




CENTRE FOR AGING  
+ BRAIN HEALTH  
INNOVATION  
Powered by Baycrest

# Empowered Aging Through Innovation



*2021-22 Annual Report*



**CABHI** is a solution accelerator  
focused on driving innovation in  
the aging and brain health sector.

## VISION

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A world in which people not only age but *thrive* in the setting of their choice, maintaining their cognitive, emotional, and physical well-being and independence, for as long as possible.

## MISSION

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To accelerate the development, validation, commercialization, dissemination, and adoption of innovative products, services, and best practices to support aging and brain health.



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# Empowered Aging Through Innovation

Last year, CABHI's continuing efforts to empower aging through innovation in the aging and brain health sector resulted in significant achievements that are helping older adults age in the setting of their choice while maintaining their cognitive, emotional, and physical well-being.

Through the **Spark Program**, CABHI supported the development, testing, and implementation of 24 innovations by frontline healthcare workers and students. We invested more than \$1 million through the **Mentorship, Capital, and Continuation (MC<sup>2</sup>) Program, in partnership with National Bank**, supporting five early-stage Canadian healthtech companies with promising solutions aimed at improving the quality of life of older adults, people living with dementia, and their caregivers.

We officially launched **Leap**, our virtual community that connects ethnoculturally and geographically diverse communities of older adults, caregivers, innovators, and system partners. To date, Leap has enabled more than 600 members from Canada, the US, and the UK to attend more than 100 events, access essential learning resources, build community, and share guidance with innovators. Last year, members' insights helped us streamline the user experience and develop a new marketplace that curates leading agetechnology solutions for consideration and purchase.

CABHI also rapidly mobilized the **Learning Inter-Professionally Healthcare Accelerator (LIPHA)** platform, an innovative virtual learning platform that enhances the education and onboarding of skilled seniors care workers. Funded through an investment of \$1.2 million from the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities, LIPHA was developed and evaluated in collaboration with the Ontario Centres for Learning, Research, and Innovation in Long-Term Care at Baycrest and the Baycrest Academy's Rotman Research Institute.

We continued to expand the footprint of our network in the aging and brain health sector through formal partnerships with stakeholder organizations, including AGE-WELL, CAN Health Network, and Mohawk Medbuy Corporation. We continue to connect and build skills among communities of practice at local, national, and international levels. Finally, we hosted our fourth annual **CABHI Summit** in March, with the first day dedicated to exploring agetechnology and human connection with older

adults and caregivers, and the second day focused on innovators and the business of aging well. More than 800 attendees from over 25 countries tuned in to hear more than 50 speakers and learn from 60+ exhibitors.

These significant achievements would not be possible without the support of our generous funders, the Public Health Agency of Canada, the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, the Baycrest Foundation, and National Bank. I'm also extremely grateful to our Board of Directors, Seniors Advisory Panel, wider Baycrest community, and exceptional CABHI staff.

As a world-leading, digital-first solution accelerator, CABHI remains dedicated to empowering aging through innovation by bringing together all stakeholders—older adults, people living with dementia, caregivers, innovators, investors, frontline care workers, clinicians, researchers, and students—to accelerate the development of innovative solutions that best meet older adults' needs and preferences for living their best lives.



