


The logo for Baycrest Academy for Research and Education, featuring the word "Baycrest" in white on a blue rectangular background.

Academy for Research  
and Education

# A Better Future for Aging + Brain Health

The background image shows a group of people in a library or computer lab. In the foreground, an elderly Black woman with short grey hair and glasses, wearing a black floral patterned top, is smiling and looking towards the left. Behind her, a man in a blue t-shirt is seated at a desk, also looking left. Further back, another man is seated at a desk, and a woman in a grey jacket is standing and looking towards the camera. The room has wooden bookshelves filled with books in the background.

2023-2025 Impact Report

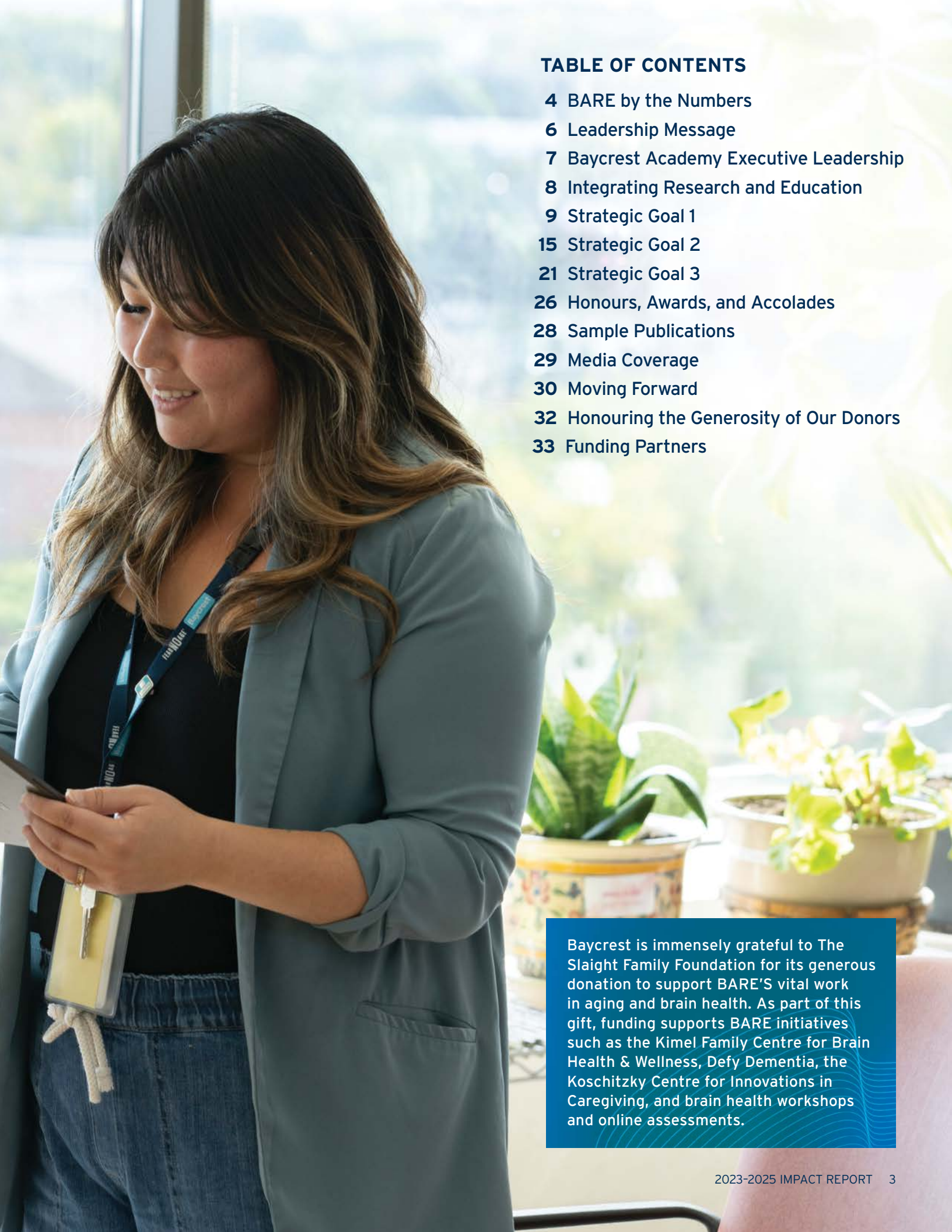
# Baycrest Academy for Research and Education (BARE): Impact 2023-2025

Baycrest Academy for Research and Education (BARE) unites the *Rotman Research Institute (RRI)* and *Centre for Education & Knowledge Exchange in Aging* to link world-class science with training for the next generation of leaders in aging and brain health, making Baycrest the #1 hospital in Canada for researcher intensity. Research and education move forward together, ensuring discoveries quickly shape care and that learning accelerates new insights.

In December 2024, we introduced BARE's 2024-2029 strategic plan with three goals focused on discovery, education, and innovation in cross-cutting areas of predictive neuroscience for precision aging. This year's report highlights progress against that plan and our continuing focus on dementia prevention, detection, treatment, and care. Through this work, BARE is helping to shape a future where every older person lives with purpose, fulfillment, and dignity.



**Baycrest**



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Baycrest is immensely grateful to The Slight Family Foundation for its generous donation to support BARE'S vital work in aging and brain health. As part of this gift, funding supports BARE initiatives such as the Kimel Family Centre for Brain Health & Wellness, Defy Dementia, the Koschitzky Centre for Innovations in Caregiving, and brain health workshops and online assessments.

# BARE by the Numbers



"I would recommend my preceptor/supervisor for future student placements."

23/24:

**89%**

24/25:

**84%**

## New Funding Announced/ Secured Over Multiple Years

23/24:

**\$3.8M**

24/25:

**\$30.2M**

## Foundation/Philanthropic Funding Spent

23/24:

**\$9.4M**

24/25:

**\$9.6M**

## Total Funding Spent

23/24:

**\$32.7M**

24/25:

**\$30.6M**

## Active Grants

23/24:

**120+**

24/25:

**140+**

## Publications

23/24:

**95**

24/25:

**119**

## Awards

23/24:

**53**

24/25:

**36**

## Public Outreach Activities

23/24:

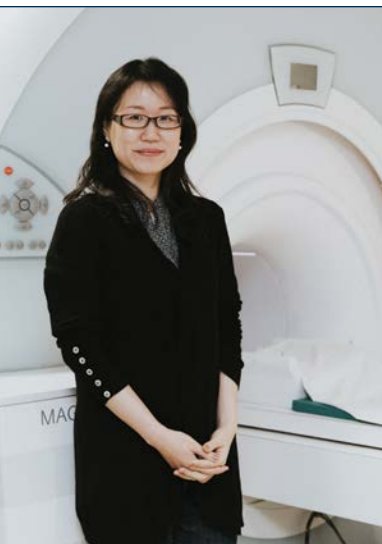
**433**

24/25:

**211**

"This [educational] placement enhanced my understanding of the unique needs of older adults."

89%



Staff

137

Research  
Chairs

7



Students  
and Trainees

23/24:

12,372

24/25:

15,943

Researcher  
Intensity  
Per Principal  
Investigator

23/24:

\$1M

24/25 (Estimate):

\$0.9M

Ongoing  
Research  
Studies

23/24:

136

24/25:

148

People  
Reached  
Directly

23/24:

237,337

24/25:

527,989

Available  
Research  
Participants

23/24:

16,485

24/25:

14,726

Interdisciplinary Projects

23/24:

40

24/25:

44



Partnerships

23/24:

67

24/25:

50

# Leadership Message

## In Gratitude

The work outlined in this report would not be possible without the support of the BARE community, for which we are eternally grateful. We thank our researchers, educators, staff, trainees, and learners for their vital contributions to our strategic plan, the roadmap that enables our ambitious goals and guides our mission – to revolutionize aging and brain health by discovering, assessing, and mobilizing impactful knowledge through cutting-edge research, interdisciplinary collaboration, and innovative education to enhance the lives of communities worldwide. We are grateful to our donors, research participants, and volunteers for their trust; to our partners and funders for their collaboration; and to our leadership and Board for their guidance. BARE has flourished with the support of many, including a generous gift from The Slight Family Foundation, enabling us to make our inspiring mission a reality.

## Accomplishments & Looking Ahead

The past two years have been marked by bold achievements and a continued commitment to research, education, and innovation. As we focus on a future of precision aging through predictive neuroscience, we continue to leverage world-class expertise to support dementia prevention, detection, treatment, and care.

We remain committed to the integration of research and education, with a focus on interprofessional collaborations like Defy Dementia, a program raising awareness and action on the modifiable risk factors for dementia. We have actively cultivated open science – the movement to make research more transparent, accessible, and collaborative – by openly sharing data, methods, software, and findings. And the Centre for Education and Research Training Centre have trained tens of thousands of learners, the next generation of researchers and healthcare professionals to meet the needs of older adults through courses, placements, workshops, and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research - Institute of Aging-funded Summer Program in Aging.

