

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.

Frances Morton-Chang 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 and is also currently a PhD. candidate in Health Policy at the University of Toronto. Her thesis examines the mix of resources required to maintain frail and/or cognitively impaired seniors (deemed eligible for LTC facility placement) safely in the community. Her work experience spans a variety of health sectors, including homecare, acute-care, long-term care, and charities, with a specialty in the area of dementia (particularly Alzheimer's disease).

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.

Bill is an active design and dementia community of practice member.

Genny Cho-Haley graduated from Ryerson University with a BScN degree. Currently, Genny is completing her Masters in Health Service Management. Genny has been a Patient Care Manager with Halton Healthcare Services since 2004 and is responsible for managing the Complex Continuing Care Units at the Oakville and Milton sites and the Transitional Reactivation Unit at the Oakville site.

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.

Jessica Luh Kim, M.A. , is the Associate Director of Education with the Murray Alzheimer Research and Education Program (MAREP), at the University of Waterloo. With professional experience in community, hospital, and long-term care settings servicing older adults and older adults with dementia or other disabilities, Jessica works with the MAREP team to focus on identifying ways to improve the quality of the lives of persons living with dementia and their families and to ensure that the voices of persons with dementia and their partners in care are represented in research, education, and practice. Jessica is very involved both in MAREP's research and educational initiatives/projects.

Jessica also works very closely with both persons living with dementia and family partners in care in the creation of By Us For Us (BUFU) guides.

Jessica is an active design and dementia community of practice member.

Jocelyn Hunt graduated from McMaster University with a degree in Gerontology and Health Studies.

Jocelyn completed her undergraduate thesis with Gail Elliot , Gerontologist of DementiAbility 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.

Jocelyn is an active design and dementia community of practice member

Sheva Zohouri of Snyder and Associates Architects Inc. leads the development and implementation of the firm's marketing and communications strategy, and brings extensive experience to better understanding clients' unique needs. To this end, she conducts research and helps keep the studio abreast of new and emerging design trends and strategies rooted in evidence. Sheva specialized in Journalism, Literature and Philosophy in University.

Sheva is an active design and dementia community of practice member.

Stephanie Long-Riley Stephanie Long-Riley, B.Sc.(OT), OT Reg.(Ont) is a consultant/owner of Sage Homes. She has 18 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. She also works part-time as a clinician on the Southeast Geriatric Outreach Team for the Regional Geriatric Program of Toronto.

Stephanie is an active design and dementia community of practice member.

Knowledge Broker:

Felicia White, B.S.W., is a knowledge broker for the Alzheimer Knowledge Exchange (AKE). Felicia has experience working in social services and community based agencies and is currently working on various projects that involve acknowledging and building upon the experiences of persons with dementia to ensure resources and tools are available to support a good quality of life and person- centred care.