

# 2024-25 ANNUAL REPORT

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# 2025 STRATEGIC PLAN

This year, we launched new strategic priorities after months of engagement and consultations with our stakeholders. These priorities will guide our efforts in knowledge translation and dissemination. We look forward to the collaborations and partnerships this year will bring.

## VISION

To enhance evidence-informed decision making for policy and practice so that all Canadians can age in the right place.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Enhance support and safety for the care economy.
- Inform opportunities for improvement across the care continuum.
- Promote access to information for patients, providers and family members.



## A message from the **SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR**

This past year I am proud of the work that APPTA has done to build networks, connect with interesting initiatives like MINT memory clinic, and publishing like the Innovation to Implementation Pathways project. Our small team works hard to play its unique role in the Canadian policy space, and at this moment there is more opportunity than ever for Canadian innovators to make improvements in the way people age in place. Canada is going to face economic challenges with the current political environment, so a focus on effectiveness and efficiency through technological change is going to be of great strategic importance in the near future. APPTA will continue to play the part of knowledge broker to lower the barriers to effective adoption.



## A message from the **DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS**

This year, our work focused on innovation and our role in facilitating the adoption of promising solutions in aging care. In the spring, we secured a Dalhousie Advancement Fund grant to develop a research repository—a framework to house information on innovative, evidence-based projects and practices that improve outcomes for older adults. This collaborative, ongoing initiative will continue into 2025-2026.

In the summer, we engaged our stakeholder network in our strategic planning process, establishing new priority areas that will shape future partnerships and initiatives. We are excited to collaborate with new and existing partners in supporting the care economy, improving care across the continuum, and enhancing access to information to help individuals navigate complex systems.

Finally, we are thrilled to have released our latest report, Innovation to Implementation Pathways, which explores implementation and decision-making models that drive health technology adoption. This report offers valuable insights into the realities of technology uptake and highlights opportunities to expand access to technologies that empower individuals to age well.



# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



AGE-WELL is Canada's Technology and Aging Network. As a dynamic pan-Canadian network with global reach, AGE-WELL has mobilized a vast community of researchers, older adults, caregivers, partner organizations and future leaders to accelerate the delivery of technology-based solutions that make a meaningful difference in the lives of older Canadians and their caregivers. AGE-WELL serves as a catalyst for technological innovation that supports healthy aging while driving Canada's growing AgeTech sector. AGE-WELL's groundbreaking programs are funded by the Government of Canada through Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, and the Networks of Centres of Excellence program.



ResearchNB was created in 2023 as a merger of the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation (NBHRF) and BioNB with an expanded mandate to co-ordinate, support and promote research in New Brunswick. The long-term vision of ResearchNB is to provide leadership and support to enhance New Brunswick's research capacity and competitiveness. This will ultimately lead to economic development opportunities and improvements in policy.

# OUR TEAM



**DANIEL DUTTON**  
Scientific Director



**LAUREN DELANEY**  
Strategy and  
Partnerships  
Coordinator



**JENNA RODDICK**  
Director of Operations



**PATRICK PATTERSON**  
Knowledge Broker



**LYNE OUELLET**  
Research Assistant



**CASSY HEMPHILL**  
Communications  
and Engagement  
Coordinator

# 2024-2025

## A YEAR IN REVIEW

### OUR OUTPUTS

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# 2024 POLICY ROUNDS

Policy Rounds was launched as a joint effort between APPTA and AGE-WELL. It is a public webinar series that aims to translate research in technology and aging into short policy brief presentations.



**Paula Pickard, RN BN**

Coordinated Aging in Place Services (CAPS) with Intergrated Primary Health Care



**Dr. Catherine Bigonnesse, Ph.D**

Using Geographic Data for Policy Planning and Program Development in Canadian Communities Facing Accelerated Aging



**Dr. R. Lee Kirby, MD FRCPC**

Wheelchair Skills Assessment and Training: From Research Evidence to Clinical Practice



**Dr. Sejal Bhalla, Ph.D.**

Wheelchair Skills Assessment and Training: From Research Evidence to Clinical Practice



**Dr. Natasha Gallant**

Digital Health Interventions in Older Adults Populations Living with Chronic Disease in Developed Countries: A Scoping Review



**Dr. Tracey Rickards, BN, RN, MN, PhD**

Enhancing Diabetic Foot Ulcer Care for Remote Rural Seniors: The Power of Mobile NIRS Imaging Technology