BARE's new strategic plan focuses on transformative discoveries in aging and brain health; translating that knowledge into evidence-based and impactful programs, tools, services, and policies; and building a strong foundation for sustainability and growth. As we look forward, we reaffirm our commitment to help shape a world where every older person lives with purpose, fulfillment, and dignity – advancing Baycrest's bold vision through excellence, creativity, global citizenship, and diversity.

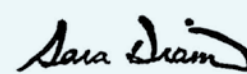


### DR. ALLISON SEKULER

*President & Chief Scientist,  
Baycrest Academy for  
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*Sandra A. Rotman Chair  
in Cognitive Neuroscience,  
Rotman Research Institute  
(RRI)*

*President & Chief Scientist,  
Centre for Aging + Brain  
Health Innovation (CABHI)*



### DR. SARA DIAMOND

*Chair, Board of Directors,  
Baycrest Academy for  
Research and Education*

*President Emerita,  
OCAD University,  
C.M., O.Ont., R.C.A., ICD.D*

# Executive Leadership

BARE is grateful to the accomplished researchers, educators, and administrators that comprise our Leadership Team.



## **DR. ROSANNE ALEONG**

*Executive Director, Research, Innovation, and Translation, Rotman Research Institute, Baycrest Academy for Research and Education*  
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*Interim Executive Director, Scientific and Academic Affairs, and Senior Scientist, Rotman Research Institute, Baycrest Academy for Research and Education*

*Director, Ben and Hilda Katz Interprofessional Research Centre in Geriatric and Dementia Care*  
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## **DR. DAVID CONN**

*Executive Vice President of Education and Chief Academic Officer (Apr 2023-Nov 2024), Baycrest Academy for Research and Education*

*Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto*

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# Integrating Research and Education

## Research Units & Centres Leads

### **Anne & Allan Bank Centre for Clinical Research Trials**

Dr. Howard Chertkow

### **Ben & Hilda Katz Interprofessional Research Centre in Geriatric & Dementia Care**

Dr. Nicole Anderson

### **Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging**

Dr. Howard Chertkow

### **Centre for Education**

Dr. Faith Boutcher

### **Imaging Centre**

Dr. Jean Chen

### **Kimel Family Centre for Brain Health & Wellness**

Dr. Nicole Anderson & Dr. Howard Chertkow

### **Kunin-Lunenfeld Centre for Applied Research & Evaluation (KL-CARE)**

Dr. Rosanne Aleong

### **Open Science Initiative**

Dr. Donna Rose Addis

### **Research Training Centre**

Dr. Rosanne Aleong & Dr. Rosanna Olsen

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## Rotman Research Institute (RRI) Management

Dr. Rosanne Aleong

Dr. Nicole Anderson

Emunah Awasthy

Dr. Jean Chen

Dr. Howard Chertkow

Noah Koblinsky

Jean Lazarus

Dr. Brian Levine

Dr. Rosanna Olsen

Shusmita Rashid

Dr. Allison Sekuler

Ryan Webster

## Centre for Education Management

Dr. Meaghan Adams

Dr. Faith Boutcher

Dr. Stacey Guy

Kimberly Krezonoski

Tonya Mahar

Kataryna Nemethy

Dr. Adriana Shnall

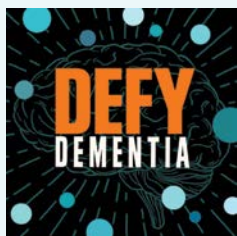
Melissa Tafler

A photograph showing a woman with short grey hair lying on a white medical device. A large blue and white mechanical arm is positioned over her head. Two women are assisting her: one is kneeling on the left, wearing a white shirt and glasses, and the other is standing on the right, wearing an orange shirt and dark pants, holding a small white object. The background is a white wall with some equipment on a shelf.

## STRATEGIC GOAL #1

**Use our world-class expertise to implement innovative approaches to aging and brain health**

## Objective 1.1 Generate transformative knowledge and apply predictive neuroscience for precision aging for dementia prevention, detection, treatment, and care.



***"I've done a lot of different little things [to reduce my dementia risk]. I started learning a new language, I made conscious changes to my diet, I tried to take care of my health. I [had] already been doing yoga on and off, but I signed up after one of the podcasts to do it on a regular basis."***

Defy Dementia podcast listener

### DEFY DEMENTIA

Launched in 2023, Baycrest's [Defy Dementia](#) initiative creates, curates, and disseminates knowledge resources to build awareness and understanding of the modifiable risk factors for dementia, and reduce dementia-associated stigma. The project is dedicated to empowering individuals of all ages to reduce their dementia risk and optimize their aging journey.

Defy Dementia is an interprofessional collaboration among researchers, educators, clinicians, science journalists, and knowledge mobilization and communications specialists across Baycrest. Co-designed with older adults and caregivers, the program uses a multimodal learning approach including a monthly Webby-nominated podcast co-hosted by Dr. Allison Sekuler and Jay Ingram, animated videos, infographics, blog, website with curated resources, the online Canuckle Brain Health cognitive engagement game, as well as virtual and in-person community engagement events.

The podcast delves into key dementia topics through inspiring stories and interviews with people with lived experience (older adults, caregivers, people living with dementia and disability) as well as dementia experts sharing the latest research in the field. Defy Dementia resources provide tangible, actionable strategies to reduce dementia risk, optimize brain health, and reduce dementia-related stigma.

With funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada and a generous donation from The Slaight Family Foundation, as of March 31, 2025, Defy Dementia had reached 47 countries, with nearly 400K podcast listens and 200K website visits. It has been featured in local and national media, with almost 8.5 million media impressions, and developed more than 75 national partnerships. Nearly 4,000 people attended virtual and in-person Defy Dementia community engagement events across Canada.

#### Defy Dementia audiences reported:

- 100%** recommended the event they attended
- 91%** recommended Defy Dementia resources
- 91%** cited a change in their beliefs or attitudes about people living with dementia
- 66%** expressed an increased understanding of dementia risk factors

Through its ability to promote awareness, foster inclusivity, and provide practical support, this initiative has enhanced the lives of countless Canadians.



From left to right: Dr. Allison Sekuler; Jay Ingram; The Honourable Laura Smith, M.P.P.; Mary Hynes (podcast guest); Dr. Nicole Anderson; and Brandy Goffigan (Toronto Public Library)

## KIMEL FAMILY CENTRE FOR BRAIN HEALTH & WELLNESS FOR DEMENTIA PREVENTION

At the world's first research-based, community centre focused on dementia prevention, members of the Kimel Family Centre for Brain Health & Wellness receive a comprehensive risk evaluation and personalized activity program addressing five dementia risk domains to maintain brain health. For 2025, 382 people have participated in Kimel Family Centre research, and early participants have received annual assessments. Preliminary data show a significant reduction in dementia risk and improvements in cognition for participants, within the first six months of participation. To better reach underserved communities, representatives from Filipino, Chinese, South Asian, Black, and Italian groups are being consulted and asked to serve as Community Champions.

## CANADIAN CONSORTIUM ON NEURODEGENERATION IN AGING



With its scientific headquarters at Baycrest, the Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging (CCNA) brings together more than 400 researchers and is the largest network of dementia researchers across Canada.

Federal funding of \$20 million over 5 years was recently approved by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for Phase III of CCNA research. The newly secured funding will enable CCNA to make further progress on age-related neurodegenerative diseases, and position Canada as a global leader in the field. Phase III will operate within three themes: prevention, treatment, and quality of life, and will see a focus on Indigenous and women's health as it relates to dementia.

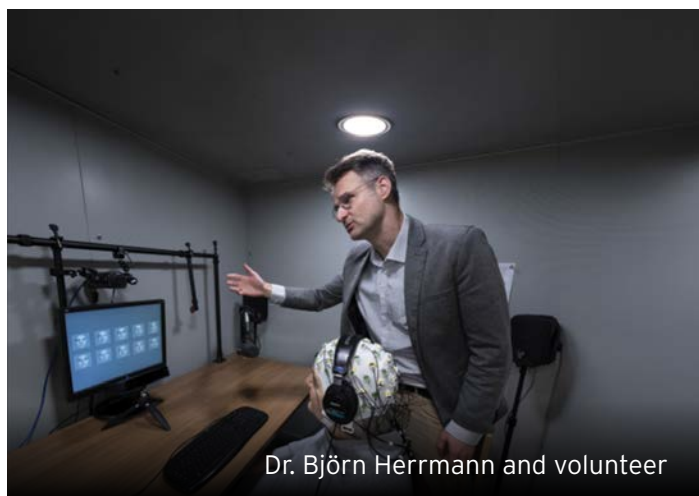
## EYE TRACKING FOR EARLY DETECTION

Eye movement-based testing in labs has been useful for revealing cognitive differences between younger and older adults, and for differentiating clinical populations, such as individuals with mild cognitive impairment from their healthy aged counterparts. As a result, eye tracking is poised to become a valuable tool to identify who may have, or be at risk for, neurodegeneration. But for such screening tools to be accessible, eye tracking must move out of the lab and into community or home settings.

