



IDEA TO IMPACT

Cultivating a Community
of Research + Innovation



CENTRE FOR AGING
+ BRAIN HEALTH
INNOVATION
Powered by Baycrest

CENTRE D'INNOVATION
SUR LA SANTÉ DU CERVEAU
ET LE VIEILLISSEMENT
Propulsé par Baycrest

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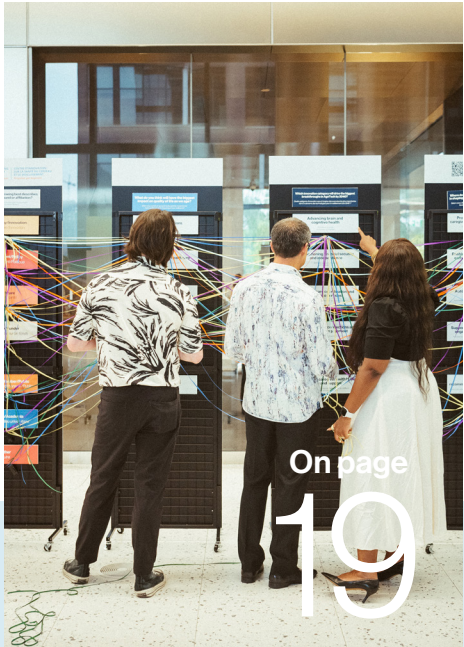


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MISSION

To drive the development and adoption of transformative aging and brain health innovations.



VISION

A world where every older person lives with purpose, fulfilment, and dignity.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- + Build innovation capacities through purposeful collaboration to co-create impactful solutions.
- + Accelerate innovation from idea to impact, supporting the development, validation, and adoption of aging and brain health solutions.
- + Transform the aging and brain health innovation ecosystem by forging dynamic partnerships and mobilizing knowledge to influence practices and policies.

LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Everything we do at CABHI—from our skill-building initiatives to our programs, partnerships, and knowledge mobilization activities—contributes to the development of the brain economy: our collective cognitive, emotional, and social capital. As the national and global populations continue to age, investing in the brain economy to improve long-term health is vital.

CABHI recognizes the need for healthy longevity in our society, so we have made it our mission to drive the development and adoption of transformative aging and brain health innovations. We work to achieve this mission by building innovation capacities through purposeful collaboration, accelerating innovation from idea to impact, and transforming the aging and brain health innovation ecosystem.

In the last year alone, we advanced our nation's brain economy by:

- + supporting the skill development of over 200 students and early-career researchers;
- + funding over 60 aging-related and brain health-focused projects;
- + engaging over 180 end users—older persons, people living with dementia, and their caregivers—through Leap to help refine innovative solutions;
- + nurturing over a dozen strategic partnerships; and
- + reaching over 77,000 people through education and knowledge mobilization activities.

Our extensive experience working with researchers, innovators, and entrepreneurs has helped us enhance the services and supports they need to thrive in the complex aging and brain health ecosystem. In response to their evolving needs, we developed and launched two new innovation programs over the past year: Ignite and Fuel.

During this time, we also launched two new initiatives geared towards early-career scientists, researchers, and innovators, offering them opportunities to join our Community of Innovation to jump-start their innovation journeys:

- + CABHI NextGen Support Package: Mentorship and skill-building opportunities for student innovators seeking growth in the aging and brain health sector
- + CABHI Science Collaborative: Opportunities for early-career scientists and researchers to learn about and engage with the innovation ecosystem

As we continue creating new programs and initiatives, our strategic partnerships help us broaden our impact across the country and around the world. For example, our role as a founding member of the Dementia Research and Innovation Funders Alliance and our relationships with other Strategic Science Fund recipients ensure we can work collectively to further our respective and joint missions, strengthening the national and global brain economy.

Our accomplishments and successes this year would not have been possible without the contributions of our Baycrest community, Community of Innovation, Board of Directors, and dedicated CABHI staff who exemplify our vision: a world where every older person lives with purpose, fulfilment, and dignity.



+ Joe Freedman
Chair of the Board
Centre for Aging + Brain Health
Innovation Board of Directors



+ Dr. Allison Sekuler, PhD
President and Chief Scientist
Centre for Aging + Brain Health
Innovation

CABHI'S IMPACT TO DATE

“

CABHI provided invaluable access to experts and older persons that helped validate and reshape our product [and] has been instrumental in setting us up for a meaningful next stage of development.

— Lauren MacKay, NextGen Innovator



5th 2024 - 2025

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**\$218
MILLION+**

in funding directed toward
advancing innovative projects



198,000+

Canadian older persons and
caregivers engaged directly
in CABHI projects



586

projects launched



6,500+

highly qualified personnel (HQP)
involved in CABHI projects



285

distinct solutions introduced into
the market or adopted into practice



\$87 MILLION+

in jobs created and
sustained



162

solutions procured with
CABHI support



\$1 BILLION+

in follow-on funding secured by
CABHI-supported innovators
and companies



430,000+

people reached through CABHI-
supported education, knowledge
mobilization, and communication activities



900+

new products, practices,
or services developed

7

INNOVATION THEMES

Core Themes



Aging at Home
Enabling older persons and people living with dementia to live in the setting of their choice and remain active in their communities for as long as possible.



