners include the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, New Brunswick Health Research Foundation, Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation, and the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research.

CABHI funded six projects led by teams at the following Ontario institutions:

- Bruyère Research Institute: evaluating and helping scale the Designated Care Partner program integrating family caregivers in long-term care.
- University Health Network: assessing the effectiveness of the Dementia Isolation Toolkit in supporting compassionate and safe isolation and quarantine of residents during a pandemic.
- University Health Network: determining the steps and resources required to improve infection control practices in nursing homes.
- Ryerson University: examining visitor and family caregiver access to long-term care and the associated implications for infection control.
- McMaster University: assessing and rolling out a palliative toolkit for long-term care.
- University of Ottawa: collecting data on safety, effectiveness, and ethics related to the presence of family caregivers in long-term care.

CABHI is also supporting partners in addressing barriers and enhancing readiness to mobilize the spread and scale of these promising practices.

### CCNA Collaboration Program

CABHI supports the Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging (CCNA) through a program that encourages later-stage CCNA projects to submit applications to enter CABHI's innovation pipeline. Funded teams gain access to CABHI's acceleration services, including knowledge mobilization expertise, to get their projects ready for launch across Canada and benefit from joining CABHI's innovation community and networking with other innovators, investors, and industry partners. CABHI also recruits CCNA researchers as scientific officers to join CABHI's Coaches Community, where they share expertise in order to enhance the scientific rigour of solutions' design and validation.

### Student Internship Program

We expanded our efforts to engage students across CABHI as innovators, co-designers, and advisors for existing CABHI-funded projects. For example, we paired McMaster University's Biomedical Discovery and Commercialization Program students with CABHI-supported companies for the four- to eight-month paid internship portion of their degree program. Through the federal government's BioTalent program, which funds 75% of the cost of employing students, we covered the remaining 25% to enable companies funded in our MC<sup>2</sup> program to hire students to help them accomplish their business milestones. We continue to monitor the success of this program in terms of value provided to participating students and companies and by tracking the number of students hired full-time after completing their internships. In January 2021, we also created five full-time internships for students to work with companies in our innovation pipeline.

## Acceleration Services

CABHI provides tailored acceleration services designed to help innovators move their solutions through the innovation pipeline and achieve their next milestone on their journey developing, testing, validating, or seeking adoption in real-world settings. Support is customized based on the best available evidence and the principles of integrated knowledge translation, implementation science, applied research, adult education, and business development. CABHI's services help innovators increase market uptake and ensure success of their solutions across targeted users and settings. CABHI launched three new acceleration services in 2020–21:

### Innovation Network

CABHI's Innovation Network is an activated group of leading healthcare organizations with geographical reach and target populations to validate and adopt innovators' solutions in aging and brain health. Innovators benefit from directly engaging with leaders and staff at these organizations to understand how their innovations may need to be adapted to suit different contexts and identify training and supports required to implement their solutions across multiple settings. Organizations joining the network benefit from early and discounted access to solutions that address their goals of improving their clients' care, safety, and quality of life. They also build capacity for testing and adopting new solutions and share learning and opportunities with CABHI's broader innovation ecosystem.

### Coaches Community

CABHI's Coaches Community, launched in September 2020, provides mentorship and coaching to innovators to help them grow and scale their solutions. Coaches are subject matter experts in diverse disciplines, including clinicians, end-users, researchers, entrepreneurs, industry partners, legal and regulatory affairs experts, marketing and sales leaders, organizational decision-makers, and venture capitalists. Coaches play essential roles such as:

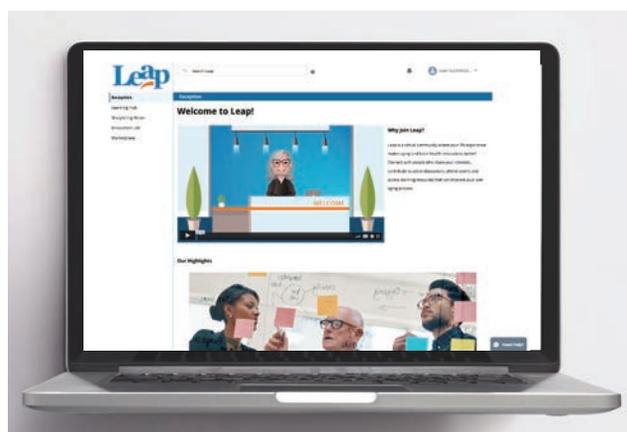
- Serving as reviewers on innovation selection panels and as judges for pitch competitions
- Sharing their subject matter expertise through CABHI's talks, podcasts, and blog posts