At the RRI, Dr. Jennifer Ryan and Dr. Björn Herrmann are exploring eye movements and their link to human cognition as potential early markers of cognitive decline.

Dr. Ryan records eye movements simultaneously with lab-based eye trackers and an online, webcam-based eye tracker. This Canadian Institutes of Health Research-supported research will reveal whether online eye tracking, when compared to in-lab eye tracking, may be a valid method to assess cognition in older adults.

Dr. Herrmann focuses on eye movements as a new, more sensitive method to identify when listening becomes harder, which could help spot hearing problems earlier. As uncorrected hearing loss is a risk factor for dementia, earlier identification can help reduce dementia risk.



Dr. Björn Herrmann and volunteer

Thanks to a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada Discovery Grant and a generous donor gift from The Linda Judith Reed Foundation enabling his research, his work is showing a strong connection between how much effort the brain uses when listening to sounds, and how often eyes move, illustrating that tracking eye movements could become a useful tool for detecting hearing difficulties in older adults.



## NOVEL TREATMENTS THROUGH CLINICAL TRIALS

Baycrest's [Anne & Allan Bank Centre for Clinical Research Trials](#) offers a wide range of emerging interventions for eligible older adults with memory loss from mild to severe. As the most active dementia trial centre in Canada, it supports pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions.

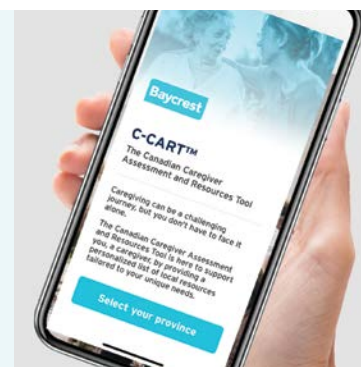
BARE was selected as a study site in Canada for the definitive Donanemab Clarity international study. Formulated to treat early symptomatic Alzheimer's disease – including mild cognitive impairment and mild dementia – clinical trials have shown that donanemab can slow cognitive and functional decline in individuals living with early-stage disease. BARE's site was ranked as the top recruiting site among the Consortium of Canadian Centres for Clinical Cognitive Research sites across Canada.

## KOSCHITZKY CENTRE FOR INNOVATIONS IN CAREGIVING

The [Canadian Caregiver Assessment and Resource Tool \(C-CART\)](#) was launched in 2024 by the Koschitzky Centre for Innovations in Caregiving. Generously supported by founding partner the Petro-Canada CareMakers Foundation and The Slight Family Foundation, C-CART is a free, online tool designed to provide caregivers across the country with personalized, quick access to invaluable resources. After completing a brief C-CART questionnaire, the caregiver is served localized, evidence-based information and resources including health and translation services, financial and community support, and more. C-CART can be used at home or in clinical settings, and identifies where caregivers can seek help. Further iterations of C-CART are in the works, with generous support from the Petro-Canada CareMakers Foundation, The Slight Family Foundation, and RBC Wealth Management.

***"There are caregivers across the country who aren't aware of the assistance available to them – especially those in rural communities – and we're changing that with C-CART. We are proud to fill this gap."***

Dr. Adriana Shnall, Program Director, Baycrest Koschitzky Centre for Innovations in Caregiving



## **Objective 1.2** Drive synergy and dynamic collaboration across foundational, applied, and clinical research, and education.

### **COLLABORATION TO BUILD INNOVATION CAPACITY AMONG CANADIAN RESEARCH TRAINEES**

Research trainees often express interest in engaging in innovation but lack the resources to do so. As such, innovation teams from BARE and the Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation (CABHI), powered by Baycrest, after consultation with BARE scientists and trainees, have launched the CABHI Science Collaborative (CSC) – an initiative to support the next generation of scientific collaborators. The CSC provides free

opportunities for scientists, researchers, and trainees across Canada to complement and expand their skill set in innovation and confidently engage with the diverse innovator community, including healthcare organizations and companies. CSC members build their innovation capacity through fellowships, professional development, hands-on skill building and engagement opportunities, and networking.

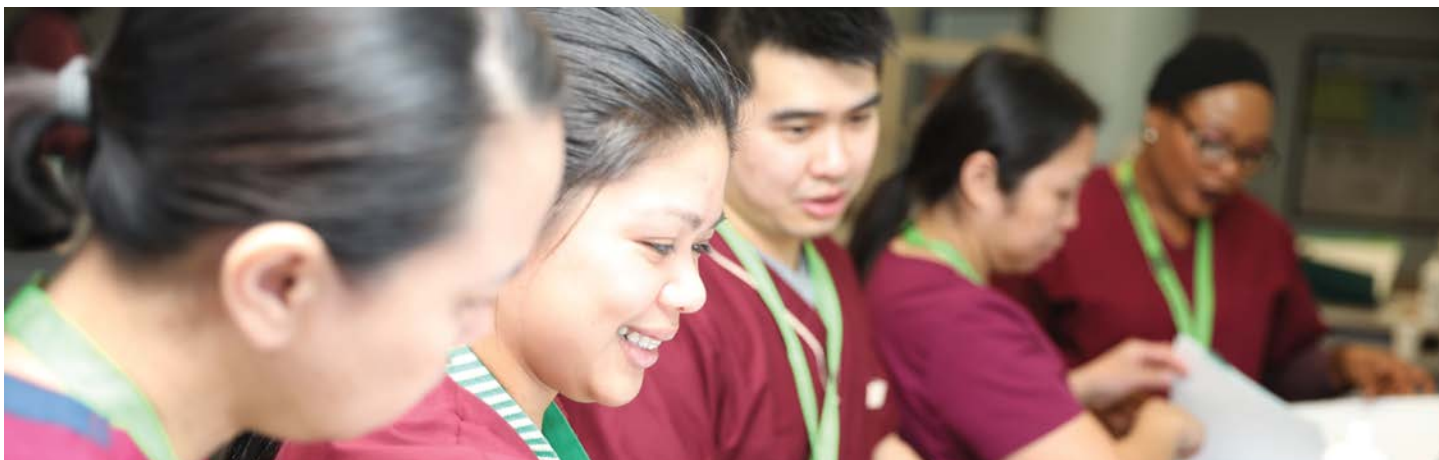
### **SHAPING THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE THROUGH INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION**

BARE and Interprofessional Practice are leading the development of structured interprofessional education (IPE) placements at Baycrest, transforming how future healthcare professionals learn and work together. These innovative placements unite students from diverse health disciplines, fostering a collaborative, team-based approach essential to delivering person-centred care, and are:

1. Inspiring emerging healthcare leaders to engage with aging, brain health, and dementia care – areas of increasing urgency and importance.
2. Breaking down traditional silos by building shared, interprofessional learning environments that reflect modern care.

3. Strengthening critical competencies in communication, teamwork, and collaborative leadership – skills foundational to better health outcomes.

Building on this momentum, BARE is proud to launch Student Leadership Experiences (SLEs) – a ground-breaking initiative that brings the core principles of interprofessional education to life. SLEs position students as leaders, reinforcing values of shared decision-making, mutual respect, and team-based care. As the first initiative of its kind at Baycrest, housed within the Kimel Family Centre for Brain Health & Wellness, SLEs represent a bold step forward in advancing interprofessional student engagement and leadership in aging, brain health, and dementia care.



**Objective 1.3** Leverage our excellence in cognitive neuroscience to advance educational research and develop the next generation of researchers, clinicians, and educators.

## ADVANCING RESEARCH IN AGING AND NEURODEGENERATION THROUGH DATA SCIENCE

BARE researchers were awarded a University of Toronto Data Sciences Institute (DSI) Emergent Science Program grant for their *Advancing Aging and Neurodegeneration Research through Data Science* project. This initiative, led by Dr. Rosanna Olsen, builds on the growing partnership between Baycrest and DSI, supporting research at the intersection of aging, brain health, and artificial intelligence.

This BARE-led program fosters collaboration among researchers, clinicians, and educators across the data science and brain health research communities, with the shared goal of improving care and services for older adults. To date, the team has held a keynote lecture on how machine learning can help uncover the complexity of brain aging and support development of personalized imaging biomarkers; and a follow-up half-day workshop on the use of artificial intelligence in memory research, advances in structural neuroimaging biomarkers, and challenges related to computational variability in brain imaging studies.