Caregiver Support
Aiding or simplifying day-to-day caregiving responsibilities, providing education or training on caregiving topics, or helping caregivers maintain their own well-being while they care for older persons and people living with dementia.



Care Coordination + Navigation
Helping older persons and people living with dementia and their caregivers navigate the healthcare system to access timely and appropriate care, while also supporting healthcare providers in aligning their practice with long-term care standards.



Cognitive + Mental Health
Ensuring early detection of cognitive impairment or dementia in older persons, implementing preventative care approaches to maintain or enhance older persons' brain health (including both cognitive and mental health supports), and protecting the cognitive and mental health of healthcare providers and caregivers.



Financial Health + Wellness
Helping older persons remain financially independent, stay safe in the workforce longer, seek later-life employment, prepare for retirement, plan for financing care, and prevent financial exploitation.



Women's Brain Health + FemTech
Addressing the unique aging and brain health challenges faced by women, including those related to hormonal changes, caregiving stress, and disparities in healthcare access, while leveraging FemTech to empower women to enhance their healthspan and maintain cognitive, emotional, and physical well-being as they age.

Our innovation themes guide our decision-making to ensure our projects and partnerships address the most pressing challenges older persons face, ultimately helping them live a life of purpose, fulfilment, and dignity. When assessing opportunities, we ensure alignment with our core innovation themes and our cross-cutting innovation themes.

Cross-Cutting Themes



Diversity, Accessibility, + Health Equity
Ensuring aging and brain health needs are addressed and solutions are accessible for Indigenous, Black, and racially and culturally diverse communities; women; people living with disabilities; members of the 2SLGBTQI+ community; rural or Northern communities; or other vulnerable populations, and including issues of intersectionality.



Promoting Social Inclusion + Preventing Stigma and Elder Abuse
Creating opportunities and programs for enhanced engagement and social connection for older persons, including intergenerational programs, to combat ageism and stigma and support strong cognitive and mental health in older persons. Protecting older persons, particularly those living with cognitive decline and dementia, against elder abuse and other unsafe relationships.

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[CABHI's] funding, coaching, and expert guidance have been invaluable, not only helping us allocate dedicated resources to the project but also offering important lessons learned from previous technology implementations.

— Jordan D'Souza, Head of Innovation at VHA Home Healthcare, Discover + Adopt Program Participant

BUILDING INNOVATION CAPACITIES THROUGH PURPOSEFUL COLLABORATION TO CO-CREATE IMPACTFUL SOLUTIONS

Informing Innovation with Lived Experience

Impactful solutions are created with the end user in mind. Leap bridges the gap between end users (older persons and caregivers) and innovators, researchers, clinicians, and policymakers to ensure solutions are designed with, and informed by, diverse lived experiences.

Members are empowered to share their stories, learn from one another, and provide critical insights to innovators. This influential community works to ensure solutions make real-world impact and fulfill their intended purposes.

"[Leap created an] excellent opportunity to provide feedback [about] issues facing caregivers. This was my first time participating, and it was a great experience," said a Leap community member.

Leap integrates directly into CABHI's programs and initiatives as an acceleration service, ensuring innovators can refine their solutions based on end-user feedback. Current CABHI companies and innovators connect with the Leap team, which then coordinates and initiates focus groups comprised of diverse Leap community members. Opportunities to gather insights directly from end users ensures innovators can modify and refine their solutions, meeting the needs of their target audience.



↑ Early-career professionals at a CABHI-hosted event.
Photo: Wade Muir.

NextGen innovators are among those who gained access to Leap services and ranked it as one of the top acceleration services they received while working with CABHI. Frederick Drouin, a NextGen innovator from Displaid, was able to uncover clear actions he and his team could take to improve their solution—a non-invasive, wearable chest belt for heart failure monitoring.

"The focus group's hands-on format ensured we understood seniors' real-world needs, making it a cornerstone of NextGen's support," said Frederick Drouin, CEO and Co-Founder of Displaid.

"It empowered us to align Displaid with patients' expectations effectively."

With the takeaways from the Leap focus group, the Displaid team can refine their solution for both comfort and health monitoring efficacy.

Developing Future Leaders in Science, Research, + Innovation

At CABHI, we recognize the need to engage scientists and researchers—including trainees—in the innovation process to ensure innovations are scientifically driven and evidence-informed. Scientists and researchers bring critical perspectives to inform and influence the development, validation, and adoption of emerging innovations. To help early-career scientists, researchers, and trainees integrate into the innovation ecosystem, we launched the CABHI Science Collaborative (CSC).