- Participating in launch meetings, innovation showcases, and conferences to help disseminate CABHI-funded innovations
- Growing CABHI's Innovation Network by introducing innovators to other organizations working in the aging and brain health sector

After launching the Coaches Community, we recruited more than 75 coaches across a wide range of subject matter areas and matched coaches to all innovators participating in the MC<sup>2</sup> Market Readiness program.

### Leap

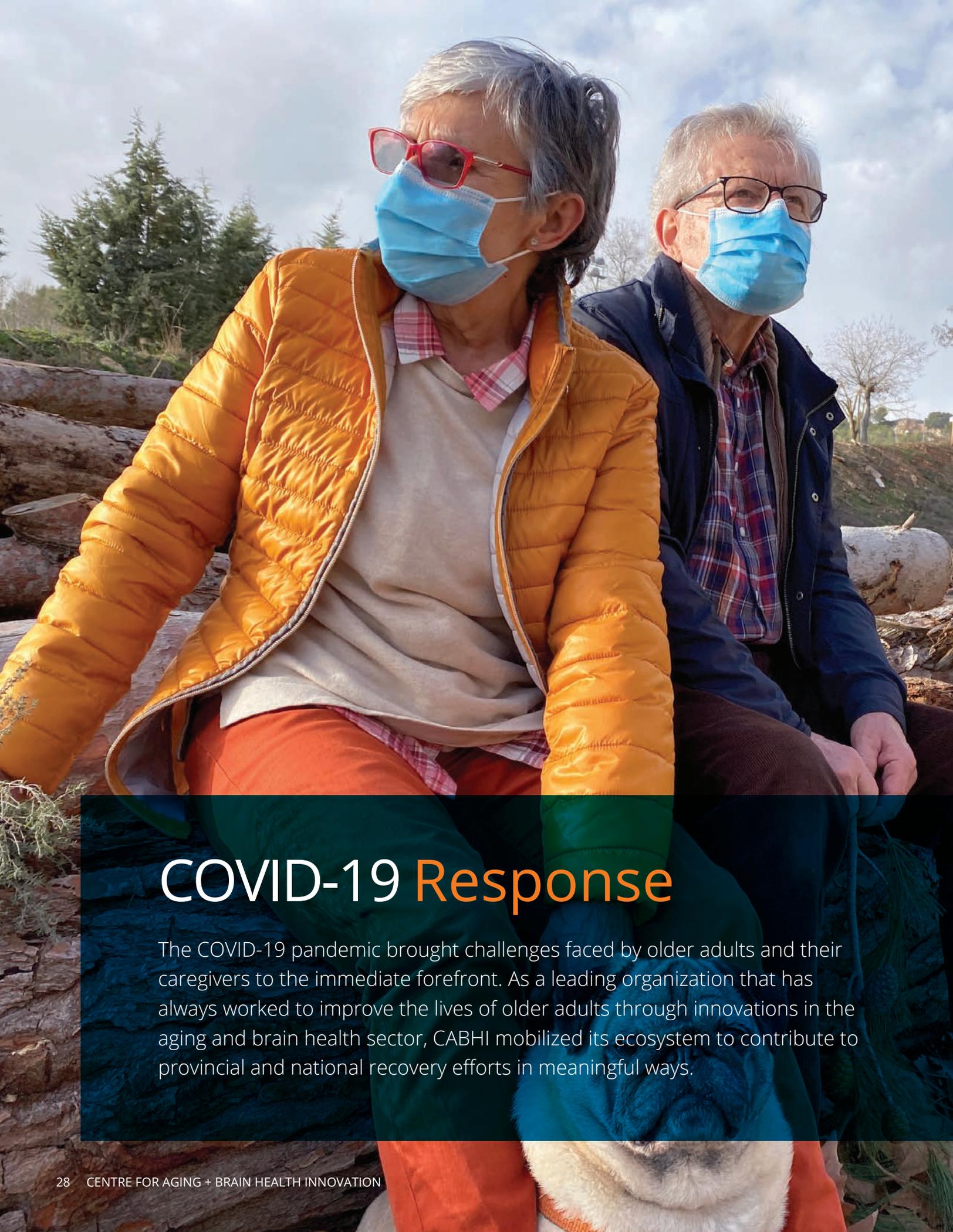
CABHI recently created Leap, a transformational global learning, engagement, and community platform that puts older adults and their care partners at the centre of innovation. Leap brings together communities with diverse socio-economic, educational, geographic, and cultural backgrounds to ensure solutions are accessible and adaptable for a wide range of users and settings.