## PREP LTC: ENHANCING STUDENT PLACEMENTS

The Preceptor Resource and Education Program in Long-Term Care (PREP LTC) provides LTC homes with funding to help improve and increase the quality of and capacity for clinical student placements in Ontario. PREP LTC goals address clinical placement shortages in the LTC sector; identify solutions to overcome the barriers to clinical placements; and help recruit and retain LTC team members.

Contributing to these goals, Baycrest has developed an innovative e-learning module tailored to LTC homes. The module strives to build capacity and leadership among preceptors, empowering them to effectively mentor students during clinical placements. PREP LTC provides backfill funding to LTC homes for each team member who completes the course. Feedback from the sector has been extremely positive, with participating homes reporting better staff morale and student support, and more efficient operations.

## SUMMER PROGRAM IN AGING



Baycrest was selected to host the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Institute of Aging Summer Program in Aging (SPA) for June 2025. SPA 2025 will inspire and prepare trainees to conduct rigorous, meaningful research across a spectrum of disciplines with training ranging from aging and brain health foundations, to co-design and applied research, to innovation implementation and evaluation that ultimately equips and supports a healthcare workforce to care for aging populations. Built around the theme *Training a Healthcare Workforce to Meet the Needs of Older Adults*, SPA participants will take part in interactive, interprofessional, and innovative sessions with ample opportunities to learn from those with lived experience – older persons and those who care for them.



Create tools, products, and services to improve the experience of aging for communities worldwide

**Objective 2.1** Incorporate and reinforce the strengths, rights, and lived experiences of older persons through programs, services, and initiatives.



***"I've been a lifelong learner and get excited at the prospect of innovations that can make the aging experience better for myself and others. Having the opportunity to connect with people from all over, share my stories, and give innovators the benefit of my experience is very fulfilling. Leap is a community of people who – like me – who want to age with quality of life, continuously learning, and making a contribution."***

Hilary Randall-Grace, Leap member

## **CABHI LEAP-CENTRE FOR HEALTH INFORMATION COLLABORATION**

The [Centre for Health Information](#) (CHI) has fully adopted four educational courses from Leap, an online community of older adults and caregivers founded by the Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation (CABHI), who share, learn, collaborate, and advise on innovative solutions being developed for better aging and brain health. The courses, with trained instructors who are themselves older adults with lived experience, are now part of CHI's Better Living

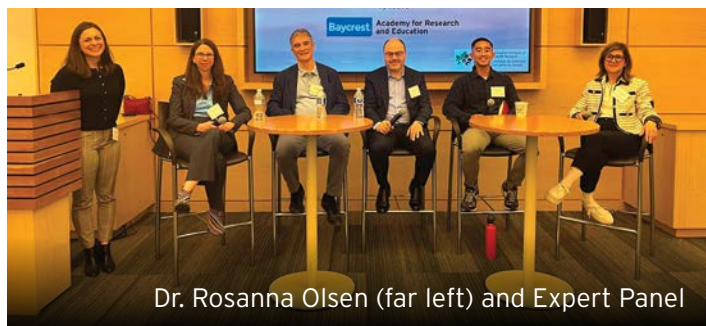
Education Series, aiming to empower older adults through free, virtual, and interactive courses to maintain overall health and well-being.

These new courses – *Planning Your Best Life*, *Digital Literacy Club*, *The Mindset Shift*, and *Financial Literacy* – are led by trained peer instructors with lived experience, creating a powerful, relatable learning environment.

## CIHR CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE

In 2023, BARE's Dr. Rosanna Olsen and her collaborators were awarded a Café Scientifique grant by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) to host a public education event to "enable knowledge-sharing and open, respectful dialogues between the general public and health researchers to build public awareness around aging and the modifiable risk factors for dementia."

In 2024, in partnership with the Toronto Public Library and Oakwood Community Organization, the team was pleased to host the *Boost Your Brain Health: From Dementia Risk Reduction to Family Caregiving* event: an in-person and live streamed panel presentation on brain health and healthy aging. Bringing together different perspectives, interactive demos, partner assets and more, it was an opportunity to engage and support the community directly, incorporating the perspectives of older adults and caregivers.



Dr. Rosanna Olsen (far left) and Expert Panel

The event shared research to increase public understanding and awareness of dementia prevention, detection, treatment, and care. Demonstrations included the frail aging suit, an online brain health assessment, as well as representation from the Kimel Family Centre for Brain Health & Wellness and CABHI. Visitors were able to have their hearing and brain health assessed onsite and receive immediate feedback.

## EMPOWERING DEMENTIA CARE THROUGH INNOVATION: THE SAGE PROGRAM AT BAYCREST

The Simulation Activities in Gerontological Education (SAGE) program at Baycrest stands as one of the few programs globally that engages older adult, volunteer simulated participants (SPs) in healthcare education. These SPs play vital roles – patients, clients, family members, and healthcare providers – in realistic learning environments that prepare professionals to deliver exceptional, compassionate care for older adults.

Through strategic partnerships and cutting-edge simulations, SAGE supports a wide range of educational initiatives designed to enhance dementia care and gerontological practice, including:

- **The Quick Response Caregiver Tool Video Series** – Developed with Baycrest physicians, this series equips formal and informal caregivers with practical strategies to manage responsive behaviours in dementia care.
- **Virtual Behavioural Medicine Training** – SPs help simulate neuropsychiatric symptoms of dementia in the *Introduction to Virtual Behavioural Medicine* eLearning course, created in collaboration with the Pamela & Paul Austin Centre for Neurology & Behavioural Support.
- **Possibilities by Baycrest™ Learning Experience** – Featuring realistic scenarios and SP-led videos, this initiative empowers staff to implement relationship-centred care, a cornerstone of Baycrest's innovative model of dementia care.

Baycrest's Simulation & Virtual Learning team has presented the pioneering SAGE methodology at national



***"The reason I'm in SAGE is to help the next generation of healthcare providers take care of people living with dementia."***

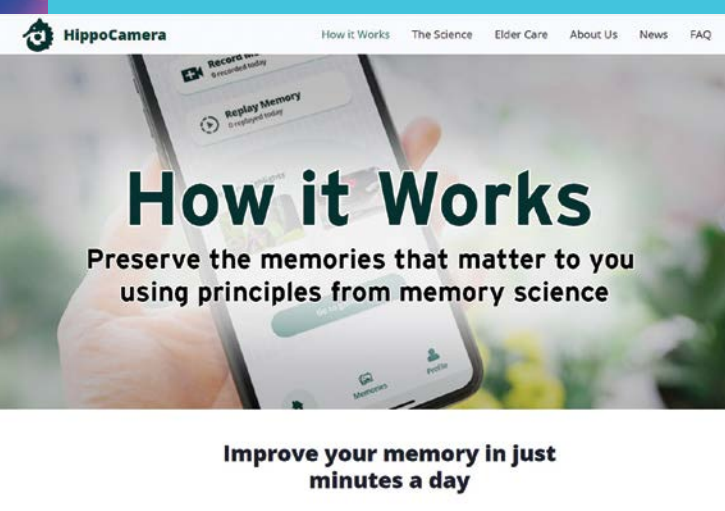
Noreen Wiseman,  
SAGE volunteer SP

and international simulation conferences. In 2024, they published the landmark textbook *Comprehensive Healthcare Simulation: Geriatric Simulation – A Focus on Older Adults as Simulated Participants*, now considered a foundational resource in the field.

The SAGE program exemplifies how immersive simulation, older adult engagement, and interprofessional collaboration can transform education and elevate the standard of care for older adults worldwide.

**Baycrest has the only SP program made up primarily of older adults. At present, Baycrest partners with 13 older adult SPs.**

## Objective 2.2 Translate research into practical tools, services, and programs that directly benefit older persons.



***“This crazy idea we had over lunch one day was, can we design a computer or an app to mimic that function of the brain that is compromised in Alzheimer’s disease? It’s called the HippoCamera.”***

Dr. Morgan Barense, Dr. Max and Gianna Glassman  
Chair in Neuropsychology, Baycrest and University of Toronto; Senior Scientist, RRI

### HIPPOCAMERA

Peer-reviewed research shows that using the [HippoCamera mobile app](#) three minutes a day can boost recall of life’s everyday moments by over 50%.

Developed through the research of RRI Senior Scientist and Dr. Max and Gianna Glassman Chair Dr. Morgan Barense, HippoCamera is a neuroscience-guided, personalized mobile platform that enhances activity in the hippocampus, a brain region essential for preserving vivid memories.

