

Seniors Health Priority Setting Partnership (PSP): Steering Group

The Seniors Health Priority Setting Partnership is overseen by a Steering Group. Their expertise and experience guide and direct the project at all stages. The Steering Group is comprised of older adults, caregivers of older adults, clinicians, agency representatives serving older adults, and members of the Seniors Health Strategic Clinical Network.

Dr. Adrian Wagg – PSP Lead and PI



Dr. Adrian Wagg is the Capital Health Endowed Professor of Healthy Aging at the University of Alberta. He is the Scientific Director of the Seniors Health SCN of Alberta Health Services. He has a research interest in healthy ageing, quality of care for frail older people and urinary incontinence. Adrian is the PSP Principal Investigator.

Dr. Wagg's [Declaration of Interest](#) statement

Dr. Heather Hanson – PSP Lead and Chair



Dr. Heather Hanson is the Assistant Scientific Director of the Seniors Health Strategic Clinical Network, Alberta Health Services. She is a gerontology researcher with expertise in mobility of older adults (physical activity, prevention of injury, and recovery of function) and a strong interest in moving evidence into action (knowledge translation). Heather is the PSP Chair.

Dr. Hanson's [Declaration of Interest](#) statement

Katherine Cowan – JLA Advisor

No photo available

Katherine is senior adviser to the James Lind Alliance (JLA) and has been involved in developing the JLA's methods since 2008. She has advised over 40 Priority Setting Partnerships internationally which have addressed a range of topics including dementia, Parkinson's, palliative care, sight loss, depression, multi-morbidity and frailty.

Katherine's [Declaration of Interest](#) statement

Sandy McMeekin – Patient Member



Sandy is a nurse with emergency and pediatric care experience. Sandy's husband was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis in 1980. She established a walk-in clinic, served as a palliative nurse manager with Carewest for 12 years, and 3 years with the Mental Health Consulting Team for long term care, retiring in 2000. Sandy's husband was admitted to continuing care in 2003. She gave her voice as a Patient Family Advisor commencing in 2014. She has served as a Patient Family Advisor in a variety of capacities (SH SCN Core Committee; Palliative care Innovation Committee; PERG; Continuing Care Quality Committee; Brenda Strafford Foundation Board Member; SH PSP Steering Group).

Sandy's [Declaration of Interest](#) statement

Frances Jamison - Patient Member

No photo available

Frances Jamison has worked as a home economist and educator and later, in construction and property management. She has done extensive research in the field of complementary medical modalities and how they can be effectively combined with the traditional medical model. She has volunteered extensively in support of education and health. Presently with CARP she is a volunteer advocate for seniors. Her interest in seniors health is based on her family experience with dementia to healthy longevity.

Frances' [Declaration of Interest](#) statement

Leslie Saunders – Caregiver Member



Born and raised in rural Alberta, family and caregiving has been the central focus of Leslie Saunders' life. After raising her 3 children she was a business owner, realtor and property manager. As a volunteer, she has been a spokesperson for community, education and environmental issues. A main focus in her retirement has been to maintain family ties and the care of aging parents.

Leslie's [Declaration of Interest](#) statement

Lisa Poole - Caregiver Member



Lisa Poole is a family caregiver. Her father has vascular dementia. Lisa sits on the Calgary Dementia Network Strategic Council, the Glencoe Club Dementia Advisory Group, Dementia Workforce Training Action Group and is the co-chair of the Brenda Strafford Dementia Friendly Communities Education Committee. Lisa founded Dementia Connections Magazine which aims to raise public awareness about dementia, reduce fear, shame and stigma, provide information and support for people with dementia and their families and provide a resource for the dementia workforce.

Lisa's [Declaration of Interest](#) statement

Pat Fonstad - Caregiver Member



Pat Fonstad has her Doctorate degree in physiotherapy and works clinically as well as teaching for a couple of universities. She is a physiotherapist with 44 years of experience. She has experience in all areas of physiotherapy, including working with seniors. She has worked with many local, and national and international sporting events. Her biggest and most important role is as the daughter of a woman who is currently in long term care. She is her mother's daughter and her therapist as well as her advocate.

Pat's [Declaration of Interest](#) statement

Katie Churchill – Clinician Member



Katie is an Occupational Therapist and Senior Practice Lead in Allied Health Professional Practice & Education with Alberta Health Services. She holds an adjunct appointment in Clinical Neuroscience at the University of Calgary. Katie has worked with seniors clinically and as a research-clinician. She now enjoys supporting other rehabilitation staff to build capacity around using and creating evidence to support practice.

Katie's Declaration of Interest statement

Suzanne Nichol - Clinician Member

No photo available

Suzanne is a Clinical Nurse Specialist with the Specialized Geriatrics Services team in Calgary, Canada. She is currently a co-chair for the Elder Friendly Care Working Group. Her current areas of interest in care include early mobilization to reduce hospital associated complications and sustaining best practices in caring for seniors in hospital.

Suzanne's Declaration of Interest statement

Dr. Karen Leung - Clinician Member



Dr. Karen Leung completed her joint MD/MSc at the University of Calgary before completing residency in Family Medicine and Care of the Elderly in 2016 at the University of Alberta. She currently works at the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital and Misericordia Hospital, and has a particular interest in rehabilitation for frail elderly seniors and dementia care. Her research interests include person-centered dementia care and systematic review and meta-analysis.

Dr. Leung's Declaration of Interest statement

Jessica Spence – Representative Member



Jessica Spence is an occupational therapist and a Senior Patient Engagement Consultant for the Strategic Clinical Networks (SCN) in Alberta Health Services. Her role involves providing strategies, guidance and coaching in patient engagement with over 120 patient/family advisors and SCN leaders. Her areas of interest include co-design projects and utilizing technology to engage patients/clients, caregivers and families.

Jessica's Declaration of Interest statement

Navjot Virk - Representative Member

No photo available

Navjot is a registered nurse who has worked in continuing care for 6.5 years. She has a Masters in nursing from the University of Calgary.

Currently, Navjot works as the Research and Innovative Practice Coordinator at the Brenda Strafford Foundation.

Navjot's Declaration of Interest statement

Nicole Smith - Representative Member

No photo available

Nicole Smith is the Director of Research and Community Engagement at Sage Seniors Association. She has a Master of Educational Policy Studies degree from the University of Alberta: her research interests include barriers to access for marginalized population, community-based learning, and the role of senior centres in supporting an aging population.

Nicole's Declaration of Interest statement

Billy Zhao – PSP Coordinator

No photo available

Billy is the coordinator to this Priority Setting Partnership. He is responsible for the day-to-day running of the PSP and ensures everything goes smoothly. His other tasks include communication with stakeholders, collection and management of data, and general administrative duties.

Billy's Declaration of Interest statement