The CSC provides unique opportunities for scientists, researchers, and trainees to complement and expand their skill set in innovation and confidently engage with a community of innovators, non-academic sectors (e.g., industry partners), and other diverse stakeholder groups, with a focus on two major skill-development areas:

- Innovation Capacity Building: Building and applying relevant skills through educational and experiential opportunities in innovation
- Scientific Advising in Innovation: Contributing expertise through scientific advising and mentoring of companies, innovators, CSC members (e.g., peers, trainees), and other stakeholder groups (e.g., healthcare organizations)

Since launching in the spring of 2025, the CSC has garnered nearly 150 members from across Canada. This number continues to grow with our active engagements with academic institutions and our participation in conferences and events.

Attracting the Next Generation of Innovators in the Aging + Brain Health Sector

Canada's aging and brain health sector needs new ideas, and the next generation is gearing up to develop them. CABHI's NextGen Support Package (NextGen) is designed to attract student and recent graduate innovators into the agotech space and help them develop the creativity, resilience, and skills needed to become successful founders and future leaders in this critical sector.

NextGen accelerates the development of post-secondary student and recent graduate led ventures that support older persons. The package consists of resources and services to advance the growth and scale of innovative solutions, including: \$2,500 (CAD), one-on-one mentorship opportunities, a custom agotech market curriculum, national networking opportunities, and a user-feedback session through CABHI's Leap platform.

CABHI welcomed six innovators from across Canada to participate in the first NextGen cohort, giving them the opportunity to learn from experts in the field, network with fellow innovators and entrepreneurs, refine their solutions, and gather actionable end-user feedback. Thanks to NextGen, these post-secondary students are better equipped to embark on the next steps in their innovation journeys.

Student innovators like Deena Al-Sammak took advantage of all the available NextGen offerings to ultimately advance her agotech solution.

"NextGen provided valuable mentorship, connections, and feedback that helped shape our product direction while balancing school and startup demands," said Deena Al-Sammak, Co-Founder of Power of Play and NextGen innovator.

"Engaging with aging and brain health stakeholders through the Leap Platform and Senior Advisory Panel was especially impactful!"

Deena is the co-founder of Power of Play, the creator of a grip strength measurement tool for individuals with weak hand function. After focusing largely on Power of Play's potential in the pediatric sector, Deena and her team realized their solution could benefit older persons; 40% of older persons with weak grip strength can lose their independence, experience isolation, and even exhibit early signs of cognitive decline.

This realization led Deena to participate in NextGen, seeking the opportunity to learn more about the agotech market and how her company could refine their product to suit this demographic.

"For an innovator who is at the customer discovery stage in the agotech market, understanding how my innovation is perceived in this market is critical to being able to determine the most effective business model and value proposition for this market segment," Deena explained.

Thanks to NextGen, student innovators like Deena obtain actionable feedback to refine their solutions, achieve their goals, and transform their ideas into real-world impact. +

ACCELERATING INNOVATION FROM IDEA TO IMPACT



Igniting Innovation Through Tailored Funding, Guidance, + Support

When designing solutions for older persons, Canadian innovators (including researchers and companies) often face critical hurdles, such as limited access to funding and high development costs, that hinder their innovation journey. These roadblocks can stall innovation progress and prevent promising ideas from achieving real-world impact.

CABHI understands these common yet complicated barriers and is helping innovators address them with a new program: **Ignite**. Ignite offers early-stage Canadian innovators between \$50,000 and \$150,000 CAD in funding and additional supports to help develop, test, and validate their solutions.

The program officially began accepting applications in October 2024 and received over 150 applications from across the country—a new CABHI record. After an intensive review process with an external selection committee, 23 aging and brain health-focused projects were selected.

All **23 projects** align with at least one of CABHI's six innovation themes:

- + Aging at Home
- + Caregiver Support
- + Care Coordination + Navigation
- + Cognitive + Mental Health
- + Financial Health + Wellness
- + Women's Brain Health + FemTech

As the Ignite awardees work with CABHI during the program, they will receive unique guidance and expertise in the aging and brain health sector delivered through a range of tailored services, including:

- + a custom Ignite learning series;
- + mentorship;
- + scientific coaching;
- + end-user validation services (Leap); and
- + access to CABHI's extensive network of academic, healthcare, and industry partners.

By supporting these aging and brain health-focused solutions and the founding innovators alongside them, CABHI is not only accelerating idea to impact but also supporting Canada's economy by improving brain capital—our collective brain health and brain skills—in older persons and innovators.