**Allison Sekuler, PhD**

*President and Chief Scientist*

**Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation**

*Sandra A. Rotman Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience*

**Rotman Research Institute**

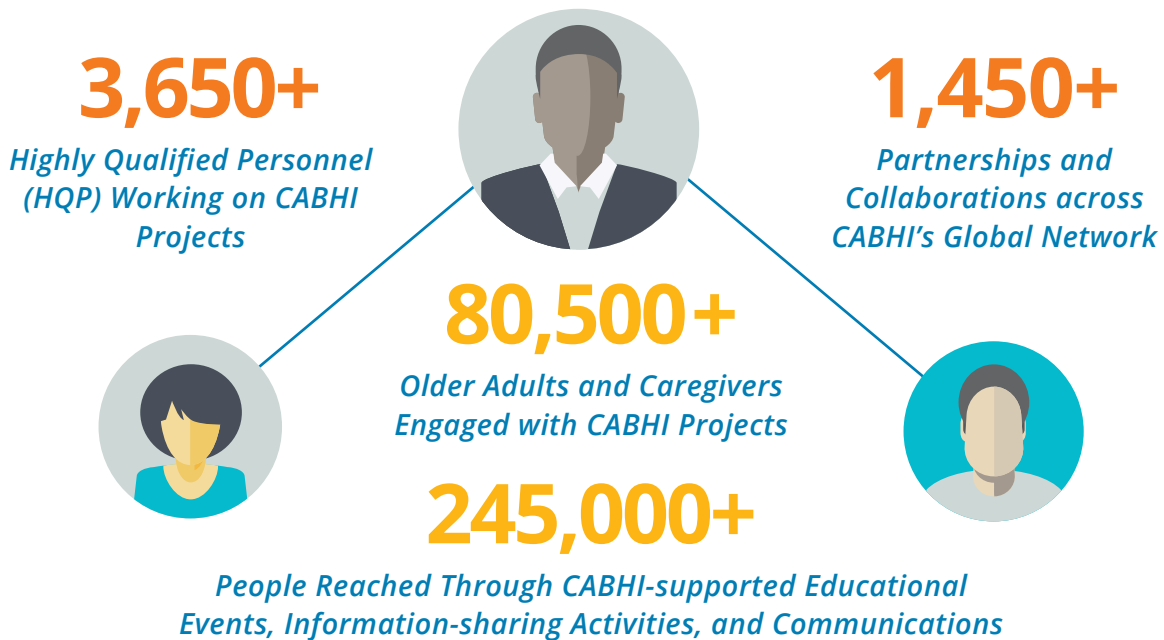
*President and Chief Scientist*

**Baycrest Academy for Research and Education  
at Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care**

# OUR IMPACT

## \$139M+

FUNDING DIRECTED TOWARD  
ADVANCING HEALTHCARE INNOVATIONS



## \$529M+

SECURED INVESTMENTS BY CABHI  
INNOVATORS AND COMPANIES

## \$58M+

IN JOBS CREATED  
AND SUSTAINED



# 2021-22 MILESTONES

## 2021

### APRIL

CABHI formally partners with **AGE-WELL** to accelerate the development of Canadian agotech and healthtech solutions from discovery to research, and from testing to scaling and commercializing.

### MAY

CABHI and the **Coordinated Accessible National (CAN) Health Network** partner to bring innovative solutions to healthcare operators across Canada, promoting the adoption of Canadian technology that will enhance the delivery of healthcare in older adults.

### JUNE

Through the **Spark-ON** and **Spark-CU (Colleges & Universities)** programs, CABHI supports the development and testing of 24 new innovations aimed at improving the quality of life for older adults, people living with dementia, and their caregivers. The investment spotlighted innovations by Ontario frontline healthcare workers and students, with a focus on pandemic recovery.

### SEPTEMBER

CABHI invests \$1 million to support five early-stage Canadian healthtech companies whose solutions improve the lives of older adults, people living with dementia, and their caregivers. Funding is provided through CABHI's **Mentorship, Capital, and Continuation (MC<sup>2</sup>) Capital Program**, in partnership with National Bank.

### OCTOBER

The Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities invests \$1.2 million in the CABHI-supported **Learning Inter-Professionally Healthcare Accelerator (LIPHA)**, a virtual learning platform that enhances the onboarding and training of nurses and personal support workers.

### NOVEMBER

CABHI partners with the Louisville, Kentucky-based aging care consortium **Thrive Alliance** to promote aging and brain health technologies across Canada and the United States.

CABHI partners with shared services organization **Mohawk Medbuy Corporation** to strengthen innovation in aging and brain health by connecting companies with inventive solutions to complex healthcare challenges with hundreds of hospitals and care providers across Canada.





# 2022

## JANUARY

*CABHI partners with global robotics and automation leader **FUJI Corporation** to develop technological solutions that enhance older adults' lives; and share best practices across each organization's home markets of Japan, the United States, and Canada.*

*Together with the **Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation**, CABHI provides scale-up funding for four Saskatchewan-based innovative solutions that address aging and brain health challenges with a focus on rural and Indigenous populations through the **Spark+ Program**.*

*CABHI partners with the **Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)**, Canada's leading academic centre dedicated to mental health, in support of aging and brain health innovations with a particular focus on cognitive and mental health.*

## FEBRUARY

*CABHI launches a call for applications for the second round of its **Mentorship, Capital, and Continuation (MC<sup>2</sup>) Capital Program**, in partnership with National Bank – an investment program dedicated to supporting early-stage Canadian healthtech and fintech companies.*

## MARCH

*CABHI hosts its fourth annual **CABHI Summit**, this year on the theme of Empowered Aging Through Innovation. The conference attracts 800+ thought leaders, innovators, investors, healthcare providers, older adults, caregivers, and companies from across six continents and 25+ countries around the world. The two-day global virtual event features 50+ speakers, 60+ exhibitors, 20 sponsors, and the longevity sector's largest combined pitch competition for agotech, neurotech, and healthcare companies with a funding pool of more than \$2 million.*



# Innovation Snapshots

CABHI-supported solutions improve the quality of life of older adults, caregivers, and their families. Here are just a few examples.



## Building a skilled seniors' care workforce

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to make careers in seniors care more challenging than ever, CABHI's **Learning Inter-Professionally Healthcare Accelerator (LIPHA)** is helping build a skilled, confident workforce.

LIPHA is a virtual learning platform that enhances the onboarding and training of nurses and personal support workers in long term care. LIPHA's game-based design helps learners not only develop foundational knowledge of long term care best practices, but also apply their learning by practicing care delivery to simulated long term care residents.

Thanks to a 2021 investment of \$1.2 million by the Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities, CABHI – in collaboration with the Ontario Centres for Learning, Research, and Innovation in Long-Term Care at Baycrest and the Kunin-Lunenfeld Centre for Applied Research and Evaluation within Baycrest Academy's Rotman Research Institute – has rapidly mobilized LIPHA to provide personalized, on-demand training for healthcare professionals and students considering a career in the gerontological field in Ontario.

## Supporting seniors' mental health

Research shows that an estimated 30% of Canadian seniors are at risk of becoming socially isolated – a reality only exacerbated by the pandemic. Social isolation among older adults is associated with an increased risk of dementia and other serious medical conditions.

Guided and funded by CABHI, a group of students at Queen's University (Kingston, ON) came together to create **Sunshine Connected**, a virtual mental health advocacy platform that aims to combat loneliness experienced by seniors residing at home or in seniors care residences. The platform uses a volunteer "buddy system" program, pairing seniors and university students using a quiz to match common interests or career paths. The Sunshine Connected platform is now based in Alberta and is in its beta phase, with a pen pal program running and additional programs in their early stages.



