

41st Annual Spring Research Symposium

Dialogue on aging

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024

9 AM–4 PM

204 Marshall McLuhan Hall, UMSU University Centre
65 Chancellors Circle | Winnipeg, MB R3T 2N2
University of Manitoba | Fort Garry Campus

8 AM

Registration desk open in 204 Marshall McLuhan Hall

Pre-registered attendees can pick up their name tags and program at a glance at the registration desk.

Walk up registration available for those who have not pre-registered.

9–9:15 AM

Welcome and introductions

9:15–10 AM

Morning sessions

Exploring the role of smart technologies in at-home rehabilitation

Amine Choukou, Ph.D., Associate professor, College of Rehabilitation Sciences, Occupational Therapy; Research Affiliate, Centre on Aging, University of Manitoba

This presentation delves into the expansive potential of smart technologies in at-home rehabilitation, with an emphasis on telerehabilitation, IoT-enabled rehabilitation, and their practical applications in remote settings. Dr. Choukou's insights stemming from leading the Active@Home Program® provide a distinct perspective on leveraging at-home rehabilitation with smart technologies to support remote communities. The discussion includes the feasibility of VR-based cognitive telerehabilitation and remote hand therapy, shedding light on the evolving landscape of at-home rehabilitation and its intersection with the evolving needs of the aging population.

10–10:30 AM

University of Manitoba efforts to improve its age inclusivity

Michelle Porter, Ph.D., Director, Centre on Aging; Professor, Faculty of Kinesiology and Recreation Management, University of Manitoba

In 2016, the University of Manitoba became one of the first universities in the world and the first university in Canada to join the global Age-friendly University network established by Dublin City University in Ireland. Since 2016, the University of Manitoba has engaged in many initiatives to improve its age inclusivity, with the Centre on Aging taking on a leadership role for many of them. In this presentation, an overview will be given on many projects and initiatives that have occurred recently, focusing on those led by the Centre on Aging.

10:30–11:15 AM

Morning break

Light refreshments will be served in the multi-purpose room (MPR). Attendees can also visit the food vendors, or bring their own reusable bottle to fill up at the water stations on the Fort Garry Campus.

Visit the multi-purpose rooms (MPR) to

- view the researcher posters or find virtual posters on the Centre's Web site on May 8
- connect with the Exhibitors in the MPR
- visit the Age-Friendly University Showcase.

11:15 AM–12 PM

Older adults' roles in economic development in Indigenous communities: Lessons from Taiwan

Hai Luo, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Faculty of Social Work; Research Affiliate, Centre on Aging, University of Manitoba

Indigenous Taiwanese have a history of 7000 years. During the last 400, multiple colonial regimes caused permanent damages to Indigenous cultures and life. Since the Indigenous rights movements in the 1980s, the government of the Republic of China has modified its constitutions and adopted new policies to return to Indigenous Peoples their autonomy, cultural rights, welfare rights, land title, and other rights. Indigenous communities, however, face tremendous challenges in developing sustainable economics in the context of revitalizing damaged cultures and identity. Following a concise summary on changes and challenges faced by Indigenous older adults in the current society, this presentation will demonstrate how older adults have played active roles collaborating with younger generations in community economic development and cultural revitalization. Suggestions for policy makers and frontline workers of Indigenous affairs within and beyond Taiwan will conclude the presentation.

12–1 PM

Lunch break

Symposium attendees are encouraged to bring their own lunch, or visit any of the restaurants found throughout the Fort Garry Campus.

Visit the MPR to

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1:00–1:45 PM

Afternoon sessions

How do long-term residential care staff understand and use space to prevent violence?