Leap creates meaningful opportunities for participants to share stories; raise awareness of their lived experiences; and learn about brain health, technology, and innovations. They will be able to test the concept, design and usability of solutions and provide innovators with feedback on their needs and preferences. This rich user feedback will guide innovators' ideas and projects in development.

The platform will also support advancement of research and policy, both of which benefit from end-user engagement and co-design.

CABHI launched the Leap digital platform in March 2021, with a goal of recruiting at least 1,000 members to participate in beta testing.



# COVID-19 Response

The COVID-19 pandemic brought challenges faced by older adults and their caregivers to the immediate forefront. As a leading organization that has always worked to improve the lives of older adults through innovations in the aging and brain health sector, CABHI mobilized its ecosystem to contribute to provincial and national recovery efforts in meaningful ways.

## Amplifying lived experiences

Starting in March 2020, CABHI held five targeted focus group discussions and gathered insights to learn about the diverse perspectives of older adults, caregivers, and healthcare providers who experienced the impact of the pandemic first-hand. We used this input to identify six major challenges for innovators to consider when developing targeted solutions:

1. Social isolation and its risks to cognitive, mental, and physical health
2. Access to care, supports, and care coordination
3. Misinformation about infection prevention and control
4. Ageism
5. Internet access and technology literacy
6. Basic needs for daily living

## Accelerating digital solutions

CABHI successfully helped the following companies, already funded within our innovation pipeline, pivot their telehealth and digital technologies to address COVID-19-related challenges:

**Careteam** updated their care coordination platform, which links patients to care teams and provides tailored information, remote check-ins, and follow-ups, to focus on triaging COVID-19-related cases.

**Linked Senior**, whose computer platform allows care providers to remotely engage long-term care residents in recreational activity based on their interests and cognitive abilities, offered 90-day free trials during the pandemic.

**MEMOTEXT** worked with key stakeholders to develop their Ring of Support COVID-19 Rapid Response Tool. Since it launched in early March 2020, the tool has helped more than 18,000 older adults access round-the-clock healthcare without risking exposure to the virus by visiting a hospital or doctor's office.

**X2AI** created a chatbot called Coach Cabi that delivers on-demand coaching to decrease social isolation and loneliness in older adults with dementia. Downloads for stress management topics increased during the pandemic.

## Supporting frontline innovation

In November 2020, CABHI launched the **Spark-ON** program to support the development and testing of solutions by frontline healthcare workers that address the challenges faced by older adults related to COVID-19. We received more than 50 applications—an impressive number given that applicants were exceedingly busy providing care during the pandemic. Five examples are as follows:

- **Memory Link Calendar** is a mobile app for training older adults with memory impairment to use their smartphones as memory aids. The goal is to improve compensatory skills for memory loss, thereby improving organization and time management skills that facilitate social engagement and independence.

- **Advancing Community Paramedic Practice.** Paramedics provide many essential assessments at the point of care, including vital signs, wellness, and falls risk, and they can also provide vaccinations and palliative care. This project will identify paramedicine best practices for helping older adults remain at home safely and provide input for the next edition of Canadian paramedicine best practices.

- **VRx@Home** is a virtual reality (VR) therapy program for people with dementia living at home, which is administered by their family or friends. A randomized controlled trial will test whether training informal caregivers on how to use the technology will help reduce older adults' dementia symptoms, increase their quality of life, and decrease caregiver stress.

- **LiveWell@Home** is a virtual dance program that brings recreational programming to isolated older adults. Built on the success of the CABHI-funded innovation GERAS DANcing for Cognition & Exercise (DANCE), this program aims to keep older adults living at home healthy, active, and socially connected. It may also reduce mental health issues and the risk of falls.