CABHI has designed an innovation journey for innovators, ensuring support is available at all stages along the way. With Ignite, CABHI supports early- to mid-stage innovators with developing, testing, and validating their solutions. Then, innovators can progress to Fuel, where CABHI supports companies and researchers achieve research and development, product testing,



Fueling the Innovation Journey for Early- to Mid-Stage Innovators

As innovators and companies advance through the innovation journey, CABHI offers programs every step of the way to meet their needs and accelerate their solutions. Frequently, Canadian researchers and companies encounter barriers when trying to access capital and value-added services to support research and development, product and service refinement, pivotal validation, and pilot trials. These barriers can erode market competitiveness and growth while also delaying novel ideas from solving the most complex problems older persons face.

To address these common barriers, CABHI launched its **Fuel** program in March 2025: a revamped version of the previous Mentorship, Capital, and Continuation (MC²) program in partnership with National Bank. Fuel offers successful applicants up to \$500,000 CAD to support research and development, product testing, and validation activities. In addition to funding, innovators gain access to a curated selection of CABHI's Acceleration Services designed to optimize their innovation journey.

+ Business + Corporate Consulting Services

Receive additional funding (up to \$5,000) to cover external consulting services to support milestone achievement.

+ Scientific + Research Consulting Services

Receive validation services (up to \$10,000 of support with activities such as study design and scientific and analysis consults) from Baycrest's Kunin-Lunenfeld Centre for Applied Research & Evaluation (KL-CARE).

+ Coaching + Mentorship

Access 100+ leading scientists, researchers, and industry professionals through CABHI's Coaches Community and the CABHI Science Collaborative.



↑ Sarah Lambert, Founder of Ora Medical (CABHI portfolio company), showcasing her company's solution at CABHI's 2025 Montreal Innovation Showcase. Photo: Steve Gerrard.

+ Talent Recruitment

Access funding to subsidize ~25% of the cost of hiring an intern, exclusively available to CABHI portfolio companies.

+ Customer Distribution Channels

Access CABHI's Innovation Network, a group of 100+ care delivery and industry organizations that are supported and activated to test, adopt, and procure innovations.

+ Customer Validation

Access end-user testing and customer discovery through CABHI's Leap platform, a community of older persons and care partners who can provide critical customer feedback.

+ Perks + Benefits

Access a range of discounted services (e.g., financing, legal, regulatory) from our partners in the innovation ecosystem that help companies grow and scale.

+ Investor Network

Access to a broader network of agetech investors, leading to greater opportunities for potential follow-on investments.

As the Fuel program began accepting applications, CABHI continued to support its final MC² cohort with their innovation journeys. +

Enabling Early Intervention with Xandar Kardian

What if clinical staff in long-term care settings were notified of changes in client health markers that could indicate future distress? What if they were able to assist clients before the occurrence of a medical incident? With Xandar Kardian's technology, they can.

Xandar Kardian, a Canadian company headquartered in Toronto, ON, is revolutionizing how clinical staff in long-term care settings support their clients by enabling early intervention thanks to radar signals.

Studies reveal that changes in vital signs—like heart rate and respiratory rate—can help predict future medical episodes. Based on these studies, Xandar Kardian developed monitoring technology that provides clinical staff with remote access to health indicators, allowing for early intervention that could save lives.

The company developed wall- and ceiling-mounted sensors that measure micro-vibrations from the body to track vital signs—heart rate, respiratory rate, motion, and presence—to inform staff of potentially dangerous changes that could lead to possible medical events. Remote communication of this data ensures that staff have the ability to monitor clients from a distance and intervene when necessary.

CABHI supported Xandar Kardian through the **Mentorship, Capital, and Continuation (MC²)** program's seventh cohort and introduced the company to business development connections in our Investor Network for continued growth.



Developing Technology for Early Detection with Darmiyan

The care continuum for dementia and other neurodegenerative diseases is often categorized into four key aspects: prevention, detection, treatment, and care. Early detection is paramount to preserving and prolonging brain health, as well as identifying the most suitable treatments. Darmiyan—a CABHI-supported medical technology company with operations out of Toronto, ON, and San Francisco, CA—has developed brain imaging technology that enables early detection of neurodegenerative disorders, such as mild cognitive impairment, Alzheimer's disease, and dementia.

BrainSee, Darmiyan's innovative solution, uses an artificial intelligence-powered algorithm to analyze a client's MRI scans and cognitive test scores to determine their cognitive health and potential disease progression. Results from BrainSee analyses help inform medical professionals of treatment plans to prolong cognitive well-being and postpone, or even prevent, the onset of dementia.

CABHI supported Darmiyan with BrainSee's clinical validation and helped the company secure trial partners—Baycrest, Hamilton Health Sciences, and University Health Network—to participate in its clinical study.

Having successfully obtained FDA approval, Darmiyan is working towards growth opportunities and additional trial site partners in Canada, and CABHI is helping the company reach these business development milestones.