## Fostering independence for people experiencing hand tremors

For those living with Essential Tremor and Parkinson's disease, uncontrollable hand tremors can make tasks of daily living like eating, drinking, and dressing difficult or impossible. Between the costs of medication, treatment, and care, individuals living with these conditions can also face substantial economic burden.

Toronto-based startup **Stediwear** has created a responsive glove that stabilizes the wrist joint and significantly reduces hand tremors in the wearer. The company's innovative, accessible solution is giving those who experience tremors the opportunity to live more independent lives. As one user excitedly exclaimed, "I can now eat soup in a restaurant – hooray!"

CABHI's support and mentorship is helping Stediwear grow and scale their products, ensuring that people living with hand tremors can experience a higher quality of life on their own terms.



## Supporting caregivers from ethnocultural communities

Caring for a loved one with dementia is never easy. But for those living in predominantly English-speaking areas who do not speak English as a first language, accessing local support services presents barrier after barrier.

Thanks to funding and acceleration support from CABHI, Toronto social services agency WoodGreen Community Services has created the **Diverse Caregivers Access Program**. Co-designed with community caregivers and frontline staff, the project team developed a series of affordable and free resources for caregivers of people living with dementia in various ethnocultural communities. These culturally sensitive and linguistically diverse resources, which were delivered over the course of the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond, cover vital topics like dementia care and caregiver self-care, and direct caregivers to places they can learn more. By improving access to health services, the project is helping reduce caregiver stress.



## Compassionate dementia care technology

The majority of people living with dementia are or will be affected by behavioural and psychological symptoms such as agitation, aggression, psychosis, and depression. Medication has traditionally been used to address these symptoms, but a growing body of evidence suggests that non-pharmacological interventions may be a gentler, more effective approach.

British Columbia-based company **MindfulGarden** has developed a digital therapeutic platform that de-escalates anxiety and aggression in those living with dementia in long term care. The platform responds to heightened agitation levels – detected by voice, heart rate, or gesture cues – by displaying soothing images on a nearby screen, which works to calm the distressed individual with no risk of overmedication.



Through CABHI's funding and network support, MindfulGarden has ramped up efforts over recent years to prepare their platform for widespread commercialization.



## Rural paramedic seniors' care training

Paramedics are well-situated to work collaboratively with other community partners to ensure patients receive the in-home services and care they require. This is particularly true in rural communities, where health services may be geographically or otherwise difficult for locals to access. The County of Renfrew, Ontario runs the **Community Paramedicine Program** to train paramedics on effectively caring for older adults and other vulnerable populations. The program aims to help patients live safely at home, decrease emergency room visits, and educate family and caregivers. During home and community visits, community paramedics complete a host of healthcare tasks, including fall risk assessments, medication management and administration, and blood work. CABHI helped advance the program through funding for COVID-19-specific care education during the pandemic.



## Community engagement for Indigenous older adults

Indigenous community-based health research lab Morning Star Lodge, based out of the University of Saskatchewan, is exploring the link between land, culture, and health for Indigenous older adults with an innovative new project. Building on an earlier CABHI-supported project in which community members learned traditional methods of gardening and harvesting foods, Morning Star Lodge is now – through additional CABHI support – building a **nursery greenhouse** in the Cumberland House, Saskatchewan community and developing educational materials to positively

impact holistic health. The community greenhouse aims to benefit participating older adults and people living with dementia by increasing food security, encouraging engagement with nature, and fostering social inclusion. The project is guided by Elders and Knowledge Keepers.

## Revolutionizing post-operative care

For patients undergoing general surgeries, their worries are not over once a procedure is complete. Gastrointestinal complications like leaks, bleeding, and infection can occur during recovery, and can in some cases be fatal if not detected quickly enough. These risks are even higher for older adults.

Kitchener, Ontario-based medtech company **NERv Technology** is working on a smart monitoring system that can detect post-operative complications at their outset by using personalized patient data.

The NERv platform aims to ease patient recovery, prevent re-hospitalizations, and ultimately save lives. With funding and mentorship from CABHI, NERv is expanding its clinical pilots globally and working toward commercialization of its innovative technology.



## Access to sleep health for older adults at risk of dementia



Sleep disruption is increasingly understood as a potential contributor to dementia risk. Detecting sleep disorders early and optimizing sleep play a key part in optimizing brain health and reducing the risk of dementia – but the current clinical standard of assessing older adults' sleep, overnight in-clinic sleep studies, requires subjects to undergo difficult nights away from home that can be expensive and disruptive, especially for those with cognitive impairment.

A research team led by sleep expert Dr. Andrew Lim at the Sunnybrook Research Institute (Toronto, ON), supported in part by CABHI in collaboration with the Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging (CCNA), is testing a new, **simplified sleep diagnostic method** using discrete wearable sensors (including the Muse headband from CABHI-supported company InteraXon). If validated, this research could lead to better sleep diagnostics for older adults currently unable to access regular sleep studies due to geography, cost, or cognitive stage – ensuring vulnerable older adults maintain access to the best possible brain health care.



# Programs and Services

## Innovation Themes

CABHI is the pre-eminent innovation accelerator in the aging and brain health sector with a targeted focus on dementia. Each project funded by CABHI aligns with one or more of our core innovation themes. We assess these themes regularly to ensure they meet ongoing and emerging needs of our system stakeholders, and we are grateful to our community for their guidance in updating our current core and cross-cutting themes.

### Core Themes

**Aging at Home.** Enabling older adults 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 adults and people living with dementia.