- **Diverse Caregivers Access Program.** Since the start of the pandemic, care provider organizations have noted a lack of resources for caregivers of people with dementia in various ethnic communities. This project will develop, test, and deliver culturally-sensitive tools and resources for caregivers, aiming to improve their experiences with the healthcare system, improve their quality of life, and help them care for loved ones.

# Thought Leadership

CABHI is Canada's leading organization in the aging and brain health sector. CABHI experts serve as featured panelists and keynote speakers, judges in pitch competitions, and thought leaders for international trade missions.

## CABHI SUMMIT 2021

In mid-March, we hosted the CABHI Summit 2021, our third annual conference. This year's event was virtual, building on the success of last year's What's Next Canada virtual conference, but with an expanded global reach and two-day format featuring 90 international speakers and thought leaders.

The conference included two live pitch competitions with a pool of \$1.5M in available funding, in partnership with the Ontario Brain Institute (OBI) and Innovacorp and sponsored by SOMPO Digital Lab. The brightest emerging Canadian agotech, healthtech, and neurotech companies pitched in two tracks: (1) early-stage companies based in Ontario developing solutions focused on understanding, diagnosing, and treating brain disorders; and (2) early-stage companies based in Ontario or Nova Scotia seeking capital to grow and scale healthtech solutions with the potential to improve the lives of older adults.

**800+**  
attendees

**85 EXHIBITORS**  
**90 SPEAKERS**  
**19 SPONSORS**

**11+ HOURS OF PROGRAMMING**

Organizations and attendees represented from 10+ countries, including Canada, USA, UK, Japan, Hong Kong, Israel, Germany, Belgium

## Keynote speakers included:



**Ashton Applewhite**  
TED Talk Speaker  
and Author



**André Picard**  
Health Columnist,  
*The Globe and Mail*



**Richard Lui**  
Journalist and News Anchor,  
MSNBC and NBC



**Moira Welsh**  
Investigative Reporter,  
*The Toronto Star*



### **CABHI COMMUNITY OF INNOVATION PODCAST**

The CABHI Community of Innovation Podcast brings stakeholders across our innovation ecosystem together, forming a supportive community that provides education and insights into topics related to healthcare innovations.

During 2020–21, podcast episodes focused on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on older adults, persons living with dementia, and caregivers. In partnership with the CABHI-funded Baycrest@Home project, we released special episodes on combatting social isolation, maintaining physical and cognitive health, addressing sleep challenges experienced by people living with dementia and their caregivers, and addressing the impact of the pandemic on Indigenous communities. We also featured content from our 2020 What’s Next Canada conference and produced an episode revisiting the goals of Canada’s National Dementia Strategy and exploring how innovation can bring the strategy to life.

# Looking Ahead

CABHI helps older adults and their caregivers live better lives, wherever they are. Our vision is a future where 68-year-old Roy in Thunder Bay, Ontario has peace of mind about his cognitive health after taking the Cogniciti assessment; where 80-year-old Caroline in Saint-Luc-de-Vincennes, Quebec learns how to care for her husband living with dementia through platforms like iGeriCare; and where music therapist Shanice in Westlock, Alberta receives Spark Program support to turn her innovative idea into a company that just made its first sale, and is poised to spread and scale to help people across the country and around the world.

Our five-year strategic plan, *CABHI 2025: Accelerate Innovation + Amplify Impact*, outlines how we will continue to work toward that vision for the future. The plan focuses on advancing three strategic objectives:



We will achieve these objectives by aligning our programs, services, and initiatives to directly address the challenges faced by older adults, caregivers, healthcare workers, and care provider organizations during the COVID-19 pandemic and after it subsides. Specific next steps to achieve these objectives are as follows:

## Mobilize a Diverse Innovation Community to Improve Seniors' Lives

CABHI will fully activate the revolutionary **Leap** platform in September 2021, with a goal of increasing membership fourfold by March 2022 and moving toward one million members by 2026. Leap will allow a diverse community of older adults and their caregivers to participate in co-design challenges and focus groups, and provide valuable insights from their lived experiences to inform the design, selection, and dissemination of innovations. The platform will also support the advancements of aging and brain health-related research and policy, centralizing the ability for groups to access and engage with older adults and caregivers for co-development.

