

A. SIXSMITH, A. MIHAILIDIS, J. SIXSMITH, M.L. FANG, L. BATTERSBY. **Ageing gracefully across environments using technology to support wellness, engagement and long life (AGE-WELL): A national research network in technology and aging.** *Gerontechnology* 2016;15(suppl):61s; doi:10.4017/gt.2016.15.s.719.00

Purpose A globally aging population necessitates innovative approaches to ensure people across societies can live and age well. Aging gracefully across environments using technology to support wellness, engagement, and long life (AGE-WELL)¹ is a national research network in technology and aging whose aim is to help older Canadians maintain their independence, health and quality of life through accessible technologies. The AGE-WELL network consists of a pan-Canadian network of industry, non-profit organizations, government, care providers, end-users, and academic partners working together to drive innovation and create technologies and services that benefit older adults. The mission of AGE-WELL is to stimulate technological, social, and policy innovations that support ‘aging well’ by harnessing the potential of emerging and advanced technologies in areas such as information and communication technologies, artificial intelligence, and mobile technologies. **Method** AGE-WELL exemplifies transdisciplinary working², transcending perceived boundaries between disciplines and integrating diverse perspectives from scientific and non-scientific sources to create new ideas and solutions to complex real world problems. Through its attention to participatory modes of research, development and knowledge mobilization, older people and other stakeholders will contribute to AGE-WELL ensuring that technology is developed with older people and not just for older people. The AGE-WELL plan includes a set of eight integrated work packages (WPs) comprising of individual projects in areas such as user needs analysis, technology development and policy and ethical issues. Four crosscutting activities work across all WPs and projects to ensure cohesiveness: knowledge mobilization, commercialization, team working, and training. **Results & Discussion** Through an ongoing strategic planning process, AGE-WELL will prioritize the over the next five years: (i) advancements in the technology and aging sector by creating a cohesive team of leaders in the field; (ii) accelerate innovation in the technology and aging field through the training of highly qualified professionals (HQPs) in unique, applied environments; (iii) conduct world-class research in the field of technology and aging; (iv) drive the development and commercialization of technologies to support aging well, and (v) develop a ‘Knowledge Community’ in technology and aging. The AGE-WELL network will strengthen Canada’s international leadership in the design, development and commercialization of technology and our research will ultimately contribute new solutions for older adults through technological, policy, and social advances that will change current practice. Our core work will identify the needs of older Canadians and their caregivers, develop effective and practical solutions, and implement these by overcoming current limitations in this field.

References

1. AGE-WELL. About AGE-WELL. 2016; <http://agewell-nce.ca/about-us>; retrieved May 31, 2016
2. Boger J, Jackson P, Mulvenna M, Sixsmith J, Sixsmith A, Mihailidis A, Kontos P, Miller Polgar J, Grigorovich A, Martin S. Principles for Fostering the Transdisciplinary Development of Assistive Technologies. *Disability and Rehabilitation: Assistive Technology* 2016; doi:10.3109/17483107.2016.1151953 (online)

Keywords: innovation opportunities, Gerontechnology, team approach, commercialization

Address: Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, Canada;

E: Sixsmith@sfu.ca