Darmiyan's technology is revolutionizing the standard of care for individuals living with mild cognitive impairment, Alzheimer's disease, and dementia, and CABHI is proud to be accelerating its innovation journey. +

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Using AI, we believe that predictions can be more specific and accurate than ever before. CABHI's continuous support in Xandar Kardian has enabled the company to move from long-term care facilities and now into people's homes. We are extremely grateful for the assistance provided to Xandar Kardian from CABHI and we hope to open new chapters together in enabling proactive, healthy aging in place!

— Sam Yang, CEO / Co-Founder at Xandar Kardian



HELPING HEALTHCARE AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS DISCOVER + ADOPT INNOVATION

While the need and desire to introduce new solutions into care settings for improved employee and client experience are ever-present, healthcare organizations often lack the skills and resources required to do so successfully. This is where CABHI’s Discover + Adopt (D+A) program comes in.

The **D+A** program supports healthcare and community-based organizations (long-term care homes, hospitals, home healthcare organizations, etc.) to build their skills and receptivity to adopt innovation within their organizations through funding, training, and coaching.

Through the D+A program, CABHI matches healthcare and community-based organizations to companies with tailored solutions that target their pain points. After successfully pairing an organization with a company, CABHI supports organizations with building their skills and readiness to introduce, implement, and sustain innovation in their own settings while also connecting with peer organizations trying to address similar pain points. The companies also gain access to case scenarios and end-user feedback to further refine their solution for improved product-market fit.

During the 2024/25 year, CABHI supported 21 healthcare and community-based organizations in building their capacities to adopt innovations into their settings, seven of which have procured their solution and completed their procurement activities.

Integrated University Health and Social Services Centre (CIUSSS) du Nord-de-l’île-de-Montréal: Securing Solutions to Spark Social Engagement

It can be difficult to find accessible innovations that facilitate social engagement among long-term care residents, and it can be costly to integrate them into care settings. **Integrated University Health and Social Services Centre (CIUSSS) du Nord-de-l’île-de-Montréal** was experiencing this challenge firsthand and was seeking a solution to combat low social engagement among its residents experiencing cognitive decline.

CIUSSS du Nord-de-l’île-de-Montréal participated in CABHI’s D+A program with the goal of building capacity to adopt innovation into its organization and improve quality of care and life for its residents. As part of the program, CABHI facilitated a match between CIUSSS du Nord-de-l’île-de-Montréal and Obie: the creator of an interactive projector that displays games onto flat surfaces (walls, screens, tables, etc.), encouraging engagement through motion.

While taking part in the program, CIUSSS du Nord-de-l’île-de-Montréal took advantage of CABHI’s tailored acceleration services, such as:

- + D+A learning series sessions to access resources, support, and guidance while navigating the program; and
- + coaching sessions to gain additional support and overcome barriers throughout the adoption process.

The Obie projector was a huge success in targeting CIUSSS du Nord-de-l’île-de-Montréal’s pain point. By implementing the Obie projector, the CIUSSS du Nord-de-l’île-de-Montréal team noted improvements in client experience, confidence in care, cost-effectiveness of the healthcare system, cost-utility of the healthcare system, and ultimately, quality of life. The positive impact of this trial, exhibited through increased organizational capacity and outstanding outcomes, prompted CIUSSS du Nord-de-l’île-de-Montréal to adopt the Obie projector permanently into their setting. Internal leadership decided to support solution adoption without the use of CABHI procurement funds due to the overall success of the project.

In addition to finding a solution that met the initial pain point, CIUSSS du Nord-de-l’île-de-Montréal found the opportunity for capacity building and knowledge development the most valuable. The team will be able to use these skills moving forward, empowering them to broaden the application of this solution to meet additional resident needs.

Right at Home Canada: Creating Channels for Compassionate Communication

Aging in a setting of choice is one of CABHI’s core innovation themes; we help ensure older persons have the resources they need to age comfortably by accelerating innovative solutions that enable them to do so. **Right at Home Canada** shares the same goal: to provide a variety of home care services to older person, ensuring they have control over their care planning and access to the services they need to live well.

Right at Home Canada has a network of trained caregivers to support a range of home care needs, including companion care, personal care, nursing care, and specialty care. To improve the complete end-user experience, Right at Home Canada was seeking a solution that could offer more compassionate communication between the care planner, the care team, and the client.

Through D+A, CABHI facilitated a match between Right at Home Canada and enCappture: the creator of tailor-made mobile applications that help organizations optimize client communication and connection by streamlining operations through a central, customizable platform.

Participation in the program enabled Right at Home Canada to work collaboratively with enCappture from start to finish. CABHI’s strategic guidance throughout the process empowered Right at Home Canada to navigate the innovation journey—from designing to testing, refining, and ultimately procuring the solution.