CABHI will empower more innovators to develop, test, and scale their innovations by continuing to deliver,

enhance, and expand our funding programs and acceleration services. We will:

- Launch a new **Financial Health and Wellness** innovation theme to address workplace exclusion, financial scams, and fraud experienced by older adults. Solutions will help older adults at risk for dementia remain financially independent, seek later-life employment, prepare for retirement, and prevent financial exploitation. We will also launch a new cross-cutting innovation theme, **Promoting Social Inclusion and Preventing Stigma and Elder Abuse**, to promote social connection among older adults and protect them from social isolation, ageism, stigma, and elder abuse. We are refining other themes to highlight the importance of health equity and accessibility, as well as to clarify the importance of mental health solutions – which we have been funding since our inception, and which are critically linked to the protection of cognitive health.
- Encourage more students and frontline staff to develop promising ideas and translate them into real-world settings through the **Spark** Program. We will expand the recently launched **Spark Program for Colleges & Universities (Spark-CU)**, with the ultimate goal of extending programming to colleges and universities beyond just Ontario.
- Expand and capitalize on strategic partnerships. We formalized our partnership with **AGE-WELL** in April 2021, strengthening the innovation pipeline for both organizations. We also co-funded AGE-WELL's 2021 Emerging Entrepreneur Award in Technology and Aging. In May 2021, we launched a joint call for innovation with the **CAN Health Network** through the newly created **CABHI-CAN Health Innovation Adoption Program**, amplifying the offerings of both organizations. Awardees will have the opportunity to demonstrate the benefits of their solutions in trial adoption periods, and healthcare providers may purchase solutions after trial completion. Winners may also receive investments and tailored acceleration services from CABHI to help them complete a first-year milestone.
- Continue providing innovators with research and evaluation support, including guidance on study design, ethics

approval, data collection, analysis, and reporting, through Baycrest's **Kunin-Lunenfeld Centre for Applied Research and Evaluation (KL-CARE)**.

- Expand membership in our **Coaches Community** to match more innovators participating in CABHI programs, helping them achieve important business milestones efficiently.
- Enable care delivery organizations to design and adopt solutions through the **Innovation Network**, thereby facilitating an accelerated uptake of much-needed innovations in the seniors care sector.

## Activate the Health Ecosystem

We will create more opportunities for innovators, government stakeholders, and strategic partners to coordinate efforts and increase readiness to respond to system needs and priorities. For example, emerging evidence from studies by scientists at Baycrest's Rotman Research Institute and Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre shows that COVID-19 affects the brain's structure and function. Results will provide valuable insights to guide the next generation of brain health innovations.

CABHI provided critical input to the **Government of Canada's National Dementia Strategy**, released in June 2019, which focused on prevention, advancing therapies, finding a cure, and improving the quality of life of people with dementia and their caregivers. We will strengthen its implementation in several ways. We will accelerate solutions that address the challenges of dementia for individuals living in communities or long-term care. We will continue supporting the dementia initiatives of the **Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging (CCNA) Collaboration Program** and the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR). CABHI hosted the first **National Innovation Roundtable** to inform the creation of the Strategy, and we will host a follow-up roundtable to support the Strategy's next stage. CABHI stands ready to assist the Public Health Agency of Canada and provincial and territorial dementia organizations with our extensive experience, networks, and platform.

Women are disproportionately negatively affected by dementia, either as people with the disease or as caregivers. Recognizing this disparity, CABHI will support the **Wilfred and Joyce Posluns Chair in Women's**

**Brain Health and Aging** for seven years. The initiative, co-funded by the Posluns Family Foundation, CIHR, and the Ontario Brain Institute (OBI), supports a leading Ontario researcher in developing and implementing a program for improving research methods examining sex and gender differences in brain health.

To address the skills development and workforce challenges faced by seniors care organizations, we are working with the Baycrest Centre for Education and Knowledge Exchange in Aging (designated as one of the the Ontario Centres for Learning, Research and Innovation in Long-Term Care - CLRI) and KL-CARE to implement and scale **ALPHA (the Accelerator for Learning Inter-Professionally in Healthcare App)**. ALPHA is a simulation-based learning platform that builds workforce capacity. It offers on-demand training to onboard new hires, upskill re-deployed staff, and increase employment opportunities in the seniors care sectors.

## Amplify Economic and Social Impact

In just a few years, Canada's investments in CABHI have generated a nearly 5:1 spending in the Canadian economy, creating an economic impact of over \$200M. **In other words, for every \$1 invested in CABHI, there was a \$5 impact on the Canadian economy.** This exceptional return on investment will increase exponentially as our reputation and reach grow.