HippoCamera is the only app that combines enjoyable reminiscence activities with demonstrated memory benefits, and can be used in a structured reminiscence program or individually. Users are directed to record video and voice annotations, and replay daily events. Using science-backed strategies that incorporate how the brain encodes and processes memories, it helps strengthen and preserve recall over time, leading to better memory recall.

### GOAL MANAGEMENT TRAINING™ & TELUS HEALTH

Baycrest’s Goal Management Training™ (GMT), led by RRI Senior Scientist Dr. Brian Levine, is based on decades of research on executive functions (cognitive abilities that allow us to stay focused and efficient when completing everyday tasks) in people with age-related cognitive impairment, traumatic brain injury, multiple sclerosis, and other conditions.

GMT is a standardized, therapist-guided, cognitive rehabilitation program tailored for the treatment of cognitive changes in mental health conditions, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, substance use, brain fog (as in post-COVID-19 and other infectious conditions), and for healthy individuals who want to improve their everyday function. Validated by more than 75 peer-reviewed published studies, GMT is an empirically supported protocol for improving executive function. It improves organizational skills, in turn improving performance of everyday tasks, especially ones that are complex and attention demanding.

GMT is now available online to community-based clients through TELUS Health CBT, a cognitive behavioural therapy program.

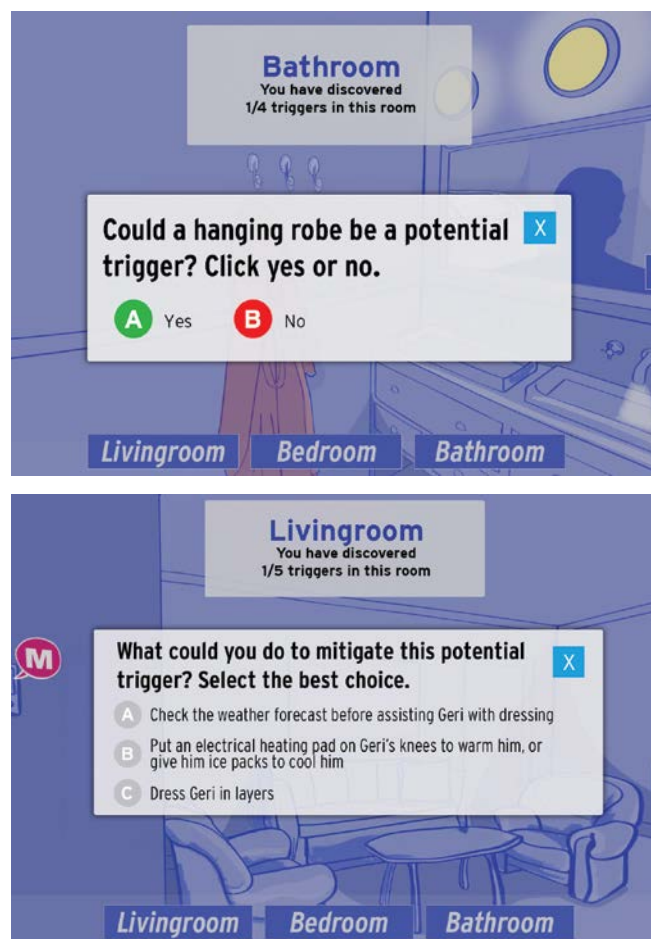
The Bradstreet Family Foundation has provided generous support for GMT research and development.



## VIRTUAL TRIGGER ROOM FOR COMMUNITY & LONG-TERM CARE

Dementia changes how people think, act and feel, and their ability to understand the world, so a person living with dementia may see and hear things differently, interpret things incorrectly, and sometimes have trouble communicating their needs. For those living with dementia, the actions, words, and gestures we see in challenging behaviours are a response to something important in their personal, social, or physical environment. These challenging behaviours are often called “responsive behaviours” – a response to an unmet need, or something they cannot communicate. For example, if a person living with dementia pushes a caregiver, that behaviour could be caused by many factors including physical discomfort or poor communication.

The Virtual Trigger Room (VTR) is an online, augmented reality training tool to help caregivers manage responsive behaviours in dementia. VTR simulates the lived environments of people living with dementia at home and in long-term care (LTC), and depicts environmental triggers for responsive behaviours. It provides users with a 360-degree, self-guided tour through a virtual residence and allows the user to identify potential environmental triggers for a person living with dementia and select prevention strategies on how to de-escalate responsive behaviours. VTR empowers family caregivers, students, and LTC staff with tools and resources to deliver better care and support the quality of life of people living with dementia.



## **Objective 2.3** Mobilize new discoveries, support the implementation and adoption of evidence-based practices, and influence policies.

### **SENIORS MENTAL HEALTH – LONELINESS GUIDELINES**

Baycrest is playing a key leadership role in the development of Canadian guidelines providing standardized, evidence-based tools, approaches, and resources for healthcare providers and caregivers.

With the leadership of Dr. David Conn, former Executive Vice President, Education and Chief Academic Officer of BARE, the first-of-its-kind clinical guidelines on social isolation and loneliness in older adults have been developed and released by the Canadian Coalition for Seniors' Mental Health (CCSMH). The guidelines, addressing Canada's loneliness epidemic, provide healthcare and social service professionals, older adults, and care partners with 17 evidence-based recommendations to support older adults at risk for or experiencing social isolation and loneliness.

Loneliness and social isolation are significant risk factors for dementia, stroke, heart disease, anxiety, and depression, and can impact physical and mental well-being. While Canadians of all ages are affected, older adults are particularly at risk due to factors such as lack of energy, living alone, and/or living with physical limitations. Contributing factors associated with aging include transitional life events such as retirement, the death of family or friends, or changes in living arrangements.

### **DEMENTIA CARE PREPAREDNESS INITIATIVE**

Thanks to \$5 million in funding from the Ministry of Long-Term Care, the Ontario Centres for Learning, Research and Innovation (CLRI) teams at BARE, Bruyère Health Research Institute, and Schlegel-UW Research Institute for Aging are empowering Ontario's LTC sector to improve dementia care. The Dementia Care Preparedness Initiative provided participating LTC homes with an opportunity to build on existing efforts while receiving support from the Ontario CLRI to assess their current state of dementia care delivery, as well as scale and/or adopt new models of care. Each participating LTC home will receive a personalized report that highlights implementation readiness to deliver a dementia program, along with sector benchmarking data.

### **INFLUENCING BRAIN HEALTH POLICY GLOBALLY**

#### **Northeast X Southeast: Advancing Partnerships**

At the *Canadian Women-only Business Mission to South Korea and Thailand*, and in her panels, presentations, and meetings with international business leaders, BARE's Dr. Allison Sekuler focused on the importance of research, education, and innovation to address the pressing needs of aging and brain health globally. She also highlighted BARE and CABHI-supported programs, policies, and products that could be adopted now to address those needs, and arranged for a tour of Baycrest's Aspen Tree campus to showcase Baycrest's broader impact globally.

#### **Science Meets Parliament**

Dr. Björn Herrmann, a Tier II Canada Research Chair in Auditory Aging, was proud to take part in the *2023 Science Meets Parliament* program, a unique opportunity for scientists to interface with policymakers.

#### **Ontario Hospital Association Research & Innovation Committee**

The Ontario Hospital Association's (OHA) Research & Innovation Committee co-chairs Dr. Sekuler and Dr. Lehana Thabane (St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton) advocate embedding research and innovation into health ecosystems, improving the link between research and community hospitals, and better connecting research to care. In the article *Research Is Care: Harnessing Hospital-Based Research*, they champion a shift from a reactive "sick-care" model to one focused on prevention, early detection and innovation, citing hospital-based research as key to this transformation.

#### **Brain Economy Thought Leadership & UN General Assembly**

At the UN Science Summit at the 79th *United Nations General Assembly and Summit for the Future* conference, Dr. Sekuler advocated for a national investment strategy for prevention, early diagnosis, and a lifecycle approach to brain health, as well as integration of brain health in primary care.



Embed foundational systems to ensure impact and long-term sustainable growth

## **Objective 3.1** Create a culture of ideation, inquiry, collaboration, and continuous learning within and beyond BARE.

### **BARE ACADEMY AWARDS**

With the support of the Evelyn Burns-Weinrib Education Appreciation Endowment Fund, BARE was delighted to host its first annual Baycrest Academy Awards. The event shone a light on the accomplishments of individuals, teams, and projects that support clinical, interprofessional and research training, and recognized donor-supported opportunities made possible through scholarships and fellowships.

#### **Health Discipline Teaching Award: Cindy Brock & Ruth Brickman, Social Work**

Recognizing health discipline staff – social workers, dietitians, speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, psychologists, pharmacists, music therapists, audiologists, chaplains, and other healthcare providers – that have gone above and beyond teaching students as demonstrated by their dedication, commitment, and innovation.

