

## POSTER

### Health and Self-Esteem

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R. COLLINS, P. BARBATO. *Voice of our elders: How listening creates better innovation. Gerontechnology 2018;17(Suppl):153s; <https://doi.org/10.4017/gt.2018.17.s.149.00>* **Purpose** By creating opportunities for our elders to be deeply involved in the development, vetting, planning and purchasing of technological innovation, we can strengthen the product and the potential of it to scale. The added benefit is supporting our elders to feel empowered and engaged. **Method** We believe it is critical to engage elders in the process of innovation. Dr. Collins and Ms. Barbato will review a number of methodologies to do this including: Creation of the "Chief Elder Officer" role. This role is currently held by a 96-year-old former Mayor of a major Canadian city. This Chief Elder Officer is instrumental in ensuring the voice of elders is heard. Her work includes speaking to other elders about their experience, their use of technology and gaps in innovation; Creation of the "Resident Innovation Ambassador" role. Two individuals are currently in this role. They provide insights to innovators through one-on-one meetings. They test and review technology solutions. They are judges for innovation challenges, hackathons, etc.; and Engagement of Residents (elders) through surveys, interviews and focus groups. **Results & Discussion** The speakers will discuss the methodology and success of the engagement of elders in the process of innovation and reviewing technology. Specifically, the speakers will review three technologies under the theme of the importance of elder engagement. The three technologies are: Winterlight Labs: AI technology that can quickly and accurately quantify speech and language patterns to help detect and monitor cognitive and mental diseases; Steadiwear: The Steadiglove intelligently reduces hand tremors for all those who live with Essential Tremor and Parkinson's disease; and Braze Mobility: A wheelchair obstacle detection system to increase spatial awareness and to improve maneuvering abilities in tight and/or unfamiliar spaces. The discussion will focus around how these companies were able to collaborate with elders to improve their products and how the wisdom and advice of elders is being utilized to improve early technologies focused on a senior population.

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