Right at Home Canada benefited immensely from CABHI’s pre-procurement supports—such as user validation sessions and the development of training and implementation materials—to ensure the solution was the most impactful for their care teams and clients. The tailor-made application not only improved personal connections between care teams and clients but also reduced administrative costs by centralizing information. The application’s success prompted Right at Home Canada to approve additional internal funding for nationwide procurement across the country’s 57 offices. +

TRANSFORMING THE AGING + BRAIN HEALTH INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM BY MOBILIZING KNOWLEDGE



Christele Berthelot-Logsdon, CTS Advisor, presenting at CABHI's 2025 Montreal Innovation Showcase.
Photo: Steve Gerrard.

To realize our vision of ensuring every older person lives with purpose, fulfilment, and dignity, we are working to transform the aging and brain health ecosystem and drive system-level change. Our national partnerships help us drive these changes through collective efforts to amplify impact.

Dementia Research and Innovation Funders Alliance

In addition to being a founding member of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Institute of Aging (CIHR-IA) Dementia Research and Innovation Funders Alliance (the Alliance)—a collaborative network of research and innovation organizations that share a common goal of advancing Canada's national dementia strategy—CABHI is proud to be part of the Alliance's steering committee. This collective of 22 Canadian research- and innovation-focused organizations is supporting the national dementia strategy by:

- + accelerating research that deepens our understanding of dementia;
- + driving innovation to encourage new approaches to prevention, detection, treatment, and care;
- + leveraging data to identify needs, gaps, and emerging priorities in the ecosystem;
- + promoting equity to ensure all populations gain access to resources and supports; and
- + raising awareness to ensure widespread communication of discoveries, reduce misinformation, combat stigma, and advocate for system-level change.

CABHI actively engaged with the Alliance—and will continue to do so—through two of its three working groups: Funding Analytics and Communications, Knowledge Mobilization, and Dissemination. The **Funding Analytics** working group examines the Canadian research and innovation funding landscape to identify trends, gaps, and opportunities, while also analyzing the existing funding strategies to ensure maximum impact. While collaborating with the **Communications, Knowledge Mobilization, and Dissemination** working group, CABHI supports the group's goals of widely conveying the Alliance's impact, as well as the impact of other emerging Canadian-based dementia-focused research and innovation. The group achieves this goal by developing and implementing effective communication and knowledge mobilization strategies to build awareness and encourage system-level change across the country.

CABHI plays an integral role in the Alliance's work, contributing to a better understanding

of the research and innovation ecosystem to ensure findings reach our country's decision makers and inform policy.

Canadian Science Policy Centre

The Canadian Science Policy Centre (CSPC) is a forum for emerging science-, technology-, and innovation-related policy issues. As a Canadian leader in science-based innovation, CABHI's strategic objectives—building innovation capacities, accelerating innovation, and transforming the aging and brain health innovation ecosystem—seamlessly connect with the CSPC's work: connecting, convening, and catalyzing research to build an impactful science policy community in Canada.

During the 2024/25 year, CABHI actively engaged with the CSPC by leading a panel at the 2024 CSPC conference. The discussion focused on the Defy Dementia initiative, aiming to advance Canada's national dementia strategy by mobilizing dementia-specific knowledge and supporting risk and stigma reduction.

Dr. Allison Sekuler, CABHI's President and Chief Scientist, also collaborated on a CSPC editorial, spotlighting the need for enhanced funding opportunities for brain research and brain health to address the rapid increase of neurological and mental health diseases, and the associated global economic impacts.

In the coming year, we will continue to grow our active partnership with the CSPC, contributing to its science and innovation policy forum, including participating in its annual conference.



↑ String mapping exercise at a CABHI-hosted event to help inform the future of aging and brain health.
Photo: Wade Muir.

Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada's Strategic Science Fund

In 2025, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada announced the detailed funding amounts allocated to the recipients of the Strategic Science Fund (SSF); CABHI was among the 24 organizations that collectively received over \$850 million in federal funding.

The SSF recipients make up a community of Canadian non-profit science-focused organizations that are directly impacting the lives of Canadians. CABHI is proud to be working alongside 23 other prestigious organizations that are creating a more promising future for our country.

As we continue to work collaboratively with other SSF recipients, we will identify synergies to cross-promote and advance one another's accomplishments for widespread awareness and impact.+





←
Networking at CABHI's 2025 Montreal Innovation Showcase.
Photo: Steve Gerrard.

We cultivate an active and engaged Community of Innovation to mobilize knowledge and influence change in the aging and brain health sector.

Engaging our Community of Innovation

CABHI-Hosted Events + Meet-Ups

CABHI convened alumni, innovators, thought leaders, healthcare organizations, government officials, investors, end users, and persons with lived experience at several innovation events and meet-ups to connect, collaborate, and exchange knowledge.

2024-2025 Statistics:

- 14 CABHI-hosted events
- 2,500 attendees
- 100 companies in attendance
- 500 organizations in attendance

Defy Dementia Podcast

CABHI supported the production of the Webby-nominated Defy Dementia podcast, which empowers members of the public—an integral part of our Community of Innovation—to reduce their dementia risk through actionable tips.