#### **Research Training Award: Dr. Rosanne Aleong, Jacob Matthews, and Dr. Jennifer Ryan**

Recognizing researchers that have demonstrated excellence through their teaching; dedication to the educational experience of research trainees/students; and provision of feedback that encourages growth and reflection.



### **FROM POSTDOC TO RESEARCH FACULTY CRASH COURSE**

Eight hospital-based research training centres and Toronto universities (Baycrest Academy for Research and Education, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, The Hospital for Sick Children, Sinai Health, Toronto Metropolitan University, Unity Health Toronto, University Health Network, and University of Toronto) launched the *From Postdoc to Research Faculty Crash Course*. The professional development course aims to prepare the next generation of researchers for the job market, providing an end-to-end curriculum of comprehensive professional development skills and training to support them in their search for a research faculty position. Course topics include academic CVs and cover letters, research statements, teaching dossiers, interviewing, “chalk talks”, negotiating, and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion statements. Over 1,200 individuals registered for the course, with over 600 live attendees. Ninety-five per cent of survey respondents reported the program met or exceeded their expectations; 87% believed it helped them prepare to transition into a faculty position.

## **Objective 3.2** Ensure recruitment and support of diverse, multidisciplinary talent.

### **MANY BACKGROUNDS, ONE MISSION: TO CHANGE THE FUTURE OF AGING**

Bringing together professionals from diverse fields offers more holistic, person-centred solutions. BARE actively promotes interprofessional collaboration in its research and education initiatives to address the complex and interconnected needs of today's aging population. Here's what our talented people have to say:



**Manager Dr. Mona AlQazzaz**  
**Open Science Manager, RRI**

"It's clear that people here care about creating a welcoming environment, and I was especially grateful for how quickly colleagues stepped up to help organize my first open science event and ensured everything ran smoothly – just incredible support. Working at Baycrest has allowed me to collaborate with passionate researchers and supportive admin staff. It's a place where I feel I can grow, contribute meaningfully, and support the integration of open science into all aspects of scholarly work at BARE."



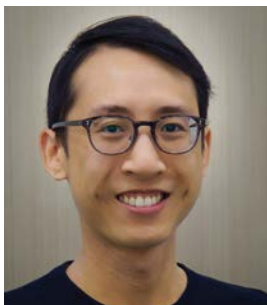
**Clinical Student Michelle Blumberg**  
**Trainee, Neuropsychology and Cognitive Health,**  
**Baycrest Hospital**

"Baycrest provided an exceptional environment for my neuropsychology practicum training. The clinical training opportunities, supervision from expert neuropsychologists, and the chance to collaborate with fellow trainees have made it an incredibly enriching experience. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to train at Baycrest and look forward to maintaining the valuable connections I have made here in the future."



**Clinical Student Iulia Niculescu**  
**Trainee, Neuropsychology and Cognitive Health,**  
**Baycrest Hospital**

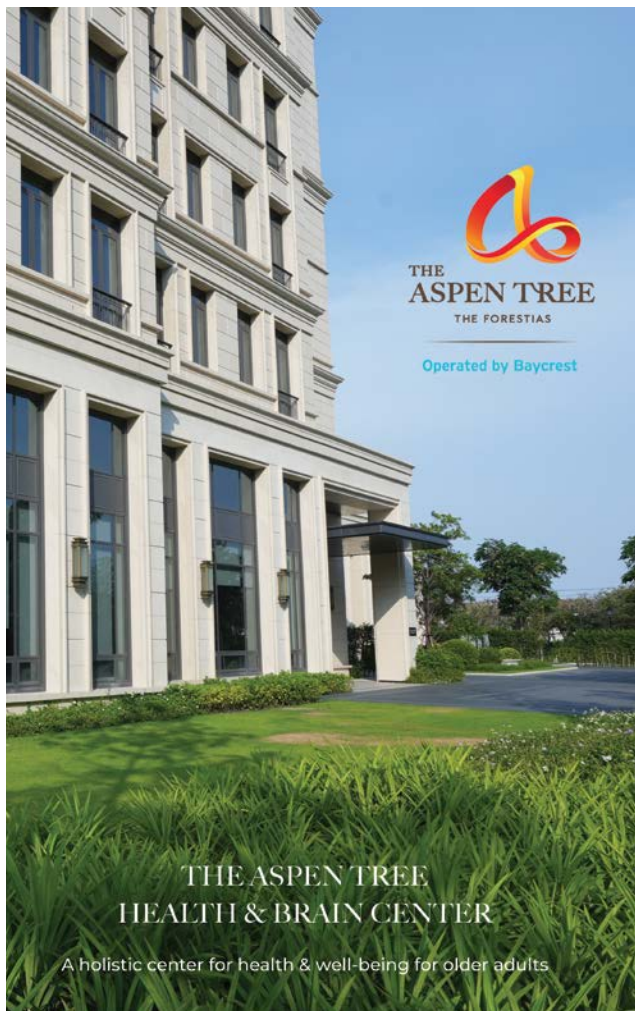
"My practicum training at Baycrest was truly exceptional. I had the invaluable opportunity to learn from a team of highly knowledgeable psychologists, which was enlightening and inspiring. The diverse experiences in assessment, intervention, didactics, and individual and collaborative supervision provided a rich and well-rounded learning environment. This has been instrumental in strengthening my foundational knowledge and advancing my clinical development."



**Research Trainee Dr. Ryan Yeung**  
**Postdoctoral Fellow, RRI**

"One of the things I enjoy most about working at Baycrest is the open, collaborative environment. Everyone has been super welcoming and happy to share ideas, resources, and their time. It's given me lots of opportunities to pick up new skills, work with different researchers, and tackle interesting questions."

## Objective 3.3 Optimize existing and identify new revenue streams.



### CENTRE FOR EDUCATION CAPACITY BUILDING TO SUPPORT OLDER ADULTS' CARE

The Centre for Education is leveraging its expertise and experience to offer educational services and build capacity among healthcare organizations locally, nationally, and internationally.

The new Baycrest-operated, Bangkok-based Aspen Tree is changing the concept of older adult living in Thailand. A pioneer facility in cognitive health and older adult wellness, the unique healthy living community provides lifetime care for older adults to age-in-place. The facility features personalized and holistic aging-related healthcare services and programs to support healthy aging, brain health and wellness services, luxury spa and fitness facilities, as well as immersive lifestyle and learning opportunities. As global ambassadors for aging and brain health, BARE leveraged educational modules to conduct remote, virtual, and in-person, best-in-practice training for the community's "Care Angels".

Building on the learning modules and programs created for Baycrest's Virtual Behavioural Medicine, the Possibilities by Baycrest™ Model, and The Aspen Tree operated by Baycrest, the Centre for Education has also supported the implementation of national tele-education capacity building programs around older adults' mental health - the Extension of Community Health Outcomes (ECHO).





## PROVIDING RESEARCH AND EVALUATION SERVICES: KL-CARE

There is a critical gap in healthcare for adults living with schizophrenia or related psychotic disorders in Canada. They require specialized, needs-based care not typically offered by a family physician or traditional hospital outpatient care settings. Designed to address this gap, the Ozerdinc Grimes Regional Psychosis Clinic (OGRPC) is a community-based, interprofessional program at the Royal Ottawa Hospital providing evidence-based, essential programming and services to help adults living with schizophrenia or related psychotic disorders maintain their desired quality of life.

BARE's [Kunin-Lunenfeld Centre for Applied Research and Evaluation](#) (KL-CARE) has provided essential end-to-end applied and evaluative research services in support of an OGRPC evaluation, including grant application support, evaluation framework co-design, and data collection procedures. In addition, KL-CARE enhanced organizational evaluation capacity, training and supporting the OGRPC team on qualitative research methods. KL-CARE's efforts enabled the team to successfully identify supports and resources required by clients, family, staff and community partners, and refine their program. KL-CARE continues to support the team with exploring the impact of the OGRPC on its clients' quality of life and determining the clinic's capacity to scale and spread its model across Ontario.

# Honours, Awards, and Accolades

## RESEARCH INFOSOURCE RANKING

Baycrest is proud to be recognized as the number one hospital in Canada for research intensity (the amount of funds allocated per researcher) for the third year in a row, according to Research Infosource's *Canada's Top 40 Research Hospitals 2024*. This achievement reflects the innovative work of Baycrest researchers that consistently attracts significant grants and donations to advance research in aging and brain health. Baycrest's world-renowned RRI scientists attracted an average of more than \$0.9 million each for research in 2024. Since the inception of the ranking over a decade ago, Baycrest has repeatedly placed among Canada's top research hospitals.



