

# Seniors Health Strategic Clinical Network

Dr. James L. Silvius receives the  
Canadian Medical Association's  
Dr. William Marsden Award in  
Medical Ethics



James L. Silvius BA(Oxon) MD FRCPC, SH SCN Senior Medical Director (middle)

In Alberta, the name of Dr. James Silvius is synonymous with the issue of medical assistance in dying (MAiD) because he played such a key role in preparing the province for federal legislation dealing with that controversial subject. In 2015, following the Supreme Court of Canada ruling that struck down the Criminal Code ban on MAiD, Alberta Health Services (AHS) appointed Dr. Silvius to lead MAiD preparedness for the organization. Recognizing that the work was broader than AHS, he spent hundreds of hours working with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta and others as he solicited diverse viewpoints on the issue and consulted with individual physicians.

To quote one colleague, "he brought the wealth of knowledge and perspectives from across Alberta, Canada and the world to ensure the best possible program. In a very short time he led a process to prepare the entire organization for what is one of the most significant changes to medical practice we have seen in decades." He was also instrumental in the development of a Palliative and End-of-Life Care framework for Alberta.

Dr. Silvius is the Provincial Medical Director for the Provincial Continuing Care Team and the Senior Medical Director for the Seniors Health Strategic Clinical Network™. The lead role he played in the MAiD debate in Alberta reflected his long-standing involvement and expertise in many issues surrounding care for the elderly, including dementia care, elder abuse and drug management with seniors.

 [Global News](#)

Issue 3 October 2017

## 'REFRESH' of our SH SCN Transformation Roadmap

This "refresh" of the Transformational Roadmap is an opportunity for the SH SCN to celebrate the accomplishments achieved over the past three years.

A critical look at the present has led to the identification of upcoming opportunities for innovation, and to refine the SCN's areas of focus as we all work together to build a better future for Alberta's seniors.

 [2017-2020  
Transformational](#)

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Visit [www.ahs.ca/scns/Page7702.aspx](http://www.ahs.ca/scns/Page7702.aspx) to learn more about the Seniors Health Strategic Clinical Network

## Dementia Patients Get Creative During Art Program



By Calgary Seniors Housing Forum Society

Art therapy for adults with dementia has proven to have a positive effect on both the patients and the nursing students involved in the adult day program. A diagnosis of dementia, for yourself or for a loved one, means one thing for sure: your life is going to change.

Your relationships, your daily routine, your activities and your independence will all be affected, whether you have dementia or you're caring for someone who does.

## Provincial Conference: Innovative Primary Care Models for Seniors' Health

150 primary health care practitioners (physicians, nurses, allied health professionals), researchers, and representatives from community partner organization will be at this Provincial conference. Heighten your awareness of frailty, its impact on the health care system, and the essential role of primary care. Learn about current innovative models of seniors' care and take home strategies to improve inter-professional communication and practice management. Hear from patients and caregivers on care experiences in the community. Network with other attendees and explore the provincial context of system-wide change being pursued to enhance primary health care.

### Where:

Sheraton Red Deer Hotel: 3310 50 Avenue, Red Deer, Alberta

### When:

October 10, 2017 from 8:00am – 3:30pm



\*This Provincial conference is organized by the Seniors' Community Hub—Edmonton Oliver Primary Care Network in collaboration with Alberta Health Services, Seniors' Health Strategic Clinical Network, and the Covenant Health Network of Excellence in Seniors' Health and Wellness teams.\*

 [For more information](#)

## Dementia Advice

Available through Health Link



So you or someone you love has been diagnosed with dementia. Now what? You most likely have a lot of questions about how to move forward. This page offers information to help you.

[Dementia advice](#) is available through Health Link and can be accessed by dialing 811.

[Dementia Advice FAQ](#)

[Dementia Overview—MyHealth.Alberta.ca](#)

## Come Face to Face with the People of Dementia


For years, Dr. Jeffrey Jamieson has had a vision



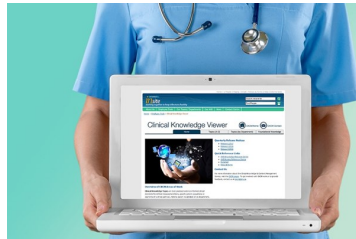
to create a forum where people living with dementia could tell their life stories and how living with the disease has affected them and their loved ones. He wanted to increase public awareness of dementia and to highlight the person who may be obscured by the disease. As a Care of the Elderly Resident at the

University of Alberta, Dr. Jamieson is making his dream a reality and researching the impact of this forum. Over the past few months, Dr. Jamieson and his research team have been meeting with people living with dementia and their care partners in Edmonton capturing their stories with both words and photographs. Dr. Jamieson: "By allowing the audience to form a connection with the individual prior to the disease, and understanding the changes that have come as a result of dementia to both the individual and their support network, I hope that our readers can have a greater appreciation for the vulnerable members of our society affected by dementia."

Please feel free to share the below link and to help Dr. Jamieson's research, scroll down to the "Get Involved" section and click the link to take a brief 2 minute survey.

 [Stories from real people living with dementia](#)

## New evidence-based clinical knowledge topics for Seniors Health



Clinical knowledge topics (CKTs) are comprehensive provincial recommendations based on best practice and available evidence. They may include decision algorithms, order sets, assessment/scoring tools, etc. that can assist clinicians in decision making at the point of care. They are provincially developed and adjudicated by physicians and clinicians across Alberta.

Seniors Health Clinical knowledge topics give Alberta healthcare professionals access to the latest evidence-based clinical standards.

### Seniors Health Clinical Knowledge Topics:

Dementia, Seniors – Inpatient - available now!