**Care Coordination and Navigation.** Helping older adults and people living with dementia and their caregivers navigate the healthcare system to access timely and appropriate care, while also supporting healthcare providers to align their practice with long term care standards.

**Cognitive and Mental Health.** Ensuring early detection of cognitive impairment or dementia in older adults; implementing preventative care approaches to maintain or enhance older adults' brain health, including both cognitive and mental health supports; protecting the cognitive and mental health of seniors care and/or dementia healthcare providers and caregivers.

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

### Cross-Cutting Themes

**Diversity, Accessibility, and Health Equity.** Ensuring aging and brain health needs are addressed, and solutions are accessible, for Indigenous, Black, or racially and culturally diverse communities; women; people living with disabilities; members of the LGBTQ2+ community; rural or Northern communities; or other vulnerable populations; and including issues of intersectionality.

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



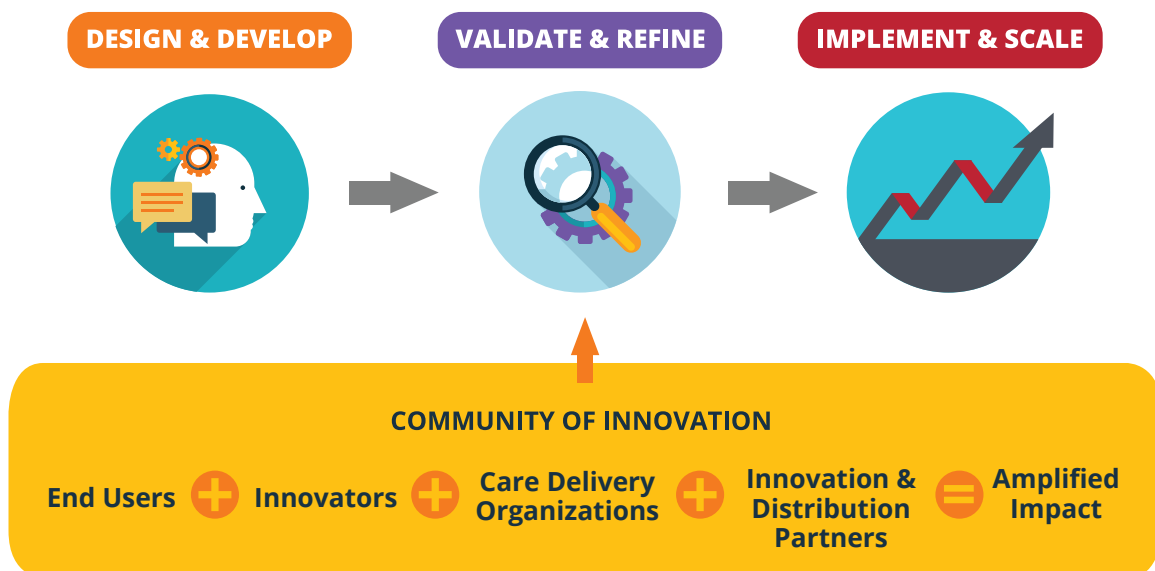
# The CABHI Innovation Pipeline

The CABHI innovation pipeline accelerates promising solutions from design and development to validation and refinement, followed by implementation and scaling in real-world settings.

CABHI connects a community of innovation in order for the best solutions to move through the pipeline and get into the hands of those who need them most. We accomplish this by:

- > Supporting innovators to design, validate, and scale promising solutions
- > Supporting communities and organizations to test and adopt solutions
- > Engaging older adults to share their lived experiences to co-design and influence innovation
- > Activating strategic partners to build on collective strength and impact

This comprehensive and coordinated approach leads to greater reach, impact, and success of CABHI solutions.





## Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI)

CABHI is committed to advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) in multiple ways:

- > Our programs are accessible to applicants from diverse communities. We integrate sex and gender-based analysis (SGBA+) considerations into our funding programs and review processes, to promote equitable access.
- > We have strong diversity among innovators developing solutions in our existing pipeline.
- > We introduced the Diversity, Accessibility, and Health Equity cross-cutting innovation theme to ensure solutions are appropriate for older adults and caregivers from diverse communities.
- > CABHI is one of few organizations that has been actively involved in every Women-Only Business Mission Series with the Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada, including recent missions to Australia and New Zealand.
- > We integrate EDI considerations into internal operations, training, and hiring practices.
- > Our staff formed an internal EDI working group to improve the implementation of goals and assess progress. We continue to train staff in SGBA+, AODA, and EDI principles to reduce unconscious biases.
- > CABHI committed to the Government of Canada's 50-30 Challenge and is taking action to increase diversity on its corporate board and senior management team to achieve 50% gender parity and 30% representation of other underrepresented groups, including racialized persons, people living with disabilities, and members of the LGBTQ2+ community. We expect to fully meet the 50-30 Challenge by 2024.

### *Latest Spark Call for Innovation:*

**71%**  
of Applicants  
Identified as  
Women

**78%**  
of Projects  
Funded were  
Women-led

### *Latest MC<sup>2</sup> Capital Call for Innovation:*

**50%**  
of Funded  
Companies are  
Led by Female  
Co-founders

**50%**  
of Funded Companies  
are Led by Co-founders  
from Racialized  
Communities



## Core Programs

### Design & Development Programs

#### **Spark Program**

Individuals working at the point of care often have the best ideas for improving the lives of older adults. Spark captures and nurtures grassroots ideas created by frontline healthcare workers and service delivery staff and moves solutions from development and testing to implementation in different settings. The program provides funding up to \$50,000 per project to support the development and testing of early-stage innovations within CABHI's network of healthcare and service provider organizations.