**Jim Closs, CXO CareTech Solutions**

The CareFall Program: Using Science As A Falls Predictor

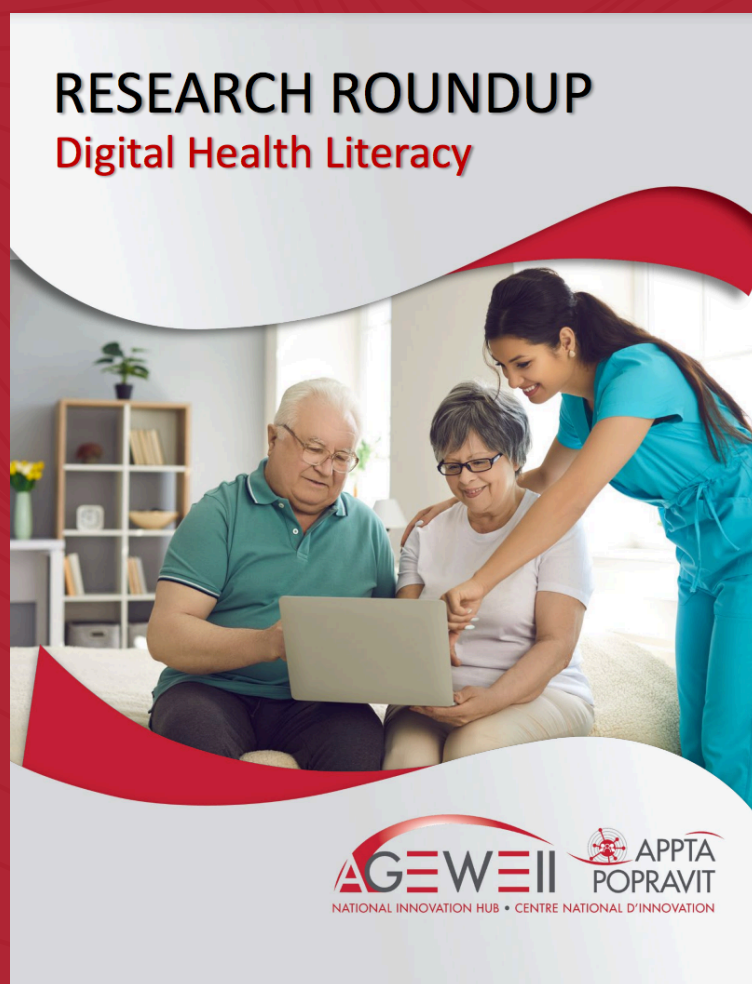


# 2024-2025

## KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION

### RESEARCH ROUNDUP

In 2025, APPTA released a Research Roundup focusing on digital health literacy among older adults. This comprehensive review highlights the growing importance of equipping seniors with the skills to navigate electronic health information effectively. The report underscores that, as healthcare services increasingly adopt digital platforms, enhancing digital health literacy is essential for older adults to access and benefit from these services fully. The roundup also presents various training strategies and programs designed to improve digital health literacy, emphasizing the need for tailored approaches to meet the unique needs of the aging population. This initiative reflects APPTA's commitment to fostering innovation and informed policy-making in the care of older Canadians.



[Click here to read more!](#)



# 2024-2025

## KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION

### JURISDICTIONAL SCAN

In November 2024, APPTA released a comprehensive jurisdictional scan titled "Diabetes Management Technology Coverage in Canadian Provinces." This report provides an in-depth analysis of the disparities in access and affordability of diabetes management technologies, specifically focusing on continuous glucose monitors (CGMs) and insulin pumps across various Canadian jurisdictions. The scan highlights the pressing need for equitable access to these essential tools, especially given the rising prevalence of diabetes among older adults. By examining the current landscape of coverage, the report aims to inform policy development and promote strategies that enhance support for individuals managing diabetes nationwide.



#### JURISDICTIONAL SCAN

DIABETES MANAGEMENT TECHNOLOGY COVERAGE  
IN CANADIAN PROVINCES



[Click here to read more!](#)

# 2024-2025

## KNOWLEDGE TRANSLATION

### EVIDENCE SYNTHESIS

In March 2025, the AGE-WELL National Innovation Hub, APPTA, released *Innovation to Implementation Pathways*, a report on evaluating and implementing non-drug health technologies. It provides an overview of Health Technology Assessment (HTA), its limitations, and complementary strategies like multi-criteria decision analysis. The report also explores implementation theories, models, and frameworks to strengthen policy and practice decisions. By integrating these approaches, stakeholders can improve evaluation criteria, including usability and implementability. This publication highlights APPTA's commitment to bridging the gap between innovation and real-world adoption, ultimately enhancing health outcomes and system efficiency across Canada.



[Click here to read more!](#)



# 2024 VISIONS FOR CHANGE

Winners of this year's Policy Challenge had the exclusive opportunity to work closely with policy experts and learn firsthand how to align their research findings with a Canadian policy priority. This year, we were fortunate to mentor two research trainees in our program:



**Mir Nabila Ashraf**

**University of Regina in the Centre on Aging and Health.**

**Question:** What are strategies to support government in improving access to digitally available health information for older adults?