Building on our significant achievements, we will continue to promote Canadian innovations globally and attract more foreign investment, further positioning Canada as the global leader in healthtech and longevity-focused innovation and commercialization. We will leverage Canadian partners, including MaRS, Ontario Centres of Excellence, Biomedical Zone, the Health and Technology District, and international partners in the Silicon Valley, Israel, UK, and Japan, to continue attracting investments to boost the economy in Ontario and beyond.

CABHI aims to lever \$5M to support programs and activities by attracting foreign and domestic investments that, coupled with government funding, will result in an additional \$23M+ value in highly skilled, full-time equivalent jobs in innovation testing and validation. Our moonshot goal is for CABHI-accelerated commercial solutions to receive an additional \$100M in follow-on investments by 2025.

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We are proud we accomplished so much this past year to help Canada's Roys, Carolines, and Shanices—and millions of others like them—live their best lives. We look forward to taking CABHI's impact to even greater heights next year, helping even more older adults and caregivers in Canada and around the world through our programs, services, and initiatives. The time for seniors is *now*.

# Our Network

## HOST ORGANIZATIONS

Alberta Health Services  
Alzheimer Society London and Middlesex  
Alzheimer Society of Canada  
Arborstone Enhanced Care  
Assistive Technology Clinic  
Atrium Health  
Baycrest  
Beacon Hill Villa  
Bruyere Research Institute  
Burnaby Seniors Outreach Services Society  
CAMH: The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health  
Canadian Academy for Geriatric Psychiatry  
Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging  
CapitalCare  
CapitalCare Foundation  
Carleton University  
CBI Health Group  
Champlain Dementia Network  
CIUSSS de l'Estrie - CHUS  
CIUSSS du Centre-Sud-de-l'Île-de-Montréal  
County of Renfrew Paramedic Service  
Covenant Health Network of Excellence in Seniors' Health and Wellness  
Dalhousie University  
Dementia Society of Ottawa & Renfrew County  
Evergreen Hospice  
Fraser Health Authority  
GERAS Centre – Centre for Aging Research  
Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital  
Good Samaritan Delta View Care Centre  
Government of Yukon - Continuing Care Division  
Grand River Hospital  
Health PEI - Queen Elizabeth Hospital  
Hebrew Rehabilitation Center - Hebrew SeniorLife  
Humber River Hospital  
Huron Community Family Health Team  
Island Health  
Jewish Home Family  
Juravinski Hospital - Hamilton Health Sciences  
Kawartha Centre  
Kingston Health Sciences Centre  
Lawson Health Research Institute  
Loch Lomond Villa  
Lumacare  
Mackenzie Health  
Mackenzie Innovation Institute  
Markham Stouffville Hospital  
McGill University Health Centre  
McMaster University  
Memory Loss Foundation  
Mennonite Benevolent Society  
NB Institute for Research, Data and Training  
New Brunswick Continuing Care Safety Association  
North York General Hospital  
Northwood  
Nova Scotia Health Authority  
Nurse Practitioners' Association of Ontario  
Ontario College of Art & Design University  
Ontario Retirement Communities Association

Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences  
Ontario Tech University  
Ottawa Hospital Research Institute  
Pack4U Ontario  
Primacare Living Solutions Inc.  
Providence Health Care (BC)  
Providence Healthcare (ON)  
Red Deer Primary Care Network  
Responsive Health Management Inc.  
Riverview Health Centre  
Rotman Research Institute  
Ryerson University  
San Francisco Campus for Jewish Living  
Saskatchewan Health Authority  
Scarborough Retirement Residence  
Schlegel Villages  
Schlegel-UW Research Institute for Aging (RIA)  
School of Rehabilitation Therapy - Queen's University  
SE Health  
Seneca College  
Shannex Inc.  
Sheridan College  
Sinai Health  
Social Planning Council of Ottawa  
Southlake Regional Health Centre  
St. Michael's Hospital  
St. Peter's Hospital - Hamilton Health Sciences  
Stonebridge Community Services  
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre  
The Brenda Strafford Foundation  
The Centre for Family Medicine FHT  
The Glebe Centre  
The Michener Institute of Education at UHN  
The Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre  
The Research Institute of St. Joe's Hamilton  
The Salvation Army Toronto Grace Health Centre  
Timiskaming Home Support  
Toronto Central Community Care Access Centre  
Toronto General Hospital  
Toronto Memory Program  
Toronto Rehabilitation Institute  
Trillium Health Partners  
UBC Hospital  
UHN OpenLab  
Université de Moncton  
Université de Sherbrooke  
University of Alberta  
University of British Columbia  
University of Florida  
University of Manitoba  
University of New Brunswick - Fredericton  
University of New Brunswick - Saint John  
University of Ottawa  
University of Saskatchewan  
University of Toronto - Lawrence S. Bloomberg Faculty of Nursing  
University of Toronto - Temerty Faculty of Medicine  
University of Victoria  
University of Waterloo  
Vancouver Coastal Health  
VHA Home HealthCare

