

## Translating Research in Elder Care (TREC)

The Seniors Health Strategic Clinical Network supports the Translating Research in Elder Care (TREC) research program.

### Program Description

TREC is the largest longitudinal research program in North America that is studying strategies to improve nursing home (NH) work environments, enhance NH quality of care, NH resident quality of life and the quality of work life for NH care providers. Established in 2007 and led by Dr. Carole Estabrooks at the University of Alberta, TREC is a partnership program of applied research that actively involves over 30 researchers (from different disciplines) and more than 20 decision makers/policy makers from Canada and internationally.

The key aspects of TREC include:

- Excellent pan-Canadian partnerships
- Commitment to provide rigorous yet practical knowledge to assist healthcare reform
- Efforts to build and sustain provider expertise, enabling them to better deliver innovative and cost effective care.

TREC is comprised of a series of key interrelated projects:

#### *TREC Measurement System (TMS)*

TMS is TREC's major platform project and research technology. It looks at influences on quality of resident care and life, using data from residents and all levels of staff. Participating nursing homes play a key role in building this first and unique longitudinal database of its kind in Canada or elsewhere.

#### *Advice Seeking Network in Long Term Care (SNA)*

The SNA project identifies informal opinion leaders and nursing homes, as well as, those who "bridge" existing networks – both of which are key to successful spread of operational initiatives, innovation and the implementation of health new knowledge.

#### *Safer Care for Older Persons (in residential) Environments (SCOPE)*

SCOPE is improving safety and quality of care for nursing home residents by developing and supporting care aides as leaders of unit-based quality improvement initiatives and their senior leaders to support such efforts.

#### *Improving Nursing Home Care through Feedback on Performance Data (INFORM)*

The INFORM trial is evaluating approaches to accelerating the use of TREC research findings to influence an organization's context (work environment) by feeding results back to nursing home managers — and finding the most efficient way to feed these and other findings back to managers.

#### *Systems Projects*

A series of short term projects done together with decision makers. To date these have included identifying the burden of symptoms in the last 12 months of life, identifying modifiable responsive behaviors of dementia, and identifying a system level quality indicator for urban nursing homes.

For more information: <http://www.trec.ualberta.ca/>