2024-2025 Statistics:

- 11 episodes
- 103,392 website visits
- 308,450 total listens



Spotlighting Research + Innovation

CABHI hosted dignitaries, including The Honourable Marci Ilen, The Honourable Anita Anand, Deputy Minister David Wai, and members of the Israeli Consulate, as well as thought leaders, including members from the Canadian Brain Research Strategy, to showcase cutting-edge research and innovation in the aging and brain health sector.

CABHI's Global Thought Leadership + Active Engagement at Conference Panels, Workshops, Exhibits, and Trade Missions

To truly transform the aging and brain health innovation ecosystem, mobilize knowledge, and exemplify thought leadership, CABHI team members participate in various conferences and events at a national and global level. Below is a snapshot of our activities during the 2024-2025 year.

2024

- APRIL LeadingAge Leadership Summit in the United States
- MAY RIA's Walk with Me Conference in Canada
- JUNE Mary Furlong's What's Next Longevity Venture Summit in the United States
- JUNE Research Impact Canada's Canadian Knowledge Mobilization Forum in Canada
- JULY Alzheimer's Association International Conference in the United States
- SEPTEMBER Hong Kong Jockey Club's Philanthropy for Better Cities Forum in Hong Kong
- SEPTEMBER Public Sector Network's Healthcare Infrastructure Showcase in Canada
- SEPTEMBER Reverse Pitch: Canadian Ecosystem for Accessibility Startups in Canada
- SEPTEMBER Brain Economy Science Summit at UNGA79 in the United States
- OCTOBER This is Long Term Care in Canada
- NOVEMBER HLTH USA in the United States
- NOVEMBER Seniors Quality Leap Initiative in the United States
- DECEMBER BioFIT and MedFIT by Eurasanté in France

2025

- JANUARY JP Morgan (JPM) Healthcare Week in the United States
- FEBRUARY World Dementia Roundtable
- MARCH Ontario Long Term Care Association's Together We Care in Canada

Insights Report



Looking Ahead

We are laser-focused on achieving our mission: to drive the development and adoption of transformative aging and brain health innovations. To achieve this mission, our strategic objectives will continue to guide our efforts.

As we work with early-career scientists, researchers, and innovators, we will focus on skill-building and conveying the importance of co-design to ensure we are supporting the next generation of experts in the aging and brain health ecosystem.

We will continue to develop and expand our innovation programs to further accelerate idea to impact, providing innovators—scientists, researchers, and companies—with the funding and support they need to thrive.

Our strategic partnerships and knowledge mobilization activities, such as our participation in conferences, events, and initiatives—including the launch of **AgeTech Insights**—will continue to grow, contributing to our objective of transforming the aging and brain health ecosystem; after all, collective effort from our Community of Innovation leads to greater impact.

All aspects of the work we do will advance our strategic objectives, helping us realize our vision of a world where every older person lives with purpose, fulfilment, and dignity. +

LEADERSHIP + GOVERNANCE



↑ CABHI team members (L-R, T-B): Jon Suckling, Dr. Linda Truong, Dr. Tatianna Wong, Shira Levy, Tyler Redublo, Rhea Singer, Rosalind Sham, Emunah Awasthy, Shannon Matthews, Maame Panyin Darkwa, Mel Barsky, Dr. Rosanne Aleong, Shusmita Rashid, James Mayer, Dr. Allison Sekuler, Thaomy Cosgrove, Jesse Mastrangelo, Adi Rittenberg, Johan Chen, Katie O'Connor, Natalie Leventhal, Michelle Tigere, Karol Kamecka, Stephanie Omonibo, Aaron Bergner. (Not pictured: Ryan Webster, Dr. Ana Fernandez, Jenalyn Curzon.)

Remembering Ken Dryden (1947-2025)

CABHI and Baycrest honour and remember Ken Dryden, OC, cherished Board member, beloved colleague, and respected community member. His impact on CABHI, Baycrest, Canada, and the world really cannot be understated. May his memory be a blessing.