Victoria Hospice  
Watson Centre Society for Brain Health  
West Park Healthcare Centre  
Western Health  
Western University  
William Osler Health System  
Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service  
Wolf Creek Primary Care Network  
Women's College Hospital  
WoodGreen Community Services  
Yee Hong Centre for Geriatric Care  
York Care Centre  
York University  
YouQuest

## COMPANIES

3Scape Systems  
Ably Medical  
AceAge Inc.  
Ambient Activity Technologies  
Axem Neurotechnology  
B-TEMIA  
BrainFx  
Brainmarc  
Brainsway  
Braze Mobility  
Careteam Technologies Inc.  
Catalyst Healthcare  
Centivizer  
Clinisys EMR Inc  
Cogniciti  
Cosm Medical  
Crosswater Digital Media, LLC  
Curiato  
Darmiyan, Inc.  
Duolingo  
eChart Healthcare  
GeriMedRisk  
Greybox Solutions  
Heartbeat Technologies  
Hip-Hope Technologies  
Interaxon Inc.  
Intuition Robotics  
Linggo  
Linked Senior  
MEMOTEXT  
MindfulGarden Digital Health Inc.  
Motitech  
Oasis Senior Supportive Living Inc.  
Pharmacy Access Solutions Inc.  
Preview-ED  
Quanta Computing  
Rehabtronics  
RetiSpec  
Right Health  
Routinify  
SafelyYou Inc.  
SWORD Health, S.A.  
TELUS Health  
Trualta  
uCarenet  
X2AI Inc.

## STRATEGIC PARTNERS

AGE-WELL  
Age of Majority  
Aging 2.0  
Alberta Innovates  
AMDA: The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine  
Aurora Research Institute  
Berkeley SKYDECK  
CAN Health Network  
Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging  
Canadian Institutes of Health Research  
Centre of Excellence on Longevity (CEEXLO)  
Clinical Trials Ontario  
Dementia Advocacy Canada  
Direct Supply  
FUJI Innovation Lab  
Government of Yukon, Department of Health and Social Services  
Grace Life Center  
Health and Technology District  
Health Innovation Hub Ireland  
Healthcare Excellence Canada  
Innovacorp  
Innovate UK  
Israel Innovation Authority  
JLABS  
LeadingAge  
MaRS  
MaRS EXCITE  
MaRS Venture Services  
Mary Furlong and Associates  
MEDTEQ  
Memorial University of Newfoundland's Aging Research Centre-Newfoundland and Labrador  
National Bank  
National Innovation Centre for Ageing  
New Brunswick Health Research Foundation  
Ontario Brain Institute  
Ontario Chief Health Innovation Strategist  
Ontario Long Term Care Association  
Ontario Network of Entrepreneurs  
Ontario Telemedicine Network  
PEI Centre on Health & Aging, University of Prince Edward Island  
Regional Innovation Centres  
Research Canada  
Research Manitoba  
Research Nova Scotia  
Revera  
Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation  
SeniorNet  
Seniors Quality Leap Initiative  
SOMPO Digital Lab  
Tech Coaches  
Tech-enhanced Life  
The International Federation on Ageing  
Toronto Central LHIN  
ventureLAB  
VOICE

# Governance

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **Jeff Blidner (Chair)**

*Chief Executive Officer of Brookfield's Private Funds Group, Chairman of Brookfield Renewable Partners, and Chairman of Brookfield Business Partners*