**Mattea Kott**

**Western University – Bachelor of Social Science**

**Question:** What are the primary factors that contribute to premature transitions to LTC and what strategies or solutions exist to avoid this?

# 2024 CONFERENCES

## AGE-WELL CONFERENCE



This year we had the honor of attending the annual AGE-WELL and envisAGE Conference in Edmonton, Alberta. This incredible event brought together thought leaders, researchers, and innovators to explore transformative advancements in aging and technology. The program featured dynamic short talks, workshops, and symposia highlighting groundbreaking AgeTech research. Key moments included an inspiring keynote speech by Dominic Carter, interactive panel discussions like Home Reimagined: New Perspectives for an Aging Population, and the exciting AGE-WELL National Impact Challenge Pitch Competition.



# 2024 CONFERENCES

## ENVISAGE FORUM



Attending the 2024 ENVISAGE Forum in Edmonton, Alberta, was an incredible honour. The event brought together researchers, policymakers, healthcare professionals, and individuals with lived experience to discuss innovative approaches to aging, caregiving, and system transformation. The forum fostered meaningful conversations on enhancing support for caregivers, improving access to resources, and co-creating solutions that prioritize dignity and independence. It was inspiring to engage with leaders in the field and contribute to discussions that will shape the future of aging and caregiving in Canada.



# 2024 SYMPOSIUMS

## Healthy Seniors Pilot Project Symposium



We had the privilege of attending the Healthy Seniors Pilot Project (HSPP) Symposium on November 6–7, 2024, at the Fredericton Convention Centre in New Brunswick. This inspiring two-day event brought together researchers, policymakers, and community leaders to explore innovative approaches to healthy aging. Featuring expert panels, dynamic discussions, and networking opportunities, the symposium highlighted the transformative impact of HSPP's 66 applied research projects. The experience reinforced APPTA's commitment to evidence-informed strategies supporting older adults.

# 2024 SYMPOSIUMS

## Health Research Symposium: ResearchNB



2024

## Health Research Symposium

November 14th & 15th | Moncton, NB

APPTA had the pleasure of attending the 2024 Health Research Symposium in Moncton, New Brunswick, on November 14–15. Hosted at the Delta Beauséjour, this impactful event focused on “Powering Discovery Together,” highlighting innovative research across biomedical breakthroughs, clinical applications, health systems, and population health. Keynotes by e-Patient Dave, the Hon. Maryam Monsef, and Dr. Kenneth Rockwood underscored the intersection of data, patient care, and policy. The symposium offered enriching discussions and networking opportunities to advance healthcare innovation.

# PARTNERSHIPS

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This year, APPTA continued its collaboration with an inspiring network of organizations and individuals committed to advancing policies that support healthy aging in Canada

## **COURAGE Working Group**

Through our partnership, we contributed to the development and promotion of COURAGE's National Aging Strategy Policy Statement, a vital framework that outlines key recommendations to ensure older adults can age on their own terms. As part of this effort, we worked alongside SE Health, the Covenant family, and other thought leaders in aging care to highlight the critical role of age-friendly policies in reducing healthcare strains, supporting caregivers, and enhancing quality of life. With Canada allocating nearly half of its healthcare budget to older adults, the need for a national aging strategy has never been more pressing. We are proud to align with Courage: Action for Better Aging in advocating for sustainable healthcare, economic stability, and a society where older adults and caregivers are supported. We look forward to continuing this essential work in the year ahead.

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## **MINT Memory Clinic**

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APPTA has been delighted to partner with the MINT Memory Clinic team since this summer to plan and disseminate the model through APPTA's Community of Practice and government network. The MINT Memory Clinic training model integrates primary care with specialist care and community services to save costs, reduce wait times and improve dementia care access. A 2019 independent MINT Memory Clinic model evaluation commissioned by the Ontario Ministry of Health showed a 55 per cent reduction in inpatient hospital costs inclusive of ALC days, 50 per cent reduction in emergency department visit costs, and a 20 per cent reduction in long term care costs compared to status quo care.

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## **Caregiving Excellence Canada**

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This year, APPTA connected with the Canadian Centre for Caregiving Excellence (CCCE) Canada to discuss our aligned work and focus on supporting the care economy. APPTA is proud to support and champion CCCE's National Caregiving Strategy for Canada and the 5 pillars of (1) supports, programs and services for caregivers, (2) supports for caregivers in work and education, (3) financial supports for care recipients, (4) build a sustainable care provider workforce, and (5) leadership and recognition.





# THANK YOU!