Rachel Herron, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Geography and Environment; founding Director of the Centre for Critical Studies of Rural Mental Health, Brandon University; Canada Research Chair in Rural and Remote Mental Health (Tier II); Research Affiliate, Centre on Aging, University of Manitoba

Long-term residential care (LTRC) should be a safe place to work and to live; yet there is increasing recognition that it can be a site of violent situations for older people and staff. In this presentation, I explore how staff control and manage the risk of violent situations in LTRC. Data for this presentation are drawn from a four-year research project funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, which included telephone and web-based semi-structured interviews in Manitoba and Nova Scotia from 2021–2023. LTRC staff described having access to and support from other staff as an important feature of safe places. They also emphasized visibility, opportunities to escape from violent or threatening situations, being cognizant of objects that may be used as weapons and moving some residents to other tables, rooms, or specialized units. Finally, some staff acknowledged tensions between person-centred care and protecting staff and resident safety. Our analysis raises concerns about whether the management of space, objects, and activities employed to promote safety contribute to the care and dignity of older people.

1:45–2:30 PM

The Conceptual Framework for Adult Community Rehabilitation: A Manitoba-made framework to support policy, planning, care and research

Kathryn Sibley, Ph.D., Associate professor, Community Health Sciences and College of Rehabilitation Sciences, University of Manitoba; Canada Research Chair in Integrated Knowledge Translation in Rehabilitation Sciences; Director of Knowledge Translation, George and Fay Yee Centre for Healthcare Innovation; Research Affiliate, Centre on Aging, University of Manitoba

Rehabilitation interventions can help people attain and maintain function in homes and community settings, but it is well-recognized that existing organization of services is disjointed and fragmented. In this presentation I will share how our team of Manitoba health system leaders and university researchers partnered in the development of a conceptual framework for community rehabilitation, using data from 194 relevant documents and 30 Canadian programs, interviews with 29 Manitoba rehabilitation service and system providers, and 6 older Manitobans receiving services and their family caregivers. I will discuss potential applications and implementation planning for the framework, and explore possible next steps.

2:30–3:00 PM

Afternoon break

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3:00–3:45 PM

In-home companion robots to support wellness

James E. Young, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Computer Science; Research Affiliate, Centre on Aging, University of Manitoba

Robots can be designed to interact with people socially, similar to a person or pet, providing companionship, comfort, and a range of supports. Research has demonstrated how these social robots can create emotional connections with people, positively influence mood and behavior, and provide a range of wellness benefits. This provides exciting opportunities to support older adults, particularly given how society is becoming increasingly isolated and older adults are facing the related mental-health challenges. In this talk we will present our recent work on companion robots, including demonstrating prototypes, and discuss future directions for exploring companion robots to support older adults.

3:45–4 PM

Spring Research Symposium concludes

JOIN US LIVE OR ONLINE

The 41st Annual Spring Research Symposium will take place in a hybrid format. Join us in person or virtually. There is no cost to attend, but registration is required. Register using the online form: <https://forms.office.com/r/RKMcZyTNMM>, or call our office 204-474-8754 to register by phone.

For those joining us online, sessions will be streamed in real-time (not archived). Complete the registration form to receive the online link closer to the Symposium date.

In addition to the presentations, Symposium attendees are invited to visit the poster sessions to learn about other research students and researchers are conducting, connect with exhibitors, and view the Age-friendly University showcase that will take place over the lunch hour and during the breaks in the MPR.

Active transportation options

UM campuses feature numerous pedestrian pathways and [active transportation routes](#), offering numerous options for physical activity and opportunities to enjoy shared spaces on Fort Garry Campus.

Parking information

If you will be driving or carpooling to this year's Spring Research Symposium, various metered lots and paid parking lots are available on the Fort Garry Campus. For more information, visit our Web site to find links for transportation resources and parking maps: <https://umanitoba.ca/centre-on-aging/research/spring-symposium>.

Taking the bus

Symposium attendees can get off at stops on the Fort Garry Campus near the UMSU University Centre building. Navigate your route to the Fort Garry campus using Winnipeg Transit's [Navigo trip planner](#).

The University of Manitoba is committed to achieving accessibility for those disabled by barriers. Please contact the Centre on Aging by email at coaman@umanitoba.ca or call 204-474-8754 in advance if you require any accessibility accommodations to participate.

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