#### ***Spark-ON Program***

Frontline healthcare workers were in the best position to understand the challenges older adults faced during the COVID-19 pandemic and generate fresh ideas to overcome them. CABHI launched Spark-ON in 2020 to capture and nurture promising solutions by Ontario innovators that aimed to address four critical priorities amplified by the pandemic: social connectedness, caregiver well-being, infection prevention and control, and training unregulated care providers. In 2021, the Spark-ON program supported the development, testing, and/or scaling of 18 new solutions across the province.

#### ***Spark Program for Colleges & Universities (Spark-CU)***

Recognizing the need for Canada's future innovators to build skills, we piloted our first Spark-CU program in April 2021. Students attending six Ontario colleges and universities applied to receive \$5,000 in funding

and mentorship to develop their innovations over three months. At the end of the program each of the six teams pitched to a panel of judges, with one standout team winning an additional investment of \$25,000 into their newly incorporated business and access to CABHI's full innovation network and acceleration services.

#### ***Student Internship Program***

CABHI's Student Internship Program creates opportunities for co-op and work-integrated learning for students in STEM, translational research, gerontology, business, and clinical programs by brokering placements for students with our companies. Students gain hands-on learning opportunities and connections to potential employers, creating a talent pipeline for Canadian businesses.

In January 2021, we created five internships for students from McMaster University's Biomedical Discovery and Commercialization Program to work with companies in our innovation pipeline; 40% of these internships resulted in full-time permanent hires. In January 2022, we successfully ran the same program at McMaster. This coming fiscal year we will reprise the program a third time and expand it to students at other institutions, including the University of Waterloo.

### Validate & Refine Programs

#### **Industry Innovation Partnership Program (I<sup>2</sup>P<sup>2</sup>)**

I<sup>2</sup>P<sup>2</sup> provides innovators with opportunities to validate their aging and brain health solutions in clinical settings. Successful companies receive funding to support validation services across multiple care settings and



gain valuable access to a range of CABHI's acceleration services and reinvestment programs, helping them reach adoption and commercialization milestones faster. Since its inception in 2016, I<sup>2</sup>P<sup>2</sup> has helped 24 companies gain new customers, boost revenues, establish offices in Canada, and obtain carry-on investment funds.

### **CCNA Collaboration Program**

CABHI supports the Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging (CCNA) through a program that encourages later-stage CCNA projects to submit applications to enter CABHI's innovation pipeline. Funded teams gain access to CABHI's acceleration services, including knowledge mobilization expertise, to get their projects ready for launch across Canada and benefit from joining CABHI's innovation community and networking with other innovators, investors, and industry partners. CABHI also recruits CCNA researchers as Scientific Officers to join CABHI's Coaches Community, where they share their expertise in order to enhance the scientific rigour of solutions' design and validation.

## **Commercialization & Scale-Up Programs**

### **Mentorship, Capital, and Continuation (MC<sup>2</sup>) Program, in partnership with National Bank**

CABHI recognizes there are early-stage funding and mentorship gaps for Canadian healthtech and fintech companies to support commercialization, business, and product validation milestones. It can also be difficult to scale a business without access to potential buyers, subject matter experts, and international markets, such as those in the US, Japan, or UK.

In response, CABHI created MC<sup>2</sup>, a first-of-its-kind program to support the validation and growth of early-stage Canadian healthtech and fintech companies. To date, more than 50% of all CABHI companies have secured follow-on investment totalling \$529M+.

CABHI addresses targeted needs through verticals within MC<sup>2</sup> as follows:

#### **MC<sup>2</sup> Capital**

MC<sup>2</sup> Capital supports the business validation and growth of early-stage Canadian healthtech and fintech companies. In MC<sup>2</sup> Capital, each participating company receives an investment of up to \$300,000 from CABHI and access to our acceleration services. Eligible companies may also access additional investments of up to \$300,000 from the **Ontario Brain Institute**; \$150,000 from Nova

Scotian venture capital organization **Innovacorp**; and business financing from **Clearco**, the world's largest e-commerce investor. Companies can also access additional investment opportunities through CABHI's venture community.

#### **MC<sup>2</sup> Market Readiness**

MC<sup>2</sup> Market Readiness provides companies funding of up to \$300,000 and access to Silicon Valley mentors, advisors, and investors through **Berkeley SkyDeck**, the University of California, Berkeley's accelerator program.



To date, more than half of the companies participating in SkyDeck have received follow-on funding. Companies qualified as ready have an opportunity to showcase their solutions to more than 800 investors on SkyDeck's Demo Day.

#### **MC<sup>2</sup> Growth & Scalability**

Care delivery organizations in Canada may find it challenging to adopt or move innovations beyond the pilot stage due to a lack of resources and time, and concerns about realizing a return on investment within a budget cycle. CABHI created MC<sup>2</sup> Growth & Scalability to overcome these obstacles. The program provides funding of up to \$50,000 to support the implementation of a CABHI-validated solution. Care delivery organizations implement a solution for three to six months in their settings under a licensing and user fee agreement with an innovator that covers training, implementation, and ongoing service and use costs. Care delivery organizations are also supported with mentorship and access to vital information to guide their use and purchase decisions at the end of the trial period.