Leadership Team

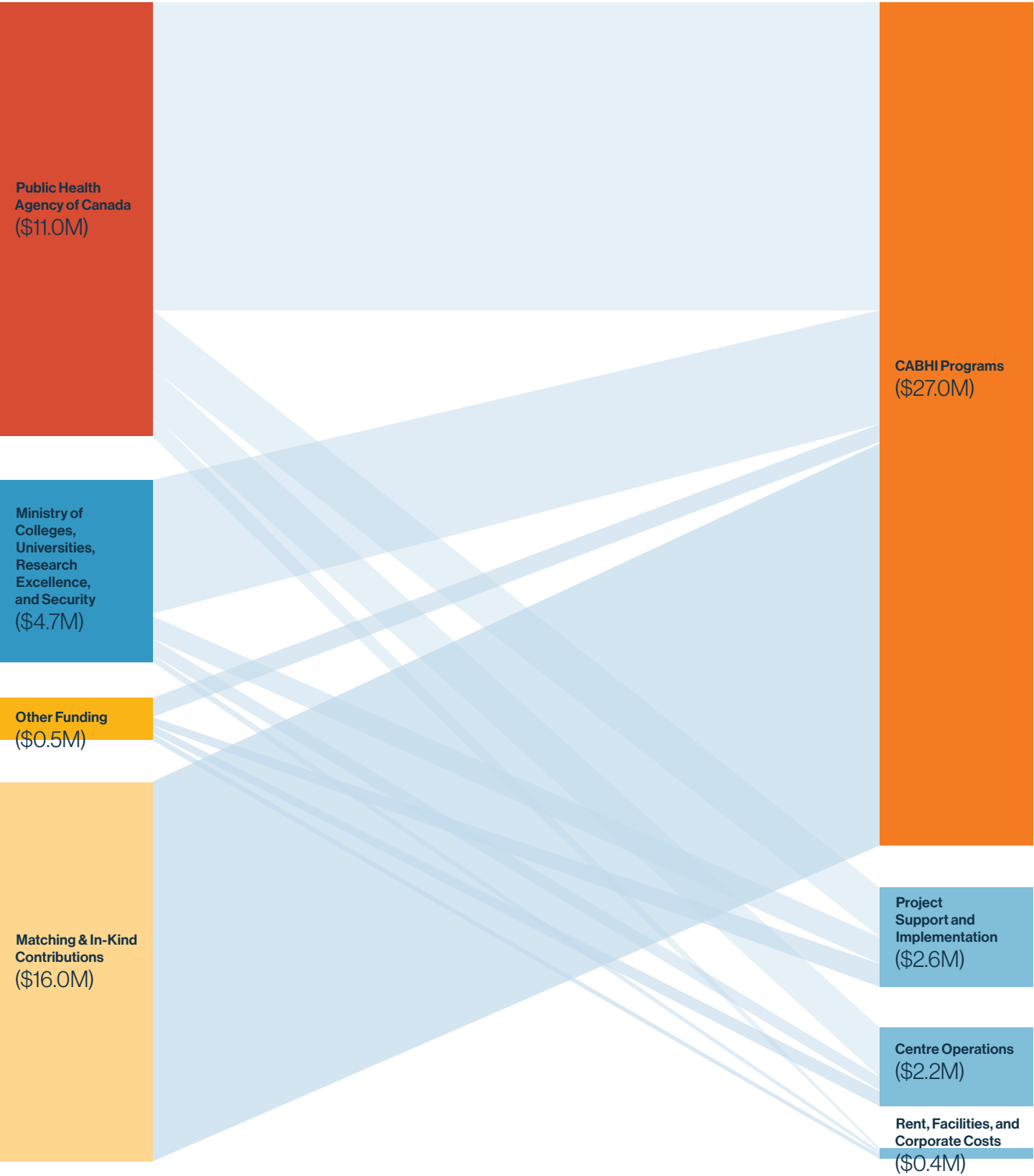
- Dr. Allison Sekuler**
President and Chief Scientist
- Bianca Stern** (until 2025)
Executive Director, Health Innovation and Operations
- James Mayer** (beginning 2025)
Chief Operating Officer
- Ryan A. Webster** (beginning 2025)
Chief Financial Officer
- Mel Barsky**
Director, Business Development
- Shusmita Rashid** (until 2025)
Director, Knowledge Mobilization and Strategic Relations
- Dr. Rosanne Aleong**
Director, Research, Innovation, and Translation
- Dr. William E. Reichman**
President Emeritus

Board of Directors

- Joe Freedman (Chair)**
Retired Private Equity Executive, Corporate Director, Brookfield Asset Management
- John Albright**
Co-Founder and Managing Partner, Relay Ventures
- Sara Diamond**
President Emerita, OCAD University
- Ken Dryden**
Member of the Baycrest Centre Board of Directors
- Jeff Blidner**
Vice Chair, Brookfield Corporation

- Chris Hodgson**
Founder, The Pivt
- Dr. William Reichman (Observer)**
President and Chief Executive Officer, Baycrest Seniors Care
- Shirlee Sharkey**
Past President and CEO SE Health, Board Director and Advisor
- Katie Smith Sloan**
President and CEO, LeadingAge
- Andrew Szende**
Founding CEO, Electronic Child Health Network

- Julia Kim**
Retired VP & IC, RBC Phillips Hager & North Investment Counsel



The Financial Report figures provided above reflect a summary of cash payments and in-kind contributions disseminated during the fiscal year. The figures are presented for illustrative purposes only and may not align with the audited financial statements for the year ending March 31, 2025. Readers are cautioned that this Financial Report may not be suitable for their purposes.

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