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New Executive Director for Central East Regional Specialized Geriatric Services Receives Technology Evaluation in the Elderly Network (TVN) Fellowship Award

TVN Names Kelly Kay Interdisciplinary Fellow for Gerontology & Aging

News:

Just weeks after stepping into a new role as Executive Director for Central East Regional Specialized Geriatric Services (RSGS), Kelly Kay has been named as one of the first Interdisciplinary Fellows for Technology Evaluation in the Elderly Network (TVN). TVN recently announced eight fellowship awards as part of their mandate to develop multidisciplinary and multi-sector approaches to caring for seriously ill elderly patients, their families and caregivers.

Kay, who is also sessional faculty at the University of Ontario Institute of Technology and Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology, is one of eight award recipients, who represent a wide range of disciplines and educational institutions across Canada. Award recipients have diverse backgrounds related to aging and the seriously ill elderly, including interests in palliative care, advance care planning and home-based rehabilitation. Prior to her appointment to Interim Executive Director, RSGS, on September 9, Kay served as the Regional Manager for the Geriatric Assessment and Intervention Network (GAIN) within the Central East Local Health Integration Network (CE LHIN).

Kay is the recipient of TVN's Interdisciplinary Fellowship for Gerontology and Aging. Her research will focus on explore the use and limits of technology to enable interprofessional comprehensive geriatric assessment and intervention – bringing specialized geriatric services closer to home. The TVN's two-year fellowship training program, which includes a stipend of \$50,000 per year to support this research, extends beyond traditional academic and clinical programs to offer enriched experiential learning opportunities to give trainees the skills, experience and attitudes they need to work together to ensure the highest quality of care for seriously ill, elderly patients. Kay will work on her own self-directed research under the supervision of Brenda Gamble, PhD, of the University Of Ontario Institute Of Technology. Kay will also complete six multidisciplinary training program modules that include mentoring, placements and ongoing interaction and engagement with supervisors, mentors, patients and families, colleagues, industry and government.

Quotes:

“The care needs of the frail elderly are complex and often require collaboration among a number of health professionals, community organizations and institutions, in a system that typically separates different levels and types of care. The Interdisciplinary Fellowship Program provides the learning environment required to help break down the barriers in our health system and improve care across all settings.” **Dr. John Muscedere, Scientific Director, TVN**

“A strategic aim for the Central East Local Health Integration Network is to reduce the demand for long-term care so that seniors spend 320,000 more days at home in their communities. The work of the RSGS is helping to ensure that we have services available throughout the Central East LHIN to address the healthcare needs of frail seniors. We’re pleased to recognize this honour and look forward to the patient benefits this TVA Interdisciplinary Fellowship Award will provide to older adults and their caregivers in our community.” **Deborah Hammons, Chief Executive Officer, Central East Local Health Integration Network**

“These are exciting times for Central East Regional Specialized Geriatric Services. On behalf of the board of directors, we congratulate Kelly on this achievement. It is another testament to her collaborative approach to leadership, continuing to support RSGS, Central East LHIN, providers and other community partners as RSGS has recently completed a 3-year strategic plan guided by our vision to provide the best health experience for frail seniors in the Central East LHIN. The important research associated with Kelly’s fellowship supports our goals to improve care, foster excellence and increase awareness of age-related health needs.” **Glenna Raymond, Chair, Governance Authority, Central East Regional Specialized Geriatric Services**

“I am excited by the opportunity to work with seniors, families and providers of specialized geriatrics across the Central East LHIN to support the work of the RSGS and I am grateful for the opportunity provided by TVN to explore possibilities and options for the care of seniors in our communities.” **Kelly Kay, Executive Director, Central East Regional Specialized Geriatric Services**

“The TVN Fellowship provides a unique opportunity for Kelly to make a meaningful contribution to the lives of the frail elderly by bringing closer to home effective strategies that support healthy ageing.” **Brenda Gamble, PhD, University of Ontario Institute of Technology and Supervisor, TVA Gerontology and Aging Fellowship**

“We would like to congratulate both Kelly Kay and Brenda Gamble on their success. This timely and important research promises to strengthen the evidence base of effective strategies to support healthy aging at the community level, while improving the quality of life for frail seniors in Central East Region and their families.” **Dr. Ellen Vogel, Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Ontario Institute of Technology**

Background:

- The **Vision** for RSGS is best health experience for frail seniors in the Central East LHIN.
- Working as a Regional System, our **Mission** is to create a high quality, integrated, person-centered system of care that supports the best quality of life for frail seniors and their families.
- RSGS serves as a catalyst for the integration of clinical and service delivery intended to build better health outcomes for frail seniors across the CE LHIN. It builds on investments the CE LHIN has already made in areas such as the Geriatric Assessment and Intervention Network (GAIN) clinics in the region’s larger hospitals, nurse practitioners providing consultation to teams in long-term care

homes (NP STAT), Behavioural Supports Ontario (BSO) and the Geriatric Emergency Management (GEM) programs in place in emergency departments.

- Regional Specialized Geriatric Services are those services focused on frail seniors, requiring greater specialization and the use of inter-professional and organizational collaboration and multi-disciplinary teams in its delivery, increasing customization of care to respond to patient and client needs, and the use of standardized best practices and outcomes. Services that could fall under the scope of Specialized Geriatric care include: specialized geriatric assessment, consultation, short-term treatment, rehabilitation, and short-term specialty case management. They also include both the specialties of geriatric medicine and geriatric psychiatry.
- The Regional Specialized Geriatric Services Governance Authority consists of senior health care leaders representative of hospitals, community service providers, seniors' advocates and others from across the CE LHIN. The RSGS Governance Authority is ultimately accountable for the development, delivery and monitoring of an integrated regional system of Specialized Geriatric Services for frail seniors. This includes system planning (including the development of region-wide strategic plan and associated priorities), system funding and performance. It also includes advocacy, communication and education around the needs of frail seniors and promoting the enhancement of specialized services to meet their unique health challenges.
- Funding support for this project has been provided by the Technology Evaluation in the Elderly Network (TVN). The mission of TVN is to improve the care of seriously ill patients and their families. To learn more about TVN, please visit www.tvn-nce.ca