## Acceleration Services

CABHI provides tailored acceleration services designed to help innovators move their solutions through the innovation pipeline and achieve their next milestone on their journey developing, testing, validating, or implementing in real-world settings. Support is customized based on the best available evidence and the principles of integrated knowledge translation, implementation science, applied research, adult education, and business development. CABHI's services help innovators increase market uptake and ensure success of their solutions across targeted users and settings.

## Coaches Community

CABHI's Coaches Community provides mentorship and coaching to innovators to help them grow and scale their solutions. Coaches are subject matter experts in diverse disciplines – they are clinicians, end-users, researchers, entrepreneurs, industry partners, legal and regulatory affairs experts, marketing and sales leaders, organizational decision-makers, and venture capitalists. In addition to being brokered with specific innovators and companies, Coaches are engaged on an ad hoc basis to:

- Serve as reviewers on innovation selection panels and as judges for pitch competitions

- Share their subject matter expertise through CABHI's talks, podcasts, and blog posts
- Participate in launch meetings, innovation showcases, and conferences to help disseminate CABHI-funded innovations
- Grow CABHI's Innovation Network by introducing innovators to other organizations working in the aging and brain health sector

## Innovation Network

CABHI's Innovation Network is an activated group of leading healthcare organizations with geographical reach and target populations to validate and adopt innovators' solutions. Innovators benefit from directly engaging with leaders and staff at these organizations to understand how their innovations may need to be adapted to suit different contexts and identify training and supports required to implement their solutions across multiple settings. Organizations joining the network benefit from early and discounted access to solutions that address their goals of improving their clients' care, safety, and quality of life. They also build capacity for testing and adopting new solutions and share their learning and opportunities with CABHI's broader innovation ecosystem.



## Leap

Leap is CABHI's welcoming, diverse, and engaged virtual innovation community for older adults and caregivers. Leap connects innovators developing solutions (i.e., products, programs, services) with their intended end users to understand users' lived experiences, needs, and preferences. Innovators use these critical insights to inform the design and delivery of their solutions for optimal success. By joining Leap's community of older adults, caregivers, innovators, and thought leaders in the aging and brain health innovation space, Leap members connect socially while learning and building new collaboration and technology skills. Leap is significantly scaling up the reach and diversity of its older adults and caregivers, bringing their insights to the design, development, validation, and dissemination of new innovative solutions; and influencing practices and policy.

Built as a virtual community centre, Leap's rooms create environments for learning, sharing stories, informing and co-designing solutions, and accessing best-in-class innovations. Since the launch of the beta version of Leap in 2021, more than 600 members from across Canada, the United States, and the United Kingdom have attended more than 100 Leap events, accessed learning resources, and shared their insights with innovators. Leap members have informed the evolution of Leap itself, with May 2022's newly launched version customized to meet their needs for a streamlined, engaging, and personalized user experience. The new version also includes a Marketplace, which curates leading agtech solutions for members' consideration and purchase.

The Leap community is currently expanding and welcoming new members from communities across Canada, North America, and globally.



"Working together with older adult end users allowed me to improve the functions and features of my solution and how it might be adapted to the different needs of my future clients." – Sharon Kiptoo, co-founder of GTCare Companion

"Having the opportunity to connect with people from all over, share my stories and give innovators the benefit of my experience is very fulfilling." – Hilary Randall-Grace, Leap member



# Thought Leadership

CABHI's influence continues to grow in Canada and globally. As experts from the premier solution accelerator in the longevity sector, CABHI leaders and staff are frequently invited to speak at conferences and advise on best practices for developing, validating, commercializing, and adopting innovative products and services. We also connect and build skills among communities of practice at local, national, and international levels.

## CABHI SUMMIT 2022

Our fourth annual CABHI Summit (March 2022) brought together hundreds of attendees in a virtual format to discuss the most critical challenges, opportunities, and trends in the longevity sector.

<b>800+</b> attendees	<b>60 EXHIBITORS</b> <b>50 SPEAKERS</b> <b>20 SPONSORS</b>	<b>25+</b> COUNTRIES
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**Day 1: Agetech + The Human Connection** enabled older adults, caregivers, people living with dementia, and professionals working in the aging and brain health sector to share their perspectives. For example, Dr. Allison Sekuler led a panel on how innovations like robotics, artificial intelligence, and virtual reality are already helping improve the physical and mental well-being of older adults and their caregivers.

**Day 2: The Longevity Economy: Investing in an Aging World** focused on innovators, companies, and investors. The day included the sector's largest combined pitch competition, with a funding pool of \$2M+ available to advance promising solutions in agetech, healthtech, fintech, and neurotech. The pitch competition was funded by a collaborative partnership between CABHI, the Ontario Brain Institute, Innovacorp, and Clearco.

## CABHI COMMUNITY OF INNOVATION PODCAST

CABHI produced Season 3 of the Community of Innovation Podcast, bringing the total number of free episodes to 35. The series features innovators; healthcare, technology and business experts; and older adults and caregivers discussing their lived experiences as well as innovative practices and solutions for leading longer, healthier lives. Recent episodes included *The Femtech Revolution and the Fight for Quality Pelvic Healthcare*, *Dementia Mythbusters*, and *Demystifying Death and Dying*.



