AGE-WELL NCE NETWORK GOALS
2014 – 2019

The AGE-WELL Network is a pan-Canadian network of industry, non-profit organizations, government, care providers, end-users, and academic partners working together to drive innovation and create technologies and services that benefit older adults. Our mission is to harness and build upon the potential of emerging and advanced technologies in areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), e-health, information communication technologies (ICTs), and mobile technologies to stimulate technological, social, and policy innovation thereby advancing Canadian economic and social development.

The aim of the AGE-WELL Network is to help older Canadians to maintain their independence, health and quality of life (QOL) through accessible technologies that increase their safety and security, support their independent living, and enhance their social participation. In addition, the innovations AGE-WELL develops will help to support caregivers and contribute to sustainable health services. The Network will strengthen Canada's international leadership in the design, development and commercialization of technology and our research will ultimately contribute new solutions for older adults through technological, policy, and social advances that will change current practice. Our core work will identify the needs of older Canadians and their caregivers, develop effective and practical solutions, and implement these by overcoming current limitations in this field.

Through an ongoing strategic planning process that included the preparation of the successful full proposal to the NCE program, AGE-WELL has prioritized the following goals over the next five years.

Goal 1: AGE-WELL will advance the technology and aging sector by creating a cohesive team of leaders in the field.

Actions to achieve this goal will include:

1. Host an <u>annual general meeting and research conference</u> that will support knowledge translation and collaboration between AGE-WELL members and between the AGE-WELL Network and other researchers and stakeholders in this field.
2. Develop and provide key tools and resources to <u>support transdisciplinary working</u> across all Network members, partners, and stakeholders.
3. Establish a <u>strong management and governance structure</u> including a responsive and supportive Network Management Office.
4. Create <u>synergistic research environments</u> through mechanisms to join academic cultures, business culture, and consumer culture.
5. Leverage existing infrastructure to create a <u>national network of innovation sites</u> through the provision of a single interface for researchers, partners, and stakeholders to access cutting-edge labs and facilities.

Goal 2: AGE-WELL will accelerate innovation in the technology and aging field through the training of HQP in unique, applied environments.

Actions to achieve this goal will include:

1. Provide at least partial <u>funding for approximately 100 trainees</u> annually.
2. Develop a minimum of five <u>courses on technology and aging related themes</u> and deliver them consistently at all participating institutions in-person and online.
3. Provide <u>opportunities for experiential learning</u> by working directly with partners (industry and/or community) and by taking an active part in all AGE-WELL activities, including outreach (CC1 and CC2), commercialization and technology transfer (CC3), and team-building (CC4).
4. Create a <u>mentorship program</u> that will support graduate students, PDFs, early career and new investigators, including training is aspects such as grant writing and creating start-up companies.
5. Support the establishment of a <u>student-run national network</u> that will bring together trainees and students engaged with AGE-WELL and organize events, activities and knowledge mobilization and translation communications (e.g. student workshops, weekly seminars, and "journal clubs").
6. Organize an <u>annual student research conference and summer institutes</u> (i.e. focused short courses).

Goal 3: AGE-WELL will conduct world-class research in the field of technology and aging.

Actions to achieve this goal will include:

1. Develop <u>stakeholder-driven research programs</u> and projects through direct collaboration with industry, receptor, academic, and government partners.
2. Conduct research that focuses on <u>understanding the needs</u> of older adults and caregivers and how technology can meet these needs.
3. Design, develop, and <u>fabricate technology-based systems and services</u> to enhance the health and well-being of older adults and support independent living.
4. <u>Work with stakeholders to create and translate knowledge and evidence</u> related to policy, practice, regulation, ethical, and social issues related to the use of technology with older adults.
5. Support successful completion of the goals of the AGE-WELL Network through the <u>support of Crosscutting activities</u> that are of relevance to all Workpackages.

Goal 4: AGE-WELL will drive the development and commercialization of technologies to support aging well.

Actions to achieve this goal will include:

1. Develop policies related to the <u>management of the commercialization process</u> working with the innovation offices at partner universities to exploit research outcomes.

2. Promote the <u>development of new start-up companies</u> and spin-offs.
3. Establish <u>funding mechanisms related to commercialization</u> that are easily accessible by AGE-WELL members, including rapid response funding and medium level pre-venture funding
4. Develop <u>training materials related to the protection of IP</u> including NDAs, patent searches and patent strategies.
5. Provide ongoing support to all AGE-WELL members through <u>one-on-one consultations</u> on matters related to design and development of IP, route to market, and analysis of business opportunity and potential market.

<u>Goal 5</u>: AGE-WELL will develop a "Knowledge Community" in technology and aging

Actions to achieve this goal will include:

1. Facilitate <u>meaningful interaction and communication</u> between researchers, partners and stakeholders to promote knowledge building and exchange.
2. Run <u>network sponsored seminars and conferences</u> to disseminate knowledge developed within research activities.
3. Support <u>publications in open access journals and media</u> in order to maximize the reach of our findings.
4. Host an <u>annual conference</u> as part of our AGM, including international events held in conjunction with international research networks.
5. <u>Develop and maintain a network data repository and website</u> to provide up-to-the-minute information on AGE-WELL events, research, partners and people, and as a clearinghouse where all documents, publications, presentations, and other relevant information will be posted for public consumption.
6. Develop <u>pilot innovation hubs across Canada</u> to provide a focus for interaction and creativity and innovation at the local level