### **John Albright**

*Co-Founder and Managing Partner, Relay Ventures*

### **Sara Diamond**

*President, OCAD University*

### **Ken Dryden**

*Member of the Baycrest Centre Board of Directors*

### **Joe Freedman**

*Retired Private Equity Executive, Corporate Director, Brookfield Asset Management*

### **Chris Hodgson**

*Founder, The Pivt*

### **William Reichman**

*President and Chief Executive Officer, Baycrest*

### **Shirlee Sharkey**

*President and CEO, Saint Elizabeth Health Care*

### **Katie Smith Sloan**

*President and CEO, LeadingAge*

### **Tonya Surman**

*Founding CEO, Centre for Social Innovation*

### **Andrew Szende**

*Founding CEO, Electronic Child Health Network*

### **Leo van den Thillart**

*Global Head – Managing Partner, Sera Global*



*Not pictured: Walter Seaton and Linda Somers.*

### **SENIORS ADVISORY PANEL**

Laurie Bernick (Co-chair)  
Deborah Bernstein (Co-chair)  
Hilary Randall-Grace (Co-chair)  
Ron Beleno  
Syrelle Bernstein  
Sue Drohan  
Ian Goldman  
Sam Herskovits  
Anne Kerr  
Renee Leventhal  
Rene Pardo  
Rachel Schlesinger  
Walter Seaton  
Bev Shukyn  
Linda Somers  
Dr. Paul Woo

### ***Alumni***

Toby Belkin  
Ann Laski  
Eva Ticktin

# Financial Report

<b>SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>2020-21</b>
<b>Cash Contributions</b>	
Ministry of Colleges and Universities	\$4,700,000
Public Health Agency of Canada	\$2,000,000
Other Funding	\$103,277
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,803,277</b>
<b>Matching &amp; In-Kind Contributions</b>	
Baycrest	\$75,600
Industry & Other Partner Contributions	\$2,579,411
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,655,011</b>
<b>TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>\$9,458,288</b>

## USE OF FUNDS

<b>CABHI Programs</b>	
Design & Development Programs	\$890,077
Commercialization & Scale-Up Programs	\$2,002,545
Strategic Programs	\$616,415
Project Matching Contributions	\$2,579,411
Project Support & Implementation	\$1,492,944
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,581,392</b>
<b>CABHI Operations</b>	
Program Administration	\$1,698,396
Rent & Facilities	\$178,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,876,896</b>
<b>TOTAL USE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>\$9,458,288</b>

The Financial Report figures provided above reflect a summary of cash payments and in-kind contributions disseminated during the fiscal year. The figures presented may not align with the consolidated audited financial statements for the year ending March 31, 2021. Readers are cautioned that this Financial Report may not be suitable for their purposes.

# Innovator Testimonials



*Our unique partnership with CABHI provides access to capital and early adopters – CABHI fills a gap in Ontario that exists for healthtech companies.*

*– Matthew Sefati  
Co-Founder & COO, Curiato*



*CABHI's MC<sup>2</sup> Program has been terrific! Their Innovation Network partners allowed us to benefit from workshops that were extremely valuable, covering all major aspects of any business.*

*– Pooja Viswanathan, PhD  
CEO & Founder, Braze Mobility*



*CABHI has been a huge part in helping RetiSpec grow over the years. Thanks to CABHI's people-first approach, it manages to bring together incredible minds that helped us achieve way beyond our goals. Through their Innovation Network, CABHI helped us build strong partnerships, and significantly accelerated our path to market. I am very grateful that RetiSpec is part of the CABHI family.*

*– Eliav Shaked  
Co-Founder & CEO, RetiSpec*



*CABHI empowers healthcare workers to improve the lives of seniors and provides them with the tools needed to succeed. CABHI's holistic approach to supporting the development of their innovators as leaders and entrepreneurs is an amazing value add to both the Canadian healthcare system and commercial market.*

*– Sherry Law  
Researcher, Centre for Innovation and Research in Aging (CIRA) at York Care Centre*



Public Health  
Agency of Canada

Agence de la santé  
publique du Canada



The views expressed herein are those of the Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Government of Ontario or the Public Health Agency of Canada.

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**CENTRE FOR AGING  
+ BRAIN HEALTH  
INNOVATION**  
Powered by Baycrest

3560 Bathurst Street  
Toronto, ON M6A 2E1  
T: 416-785-2500  
info@cabhi.com  
**cabhi.com**

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