## KNOWLEDGE MOBILIZATION

CABHI mobilizes knowledge throughout the longevity sector to accelerate the development and adoption of agetech solutions. Highlights of key initiatives from last year included:

- **Mobilizing critical end-user insights through Leap.** Insights gathered from Leap events are translated into knowledge products and disseminated to target audiences of older adults, care partners, innovators, and policy makers.
- **Supporting innovation adoption in the long term care sector.** CABHI launched the Seniors Quality Leap Initiative (SQLI)'s Community of Practice (COP) in January 2022, a forum where organizations build their capacity to innovate by sharing experiences and ideas on how to introduce and implement innovations.
- **Mobilizing the adoption of Learning Inter-Professionally Healthcare Accelerator (LIPHA).** CABHI used a comprehensive knowledge mobilization strategy to increase LIPHA uptake by long term care homes and post-secondary education institutions to support high-quality training for healthcare team members and students across Ontario.
- **Strengthening pandemic preparedness in long term care.** CABHI supported knowledge exchange and learning across the implementation science teams participating in the Strengthening Pandemic Preparedness in LTC Initiative, designed to keep residents, families, essential care partners, and staff safe from COVID-19 in long term care and retirement homes across Canada.

# Looking Ahead

In April 2022, the **Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)** committed renewed funding to CABHI of \$30M over three years, fuelling our vital work accelerating world-class aging and brain health innovations that improve the quality of life and mental health of older adults, people living with dementia, and their caregivers across Canada. CABHI also recently completed our second of five years of funding totalling \$23.5M from the **Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities**. We are grateful for the support from our valued government stakeholders.

In 2022-2023, CABHI will advance the following objectives:



Advance the health and well-being of Canadians at home, in the community, and in care settings



Build a skilled workforce and system-level capacity that mobilizes innovation, from idea to uptake to impact



Realize the full potential of Canadian innovation to build a more resilient, sustainable, and competitive economy

We will achieve these objectives by aligning our programs, services, and initiatives to address the challenges faced by the older adults, communities, and organizations we serve. We will support efforts in Ontario, Canada, and worldwide, building post-pandemic resiliency through our networks and expertise forged at the intersection of research, innovation, health, and the economy.

## Advancing the Health of Older Canadians

We will advance the health and well-being of older Canadians by delivering CABHI's funding programs to identify, develop, validate, implement, spread, and scale the most promising solutions in real-world environments—helping older adults and caregivers live their best and healthiest lives.

- Following last year's successful pilot program, CABHI will fund new **Spark Program for Colleges & Universities (Spark-CU)** projects in 2022–2023. Spark-CU engages college and university student innovators in Ontario and Canada, creating pathways to connect with

seniors; develop, test, and refine promising agetechnology and healthtech solutions; conduct research; generate intellectual property; and create new businesses.

- CABHI will expand the successful **Student Internship Program**, creating more skill-building opportunities for students in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM), translational research, gerontology, business, and clinical programs. The 2022–2023 program will support ten four-month, full-time internships funded by CABHI and collaborative partners, including BioTalent, Mitacs, and Ontario colleges and universities.
- CABHI is launching a new **MC<sup>2</sup> Capital** program in spring 2022, awarding funds to five to eight innovators to grow and scale solutions with proven ability to improve seniors' care and generate economic returns or savings within the healthcare system.

## Mobilizing the Innovation Community

CABHI's funding programs and acceleration services help build a skilled workforce and system-level capacity in seniors care to mobilize the most promising innovations from health and care-focused organizations, academia, and industry to improve older adults' quality of life, while also ensuring sustainable, efficient, and cost-effective health systems.

- CABHI will continue supporting the implementation of **Canada's National Dementia Strategy** through knowledge mobilization activities targeted at:
  - Building innovation translation, validation, and adoption capabilities among researchers, technology leaders, healthcare practitioners, and industry leaders, and
  - Disseminating culturally safe, customized aging and brain health information, resources, and solutions at the local community level.

- Our new **Discover and Adopt (D+A) Program** aims to provide long term care homes, retirement homes, and hospitals with opportunities to receive funding, training, and coaching support as they assess, select, implement, test, and procure innovative aging and brain health solutions that best meet their needs. CABHI is launching the pilot D+A program in mid-2022 with six Ontario-based organizations, engaging them to issue innovation calls and providing each with up to \$150,000 towards achieving innovation implementation milestones and to prepare for procurement.
- CABHI's essential acceleration services will continue building innovator capacity and ensure innovators have opportunities to validate and implement their solutions in real-world settings:
  - In May 2022, CABHI fully launched **Leap**, the revolutionary virtual platform that connects ethnoculturally and geographically diverse communities of older adults, caregivers, and innovators. CABHI leaders and the CABHI Seniors Advisory Panel co-designed the Leap community engagement roadmap, a model for actively recruiting, onboarding, and sustaining diverse communities on the platform. Next year, CABHI will continue to expand Leap, welcoming new members from communities across Canada, North America, and globally.
  - We will recruit new organizations to join our **Innovation Network**, through which innovators directly engage with leaders and staff from select care delivery organizations; and we are actively soliciting feedback from innovators and coaches from our **Coaches Community** to continually enhance their collaboration experiences.
- CABHI supports the **Wilfred and Joyce Posluns Chair in Women's Brain Health and Aging**, recognizing that understanding sex and gender differences in brain health and aging can improve outcomes for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, which affect women more than men, and the need for more innovations targeted to women. The initiative supports a leading researcher at an Ontario institution to develop and implement a research program focused on sex and gender differences in brain health. CABHI, the Posluns Family Foundation, the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR), the Women's Brain Health Initiative, and the Ontario Brain Institute co-fund this initiative. CABHI's support provides the Chair with broad knowledge mobilization and essential connections with leading innovators.

