

# Design and Dementia Community of Practice

Contact Us!

*To contact a member please click on their name.*

## Community of Practice Leads:

**Deb Bryson**, B.Sc.(OT), OT Reg.(Ont.), is one of two Psychogeriatric Resource Consultants (PRC) for Hamilton. Her host agency is the Alzheimer Society of Hamilton and Halton.

Deb is an Occupational Therapist with 35 years of experience. Deb has worked in chronic care at St. Peter's Hospital, outpatient and inpatient geriatric medicine and psychiatry at Hamilton Health Sciences (Chedoke), with a community Occupational Therapy high risk geriatric service through Hamilton CCAC, as a supervisor at a community therapy agency, and as a PRC, first in Haldimand Norfolk, and currently in Hamilton.

**Dr. Frances Morton-Chang**, MHSc, PhD. is a gerontologist and health policy researcher at Morton-Chang Consulting. She has been a lead for the Design CoP since its inception in 2008. Frances is currently a Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation at the University of Toronto. Her research interests include the mix of resources and enabling policy required to maintain frail and/or cognitively impaired seniors safely and independently in the community for as long as possible and as the need arises to transition well to enjoy vibrant living in alternative care settings (e.g., small scale housing; campuses of care). Her professional and academic experience spans a variety of health sectors, including homecare, acute-care, long-term care, and charities, with a specialty in the area of dementia. She is a sought after researcher, lecturer and educator and the author and co-author of multiple publications.

## Members:

**(Alphabetical order by first name)**

**Bill Benbow** is a Development Consultant, located in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, who acts as an owner's representative on seniors health care and housing projects by coordinating with Health Authorities and the major consultants and contractors in order to ensure quality, value and efficiency; and compliance with regulations and guidelines. In addition, he monitors the design and construction process to ensure that the project is completed on time and on budget. Recently he was the Development Consultant for a combined Complex Care and Assisted Living facility in Sooke BC. He has extensive experience as a Project Manager of capital projects and as a Capital Treasury Board Analyst with the BC Provincial Government. The Multilevel Care Design Guidelines Review was conducted with his leadership. He is particularly interested in the development and implementation of functional design guidelines in the fields of seniors housing and care facilities and has been published in this area.

**Jennifer Blaik** is one of three Psychogeriatric Resource Consultants (PRC) for York Region. Jennifer is a graduate from Brock University in the Recreation and Leisure Studies Program and then went on to complete a post degree program in Therapeutic Recreation from Georgian College. She has been working in Long Term Care and Community Agencies for the past 14 years and has really taken an interest in design and dementia.

**Jocelyn McGarth** graduated from McMaster University with a degree in Gerontology and Health Studies. Jocelyn completed her undergraduate thesis with Gail Elliot, Gerontologist of DementiaAbility Enterprises, on “Innovations in Wayfinding Using Cupboard Door Templates for Dementia”, which focused on the use of environmental cues such as directional arrows and signs on kitchen cupboards to help persons living with dementia better find commonly used items and places within their homes. Her research is currently being further implemented with Alzheimer Society of Hamilton & Halton through a pilot project called the New Horizons Wayfinding Program. Jocelyn is currently the Public Education Coordinator with the Alzheimer Society of Dufferin County.

**Peggy Pei-Chi**, OALA, CSLA, LEED AP, is a registered landscape architect, a certified user of Dementia Care Mapping™, and a doctoral student in health services research at the Institute of Health Policy, Management, and Evaluation. Her professional background includes working in the fields of landscape architecture and architecture, in Toronto and London (UK). She’s worked on local and international projects, including civic, athletic, historic, and corporate parks, city-wide master plans, transportation infrastructure, to commercial and residential buildings. Her varied experience has led her to believe scientific evidence and natural environments are important instruments for optimizing the health of communities. Evidence-based built environments can improve the health services system. Her research aims to build evidence on how the natural environments influence the health and well-being of residents and staff in Ontario’s long-term care homes.

**Rebekah Churchyard**, MSW, RSW is a Research Associate with Ontario Shores Centre for Mental Health Sciences. Rebekah was fortunate enough to journey her grandfather’s diagnosis of dementia with her family. Her grandparents’ legacy continues to inspire her contributions to this field. She is a Director on the Toronto Council on Aging (TCA), sits on the Accountability Table for the Toronto Seniors Strategy and is a World Young Leader in Dementia (WYLD). Rebekah is currently co-leading a Depathologizing Dementia Working Group. Rebekah also volunteers as a Social Work Preceptor at the IMAGINE uninsured medical clinic and as a therapist at Woodgreen’s walk-in counselling services. Rebekah’s long-term career interest is to study, develop and maintain Green Care Farm programming for people living with dementia in Canada.

**Sehrish Haider** is a graduate student in the field of Health and Aging in the department of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences at Western University. She is a physician by background, and completed her Medicine degree in Pakistan. She was also involved in a few research projects at Sunnybrook Hospital with a geriatric psychiatrist, Dr. Mark Rapoport, related to driving and dementia. She is currently under the supervision of Dr. J.B. Orange for her graduate degree. Dr. Orange is a Speech and Language Pathologist and specializes in communication and dementia. Her current research project focuses on identifying language and communication barriers that are experienced by culturally and linguistically diverse South Asian populations and their family caregivers while accessing the healthcare system in Canada.

**Stephanie Long-Riley**, B.Sc.(OT), OT Reg.(Ont.) is the Psychogeriatric Resource Consultant to Primary Care for the Toronto Central LHIN. She is also a consultant/owner of Sage Homes. Stephanie has 20 years experience in occupational therapy, including acute care, outpatient, and community settings in both Canada and the U.S. Stephanie's business, Sage Homes, specializes in adapting seniors’ homes to enable them to remain at home as safely and independently as possible.