Delirium, Seniors – Inpatient (Coming soon!)

Frailty, Seniors – Acute Care (Coming Fall 2017)

CKTs are available from the Clinical Knowledge Viewer on Insite and will be built into our health technologies as possible to provide access to front-line workers. This work is being done to prepare for the future AHS Provincial Clinical Information System.

The Clinical Knowledge and Content Management (CKCM) Service facilitates the development of this work in collaboration with clinical operations, Strategic Clinical Networks (SCNs), provincial clinical services and content experts across the province.



For further information contact us at [ckcm@ahs.ca](mailto:ckcm@ahs.ca) or visit the CKCM Insite page.

## Seniors Health SCN™ Launches a Seniors' Health Research Priority Setting Partnership

Research studies generate information important to the healthcare decision-making process. The Seniors Health SCN™ aims to support research studies that focus on the things that matter most to patients and clinicians. To help us achieve this aim, we have launched a "Seniors' Health Research Priority Setting Partnership".

The first phase of this project will seek to hear from stakeholders from across the province on the unanswered questions that they feel are most important for future research in the area of seniors' health to address.

Patients (older adults 65+ years of age), caregivers of older adults (spouses, family members, friends, neighbours) and clinicians (healthcare providers across disciplines with experience caring for older adults) are invited to contribute to the survey to identify the unanswered questions about seniors' health that would be important for research to address.

The findings of this endeavour will set the foundation for future strategic planning related to the research supported and led by the Seniors Health SCN. For more information, or to take part in the survey to identify the unanswered questions important for seniors' health, please contact Billy Zhao by email ([bzzhao@ualberta.ca](mailto:bzzhao@ualberta.ca)).



### Seniors Health, Strategic Clinical Networks (SH SCN), Community of Practice

#### What is the Community of Practice (CoP)?

The SH SCN CoP is a network of people (approximately 370) who are passionate and knowledgeable about senior's health with backgrounds that range from Clinicians, Social Workers and Nurses, to Therapists, Physicians, Pharmacists and more.

The engagement, involvement and participation of the members drive the work of the SH SCN by providing ideas, suggestions and sharing your experiences and expertise.

Want to know more? Email [seniorshealth.scn@ahs.ca](mailto:seniorshealth.scn@ahs.ca).



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## Primary Health Care Integrated Services Initiative (PHC IGSI)



On June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 the first workshop in a series of three was hosted in Red Deer, Alberta. The theme of the workshop was *Supported Well, Living Well*, and the over 90 attendees from the participating Central Zone communities focused on the proactive role Primary Health Care (PHC) practitioners play in recognizing and supporting those living with dementia and their care partners to live well in community. Presenters included a care partner, the Provost Primary Care Network team, the Alzheimer Society of Alberta and Northwest Territories, and members of the Seniors Health Strategic Clinical Network™.

Comments from the post-workshop evaluation include:

“The team action planning session was very valuable - hearing the other team’s plans - gave more ideas! Collaboration and communication is so key!”, and,

“Overall, really excellent workshop, very impactful, looking forward to future workshops and exploring other opportunities for integration.”

Workshop #2, scheduled for December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – will focus on supporting people and care partners in community to *Manage in More Difficult Times*.

Beyond the educational workshops being offered, there is active planning within 8 communities participating in the initiative to further develop supports for those living with dementia at the local level. PHC partners participating in this initiative include Primary Care Networks, Alzheimer Society of Alberta and Northwest Territories, AHS Home Care, AHS Community Mental Health, and Family and Community Support Services.

For more information on the initiative, please contact Charlene Knudsen at [charlene.knudsen@ahs.ca](mailto:charlene.knudsen@ahs.ca).

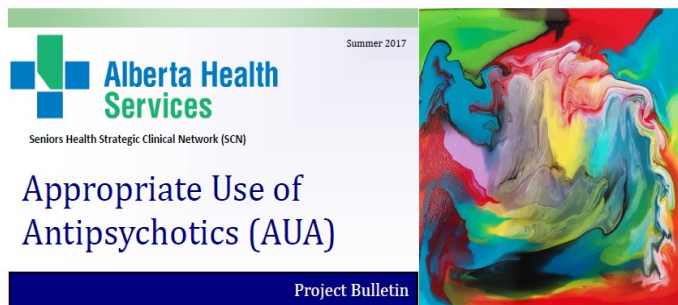


## Seniors Health SCN Welcomes New Senior Consultant Safia Khalfan!

Safia Khalfan (right) is a pharmacist with extensive experience working in continuing care, acute care and most recently in a PCN. She is also currently working on a Master of Health Care Administration through McMaster University.

She will be working on the development of a Provincial Strategy for Appropriate Prescribing-Medication Use for Older Albertans. This work will involve reviewing recommendations from national groups such as the [Canadian Deprescribing Network](#) and [Choosing Wisely Canada](#) and locating resources to help with medication reviews such as the ones on [BC’s Shared Care website](#).

Safia will connect with a wide range of stakeholders to help determine what approach Alberta should take to address polypharmacy in older adults: Focus groups will be set up with Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Pharmacists and care teams.



## Appropriate Use of Antipsychotics (AUA)

When the AUA Project was introduced to Long Term Care (LTC), people often asked, “When are you going to acute care?” Antipsychotics are often started in acute care for responsive behaviours in dementia, and for psychosis in delirium. Here is the news you’ve been waiting for!

### Special point of interest

We are working with the University of Calgary and a group of physicians to develop an education module for doctors regarding antipsychotic medication use in older adults with dementia. Plans are underway to have the module ready for sharing by the end of the calendar year.

