



## OLTCA<sup>®</sup> Research News and Views

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### **Examining Falls in Ontario Long-Term Care Facilities**

Baycrest and the Ontario Long-Term Care Association (OLTCA) have partnered to conduct an 18-month long study examining falls in long-term care settings. The \$100,000 grant, that was part of \$1.9 million in available funding dedicated to building and advancing a safer Canadian health system by the Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI), will be carried out in eight OLTCA member homes in and around central Ontario.

The study, "*An examination of documented fall risk and adherence to fall prevention interventions in Ontario Long-Term Care Facilities*", was one of 28 studies funded across Canada by CPSI out of a pool of 327 applications.

Drs. Laura M. Wagner and Paula Rochon, Scientists in the Kunin-Lunenfeld Applied Research Unit (KLARU) at Baycrest, and Krista Robinson, Director of Health Planning and Research, at the Ontario Long-Term Care Association, are the project investigators.

Because falling is the most frequently reported adverse event in long-term care and can result in significant economic, medical, and psychological consequences, the study aims to determine how effective long-term care facilities are at identifying a resident's fall risk and how falls can be prevented.

"With a better understanding of the way we deal with falls management, we will be able to suggest improvements that will directly impact the safety of clients at Baycrest as well as other nursing homes in the province," said Dr. Wagner.

CPSI funded both research and demonstration projects in patient safety that involved a good cross-section of caregivers, researchers and administrators.

Proposed projects must demonstrate the following:

- a. The potential for measurable improvements in patient safety;
- b. The potential for uncomplicated application to other healthcare services, settings or jurisdictions;
- c. A strong emphasis on the sharing of lessons learned across the system.

As part of the research project, OLTCA and Baycrest will be creating a website dedicated to the topic of falls management in long-term care. In addition, OLTCA will assist in disseminating the study findings through a number of vehicles such as their long term care home education events. An advisory committee of clinicians and administrators, as well as a family member of a nursing home resident with a history of falls, will collaborate with the research team on the study.

*For more detail on the study, please contact Dr. Wagner at [lwagner@klaru-baycrest.on.ca](mailto:lwagner@klaru-baycrest.on.ca) or 416-785-2500, ext. 2934.*