- We will continue recruiting new members to the **Scientific Officers Program**, matching researchers from research institutions with CABHI innovators and companies. Researchers provide scientific advice and expertise to innovators, helping them refine their value proposition and strengthen the design of validation trials. Additionally, innovators provide researchers with innovation experience and opportunities to translate their lab findings into real-world solutions.
- CABHI will continue to collaborate with the Rotman Research Institute's **Kunin-Lunenfeld Centre for Applied Research and Evaluation (KL-CARE)**. Support from KL-CARE helps innovators use rigorous applied and translational research methods for implementing and evaluating their solutions, from study design and ethics approval to data collection, analysis, and reporting.

## Realizing the Full Potential of Canadian Innovation

This year, CABHI will expand and scale programs and partnerships on a national level. By continuing to collaborate with regional and provincial partners, as we have done in the past, we effectively address local needs across Canada.

In 2022–2023, we will strengthen our engagement with current health ecosystem partners, including:

- **The Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging (CCNA)**, to support eligible CCNA projects moving to commercialization and engaging Scientific Officers to join the CABHI Coaches Community
- **Ontario Brain Institute**, to collaborate across CABHI's brain health research and innovation pipeline
- **Ontario Long Term Care Association (OLTCA)**, to leverage their network to disseminate CABHI solutions in order to boost adoption in more care settings
- **AGE-WELL**, to accelerate the development of agetechnology and healthtech solutions from discovery and research to testing, scaling, and commercialization
- **Mitacs**, to coordinate training and job opportunities focused on aging and brain health
- **Healthcare Excellence Canada**, to help identify, promote, and support the adoption of solutions that improve the quality of care and life in long term care settings, and support dementia care in community settings



- **Seniors Quality Leap Initiative (SQLI)**, to help members build capacity for innovation adoption
- **CIHR Institute of Aging (CIHR-IA)**, to identify and support aligned objectives, such as knowledge mobilization and end-user engagement

We will also identify and build new strategic partnerships and look for opportunities to amplify joint funding programs, events, and initiatives.

CABHI remains dedicated to empowering aging through innovation by bringing together all stakeholders—older adults, people living with dementia, caregivers, innovators, investors, frontline care workers, clinicians, researchers, and students—to accelerate the development of innovative solutions that best meet older adults’ needs and preferences for living longer—and better—lives.

# Governance

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Jeff Blidner (Chair)

*Chief Executive Officer of Brookfield’s Private Funds Group, Chairman of Brookfield Renewable Partners, and Chairman of Brookfield Business Partners*

### 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*

### Joe Freedman

*Retired Private Equity Executive, Corporate Director, Brookfield Asset Management*

### Chris Hodgson

*Founder, The Pivt*

### William Reichman (Observer)

*President and Chief Executive Officer, Baycrest Seniors Care*

### Shirlee Sharkey

*Advisor to the CEO and Board, SE Health*

### Katie Smith Sloan

*President and CEO, LeadingAge*

### Andrew Szende

*Founding CEO, Electronic Child Health Network*

### Leo van den Thillart

*Global Head – Managing Partner, Sera Global*

## SENIORS ADVISORY PANEL

Laurie Bernick (Co-chair)

Deborah Bernstein (Co-chair)

Hilary Randall-Grace (Co-chair)

Ron Beleno

Sue Drohan

Ian Goldman

Anne Kerr

Renee Leventhal

Rene Pardo

Walter Seaton

Bev Shukyn

Dr. Paul Woo

### Alumni

Toby Belkin

Syrelle Bernstein

Sam Herskovits

Ann Laski

Rachel Schlesinger

Linda Somers

Eva Ticktin

# Financial Report

SOURCE OF FUNDS	2021-22
<b>Cash Contributions</b>	
Ontario Ministry of Colleges and Universities	\$5,900,000
Other Funding	\$132,459
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,032,459</b>
<b>Matching &amp; In-Kind Contributions</b>	<b>\$6,139,822</b>
<b>TOTAL SOURCE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>\$12,172,281</b>

USE OF FUNDS	
<b>CABHI Programs</b>	
Design & Development Programs	\$182,947
Commercialization & Scale-Up Programs	\$1,088,136
Strategic Programs & Initiatives	\$1,461,544
Project Matching Contributions	\$6,139,822
Project Support & Implementation	\$1,461,791
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,334,241</b>
<b>CABHI Operations</b>	<b>\$1,838,040</b>
<b>TOTAL USE OF FUNDS</b>	<b>\$12,172,281</b>

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, 2022. Readers are cautioned that this Financial Report may not be suitable for their purposes.

# Innovator Testimonials



*CABHI and the MC<sup>2</sup> Capital program have opened important doors for Welbi. Their large network in the senior living industry has allowed us to accelerate our growth. The CABHI team is always there for us, ready to help and we are grateful to be part of their portfolio.*

*– Elizabeth Audette-Bourdeau  
CEO & Co-Founder, Welbi*



*CABHI's MC<sup>2</sup> Capital program has been great. We worked together with CABHI on projects including value framework, health economics, and non-dilutive grant funding. I would recommend CABHI to any healthtech startup looking for a value-added investor!*

*– Derek Sham  
Founder & CEO, Cosm Medical*



*The MC<sup>2</sup> Capital program came at a critical time for ManagingLife, allowing us to maintain momentum in our US commercialization and product development roadmaps. The program team and the advisor network were invaluable in terms of the guidance provided and the connections made.*

*– Tahir Janmohamed  
Founder & CEO, ManagingLife*



Public Health  
Agency of Canada

Agence de la santé  
publique du Canada



The views expressed herein are those of the Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Government of Ontario or the Public Health Agency of Canada.

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