## HEALTHCARE PARTNER FOR THE YORK UNIVERSITY CFREF

York University was awarded \$105 million from the federal government's Canada First Research Excellence Fund (CFREF). The funding is in support of the *Connected Minds: Neural and Machine Systems for a Healthy, Just Society* interdisciplinary research initiative, of which Baycrest is a lead health partner. Dr. Shayna Rosenbaum, Adjunct Scientist at RRI, serves as lead of the Connected Minds Research Committee.



## ORDER OF CANADA

Dr. Morris Moscovitch, RRI Senior Scientist, was inducted as a *Member of the Order of Canada* in 2024 at Rideau Hall. The citation noted he is "a ground-breaking researcher in cognitive psychology and neuroscience. He has made outstanding contributions to the fields by building empirical studies on a strong foundation of theoretical and conceptual analysis. His seminal work on the cognitive architecture and neural signature of memory has influenced our understanding of nearly every facet of memory research and has contributed to clinical applications. In addition to his research excellence, the passionate, inspired, and collaborative mentor has nurtured the next generation of specialists."

## GOVERNOR GENERAL'S ACADEMIC GOLD MEDAL AWARD

Dr. Danielle D'Amico, Postdoctoral Fellow with Dr. Nicole Anderson and Dr. Howard Chertkow in the Kimel Family Centre for Brain Health & Wellness, has won a *Governor General's Academic Gold Medal Award*, the most prestigious award graduate students in Canada can receive. The award is in recognition of her outstanding doctoral work at Toronto Metropolitan University.

## CENTRE FOR EDUCATION SIM INNOVATOR AWARD NOMINATION

The Centre for Education and Knowledge Exchange in Aging was nominated for the *Simulation Canada 2023 SIM Innovator Award*. The national award recognizes an exceptional commitment to innovate, advocate, and advance simulation for education, patient safety, and/or quality improvement. The accolade celebrates an organization at the leading edge of integrating simulation into its activities, using simulation-based strategies to disrupt the status quo, and profoundly improve education and/or patient care.

## TANENBAUM OPEN SCIENCE INSTITUTE'S NATIONAL INCENTIVE FUND AWARD

Dr. Donna Rose Addis and the BARE Open Science Committee were awarded funding by the Tanenbaum Open Science Institute's National Incentive Fund to support BARE's implementation of an open science framework. As a leading open science organization, BARE has made significant contributions to the open science framework by including focus groups (with research participants) during the consultation process, and an open science principle related to training and education. BARE continues to lead the way in enabling research data accessibility, making efficient use of research funding, and scaling the impact of research investments into data collection.

## BARE AS A PARTNER OF LAB2MARKET

Lab2Market is a nationwide program that supports graduate students and postdoctoral fellows to build an entrepreneurial skillset, connect with networks to turn their ideas into successful businesses, and help move their intellectual properties out of universities and colleges towards application and commercialization. Lab2Market was recently awarded more than \$32 million in funding, and BARE is proud to serve as a health partner on the grant. BARE's participation supports the acceleration and commercialization of ground-breaking research and technologies, with a special focus on innovations in aging and brain health.



## APS WILLIAM JAMES FELLOW AWARD

Dr. Lynn Hasher, RRI Senior Scientist, was the recipient of a 2024 *William James Fellow Award* from the Association for Psychological Science. The award recognizes scientists for their lifetime of significant intellectual contributions to the basic science of psychology. Dr. Hasher is a leader in this field, with a special focus on cognitive inhibition – our ability to prevent and delete irrelevant information from entering consciousness – and the role of our internal clock on our cognition.



## CANADA'S MOST POWERFUL WOMEN TOP 100 AWARD

Leadership across Baycrest embodies the spirit of innovation, transformation and collaboration, breaking down barriers and inspiring future generations to lead with purpose and passion. Baycrest leaders were among the Women Executive Network's (WXN) prestigious 2024 *Canada's Most Powerful Women: Top 100 Awards*, celebrating exceptional leadership and ground-breaking achievements that have meaningfully transformed their industries, companies, communities, and country. Three Baycrest leaders – Melissa Turzanski (Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care), Dr. Allison Sekuler (BARE), and Dr. Nicole Anderson (BARE) – were recognized for their exceptional work and vision serving the evolving needs of older persons with innovative care models, educational partnerships, and transformative research.

## TREASURER OF THE WORLD FEDERATION OF NEUROLOGY

Dr. Morris Freedman, Baycrest's Head of Neurology and RRI Scientist was elected Treasurer of the World Federation of Neurology, with members from 123 countries voting at its annual general meeting in Montreal.

## FELLOW OF THE PSYCHONOMIC SOCIETY

Dr. Donna Rose Addis, RRI Senior Scientist and Canada 150 Research Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience of Memory and Aging, was named a Fellow of the Psychonomic Society. The program recognizes researchers who demonstrate clear evidence of independent scholarship, active engagement in high-level research, and for excellence in the psychological sciences.

## BETTY HAVENS PRIZE FOR KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

Led by Dr. Gary Naglie (Associate Scientist, RRI; Baycrest Hospital), Dr. Elaine Stasiulis (BARE), and Dr. Mark Rapoport (Sunnybrook Hospital), the Driving and Dementia Roadmap initiative received the 2023 *Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Institute of Aging Betty Havens Prize for Knowledge Mobilization in Aging* for advancing the mobilization of research in aging at a local or regional level. The first-of-its-kind, free online tool supports older adults living with dementia and their families in making informed decisions about when to stop driving. The tool also helps users understand how dementia can impact driving, identify when it becomes unsafe for individuals living with dementia to drive, and adjust to life without driving once the decision has been made. The roadmap offers videos, information, and resources to guide users through this complex process with dignity.

# Sample Publications

## [A person with frontotemporal dementia shows increased metabolic rate across multiple brain regions after a series of tDCS sessions](#)

Roncero C, Nikelski J, Soucy JP, Lahiri D, Seixas-Lima B, Chertkow H  
Brain Stimulation, May-June 2023  
Volume 16(3), Pages 828-829

## [Early mobile app training proficiency predicts how well memory-impaired individuals learn to use digital memory aids in the real world](#)

Vasquez BP, Cretu A, Max A, Moscovitch M  
Neuropsychological Rehabilitation, September 2023  
Volume 33(8), Pages 1411-1429

## [Asynchronous, online spaced-repetition training alleviates word-finding difficulties in aphasia](#)

de Grosbois J, Canthiya L, Philipp-Muller AE, Hickey NK, Hodzic-Santor B, Heleno MC, Jokel R, Meltzer JA  
Neuropsychological Rehabilitation, December 2023  
Volume 33(10), Pages 1672-1696

## [Evaluating the impact of a national geriatric mental health ECHO educational program on healthcare providers' practice](#)

Adams MS, Sokoloff LG, Checkland C, Sodums DJ, Santiago, AT, Feldman, S, Seitz, D, Ewa, V, Grief, C, Mackay, I, Conn, DK  
Gerontology & Geriatrics Education, April 2024  
Pages 1-15

## [Validation of a community-based approach toward personalized dementia risk reduction: the Kimel Family Centre for Brain Health and Wellness](#)

Anderson ND, D'Amico D, Rotenberg S, Addis DR, Gillen J, Moore D, Furlano JA, Tan B, Binns M, Santarossa M, Chertkow H  
Journal of Prevention of Alzheimer's Disease, 2024  
Volume 11(5), Pages 1455-1466

## [Impaired perceptual discrimination of complex objects in older adults at risk for dementia](#)

Jiang L, Robin J, Shing N, Mazloum-Farzaghi N, Ladyka-Wojcik N, Balakumar N, Anderson ND, Ryan JD, Barens MD, Olsen RK  
Hippocampus, April 2024  
Volume 34(4), Pages 197-203

## [Pupil size and eye movements differently index effort in both younger and older adults](#)

Herrmann B, Ryan JD  
Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience, June 2024  
Volume 36(7), Pages 1325-1340

## [Developing the driving and dementia roadmap: a knowledge-to-action process](#)

Stasiulis E, Naglie G, Sanford S, Belchior P, Crizzle A, Gélinas I, Mazer B, Moorhouse P, Myers A, Porter MM, Vrkljan B, Rapoport MJ  
Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging Driving and Dementia Team  
International Psychogeriatrics, December 2024  
Volume 36(12), Pages 1157-1170

## [Orienting attention to auditory and visual working memory in older adults with cochlear implants](#)

Ojha A, Dimitrijevic A, Alain C.  
PLoS ONE, December 2024  
Volume 19(12)

## [Drawing improves memory in patients with hippocampal damage](#)

Levi A, Pugsley A, Fernandes MA, Turner GR, Gilboa A.  
Memory & Cognition, January 2025  
Volume 53(1), Pages 379-394



# Media Coverage

BARE researchers and educators are at the forefront of public engagement, using media and advocacy to spotlight cutting-edge scientific discoveries and educational innovations, advance science, and influence policy. Below is a sample of some of the impactful media stories featuring BARE's work:

**The Globe and Mail, April 11, 2024**

[The memory race](#)

Interview with Dr. Howard Chertkow

**Daily Mail, July 13, 2024**

[Is Biden competent to serve again? Here's what health experts say](#)

Interview with Dr. Allison Sekuler

Picked up by Radio-Canada, MSN, and 70 other outlets

**CBC News, July 22, 2024**

[North York community centre study aims to reduce dementia rates](#)

Interview with Dr. Nicole Anderson at the Kimel Family Centre for Brain Health & Wellness

Picked up by headtopics.com, and three other outlets

**CityNews Toronto, August 1, 2024**

[Dementia risk factors identified in new study](#)

Interview with Dr. Allison Sekuler

**CBC News, November 15, 2024**

[Baycrest launching online resource tool to support caregivers](#)

Interview with Dr. Adriana Shnall about C-CART

Picked up by Yahoo UK, Yahoo Australia, and headtopics.com

**Chatelaine, December 11, 2024**

[4 simple ways to reduce your risk of dementia](#)

Interview with Dr. Nicole Anderson

**Health System News (Ontario Hospital Association), January 9, 2025**

[Interprofessional education innovations enhance care for older adults](#)

Article by Dr. Meaghan Adams and Melissa Tafler

**NeuroscienceNews.com, December 3, 2024**

[High blood sugar impacts brain health, even without diabetes](#)

Includes statements (from a press release on Baycrest.org) by Dr. Jean Chen

Picked up by Epoch Times and 21 other outlets

**Medical Xpress, March 20, 2025**

[Sleep supports people's ability to remember sequences of real-world experiences, immersive art tour experiment shows](#)

Interview with Dr. Brian Levine regarding his study

**CBC The Current, March 27, 2025**

[What's it like to have dementia? This care centre can teach you](#)

Interview with Dr. Meaghan Adams

# Moving Forward



Curiosity, discovery, and innovation are part of our DNA at Baycrest. For our people, this means working in an environment where they can push the envelope. Here, they identify new scientific findings, train the next generation, and grow and shape innovative, one-of-a kind solutions and advancements in aging and brain health.

## PRECISION AGING THROUGH PREDICTIVE NEUROSCIENCE

Building on BARE's numerous accomplishments outlined in this report, BARE is committed to advancing our north star of precision aging through predictive neuroscience. As we move forward, we will leverage existing activities through the Kimel Family Centre for Brain Health and Wellness (personalized lifestyle modifications to reduce dementia risk), the Pamela & Paul Austin Centre for Neurology and Behavioural Support (machine learning to better triage clients and identify the most effective treatments for people living with dementia and responsive behaviours), the Bresver Neuromodulation & Therapeutics Program (tailor non-invasive neuromodulation strategies), and the Koschitzky Centre for Innovations in Caregiving (personalized resources to meet caregiver needs).

As we emphasize the need for precision across dementia prevention, detection, treatment, and care, it will be important that state-of-the-art approaches like artificial intelligence are seamlessly integrated across Baycrest-wide activities. For example, by enabling real-time access to clinical, training, and research data, our teams can identify patterns, evaluate interventions, and translate discoveries into practice faster and more effectively, moving from a reactive approach to a new approach that truly embraces predictive neuroscience.

## OPEN SCIENCE

The 2023-2025 period marks a turning point for open science at BARE. Foundational funding from the Tanenbaum Open Science Institute (TOSI) enabled the hiring of our first Open Science Manager and advanced our work through institution-wide consultations and integration of open science into research ethics – underscoring our commitment to transparency and reproducibility. Our key impact areas include:

### Cultivating an Open Science Culture & Community

We launched dedicated communication channels, conducted a campus-wide survey to identify gaps, and developed draft open science principles. Through broad consultations – including town halls and seven stakeholder focus groups – we are building a shared vision. In the coming year, we will formally adopt our Open Science Principles and join the TOSI Alliance as one of nine open science institutes across Canada.

### Empowering Researchers through Education

In partnership with BARE's Research Training Centre, we are developing a series of workshops to provide targeted training for all researchers, from students to scientists, to address knowledge gaps, empower our research community, and equip researchers with essential knowledge and skills for transparent, reproducible research.

### Advancing Ethical Practices

Working closely with Baycrest's Research Ethics Board, we are actively integrating open science into ethics processes, reinforcing ethical alignment across the research lifecycle. BARE's Open Science Committee is a national leader in this space, and is currently working on one of the first studies investigating the rates at which participants consent to share their research data with scientists around the world.

### Securing Funding for Initiatives

TOSI foundational funding enabled the launch and sustainability of our open science work. We also secured two summer studentships from the University of Toronto Data Sciences Institute (DSI) to further support these efforts.

## EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND ACCESSIBILITY

Highlights from the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (EDIA) committee at BARE include: holding Indigenous Cultural Competency Training workshops, providing education about the issues facing Indigenous peoples, past and present; conducting and disseminating the second annual survey to learn more about BARE's overall diversity, its members' sense of belonging and barriers to feeling included; updating the Research Ethics Board/RRI Participant Database to ensure demographic information captures expanded sex, gender, ethnicity, and language data; and conducting a Toronto District School Board outreach event related to the scientific work conducted at the RRI.

### NEW VP, SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS

Baycrest welcomes Dr. Lei Wang as BARE's new Vice President of Scientific Affairs in 2025. A prolific and widely respected researcher, Dr. Wang has published more than 200 peer-reviewed journal papers, and is known for his ground-breaking work at the intersection of neuroimaging, computational neuroscience, and aging. In his new role, Dr. Wang will champion scientific excellence across Baycrest. He will provide leadership, foster collaboration, enhance research capacity, and ensure research is integrated with our broader strategic priorities.





## Honouring the Generosity of Our Donors

Baycrest is deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our donor community, whose generosity fuels our mission to transform aging and brain health.

We extend a special thank you to The Slight Family Foundation for their extraordinary \$9.5 million gift. This has been instrumental in advancing several key BARE initiatives, including the Kimel Family Centre for Brain Health & Wellness, Defy Dementia, the Koschitzky Centre for Innovations in Caregiving, and brain health workshops and online assessments. This support has enabled us to accelerate research, education and innovation, empowering healthy individuals to understand and reduce their dementia risk, and supporting dementia detection and diagnostics, treatment and therapeutics, and care – changing the trajectory of brain health for generations to come.



To keep donors and friends engaged, informed, and excited about the impact of their contributions, BARE launched a series of meaningful touchpoints – from exclusive webinars to scientist-donor lunches. These events offer opportunities to connect, learn, and celebrate the progress made possible through philanthropic leadership.

### Donors and Friends Engagement Initiatives

- [\*Ask a Baycrest Scientist – Brain Health & Dementia: Get Your Questions Answered\* webinar](#)
- [\*Unlock the Secrets of Brain & Heart Health with Baycrest's Leading Scientists\* webinar](#)
- [\*Optimal Aging at Home\* webinar](#)
- [\*Healthy Eating for Brain Health\* webinar](#)
- [\*Research & Clinical Training at Baycrest For a Better Tomorrow\* webinar](#)

**We sincerely thank all donors for their curiosity, partnership, and generosity.  
Your support drives every breakthrough.**



## Thank You to Our Generous Funding Partners 2023-2025

AGE-WELL

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Alecto

Alzheimer Society of Canada

Anavex Canada

Bial Foundation

Biogen

BioTalent Canada

Brain Canada Foundation

BrightFocus Foundation

Bristol Myers Squibb

Canada Foundation for Innovation

Canada Research Chairs

Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging

Canadian Institutes of Health Research

Canadian Nurses Foundation

Canadian Partnership for Stroke Recovery

Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation

Eli Lilly Canada Inc.

Grammy Foundation

Heart and Stroke Foundation

Hoffmann-La Roche

IGC Pharma

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INOVAIT

Karolinska Institute

Krembil Foundation

Medavie Foundation

Medpace Clinical Research

Mitacs

National Institutes of Health (US)

National Research Council of Canada

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada

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and Security

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Ontario Ministry of Health

Ontario Ministry of Long-Term Care

Ontario Research Fund

Public Health Agency of Canada

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Tanenbaum Open Science Institute (TOSI)

Toronto Dementia Research Alliance

University of Toronto

University of Toronto Data Sciences Institute

William Demant Foundation

Women's Brain Health Initiative

**We also thank the Baycrest Foundation and its donors for their continued support of research and education.**

# THANK YOU

to our Board, researchers, educators, staff, trainees, research participants, volunteers, external partners and collaborators, funders, and colleagues across Baycrest for your invaluable support in helping us lead vital research and education.





## **BAYCREST ACADEMY FOR RESEARCH AND EDUCATION**

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