



CGS webinar on COVID 19 Pandemic and Nursing Homes: Lessons Learnt and Gaps Identified

Friday September 18, 2020

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm EDT

Background:

Across the world, the emergence of the deadly pandemic of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2), a novel coronavirus causing COVID-19 infection, has had its most significant impact on older populations; this is especially in terms of mortality rates.¹ COVID-19 has been particularly deadly in long-term care (LTC) facilities, which house and care for frail and vulnerable older adults.²

The disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on older individuals has been observed in high-income countries including Italy,³ Spain,⁴ Japan,⁵ Canada,⁶ the United States of America,¹ and the United Kingdom.⁷ In low- and –middle income countries (LMICs), in which access to healthcare is comparably limited, the morbidity and mortality outcomes associated with COVID-19 in older populations is more pronounced.⁸ Physical distancing measures—though effective in limiting the spread of COVID-19—exert considerable consequences on the mental health of individuals who may feel isolated as a result.⁹ With the lifting of physical distancing measures, significantly worse short- and medium-term infectious outcomes may be seen in the older population, though this may have beneficial effects on their mental health.

Objectives:

- 1- To review challenges in the prevention of COVID-19 in older adults who are dependent of care either living in institutions or cared for in the community.
- 2- To identify barriers that limit access to effective health care for older adults with COVID-19.
- 3 - To determine knowledge gaps that limit the application of preventative measures to care for those at high risk of morbidity and mortality related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Program

Moderator:

Dr. Manuel Montero-Odasso MD PhD FRCPC. Canadian Geriatrics Soc. Secretary-Treasurer. CGS COVID 19 Working Group Co-Chair. Professor, Departments of Medicine (Internal Medicine and Geriatrics), and Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Faculty Scholar, Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry. Director, Gait and Brain Lab. Parkwood Institute, Division of Geriatric Medicine. The University of Western Ontario. Scientist, Lawson Research Health Institute. (All in London, Canada).

Panelists:

Prof. Tahir Masud MBBS FRCP (London). Professor of Geriatric Medicine, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust, and President of the British Geriatrics Society. Nottingham, United Kingdom (UK)

Prof. Peter Lloyd-Sherlock. Global Platform for the Rapid Generation and Transfer of Knowledge on COVID-19 and older adults LMIC (Corona-Older) School of International Development, University of East Anglia, (UEA), Norfolk, UK.

Dr. Benoît Robert MD MBA. Chief Medical Officer, Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre. Vice-President Ontario Long-Term Care Clinicians. Ottawa, Canada.

Dr. Helen M. Fernandez, MD, MPH. Director, Geriatrics Fellowship Program; Co-director, Geriatrics-Palliative Care Fellowship Program; and Associate director, Division of Medical Education, Brookdale Department of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, NYC, NY, USA.

Dr. David B. Hogan MD FRCPC. Professor and Academic Lead of the Brenda Strafford Centre on Aging, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary (Alberta, Canada)

Dr. James Silvius BA(Oxon) MD FRCPC. Clinical Professor, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary. Senior Medical Director, Provincial Seniors Health and Continuing Care, AHS, Calgary, Canada.

Dr. Nathan Stall, MD, FRCPC. Geriatrics and Internal Medicine. Research fellow at Women's College Research Institute at Women's College Hospital, and PhD candidate in Clinical Epidemiology & Health Care Research at the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation (IHPME) at the University of Toronto. Toronto, Canada.

Schedule

Time (Eastern Time)	Session	Speaker	Moderator/s
1:00 – 1:10 p.m.	Introduction and Greetings	Dr. Manuel Montero-Odasso	N/A
1:10 – 1:25 p.m.	<i>Lessons learnt/ experience of the UK</i>	Prof. Tahir Masud,	Dr. Montero-Odasso
1:25 – 1:40 p.m.	<i>Lessons from the NYC Experience</i>	Dr. Helen Fernandez	Dr. Montero-Odasso
1:40 – 1:55 p.m.	<i>Lessons learnt from an Ottawa LTC facility experience</i>	Dr. Benoit Robert	Dr. Montero-Odasso
1:55 – 2:10 p.m.	<i>Lessons learnt from the experience in low income countries during COVID-19 outbreaks in LTC facilities</i>	Prof. Peter Lloyd-Sherlock	Dr. Montero-Odasso
2:10 – 2:15 p.m.	COFFEE BREAK		

2:15 – 2:50 p.m.	Roundtable and Q & A Open forum for questions/comments	Panelists + Moderator	Dr. David Hogan Prof. Tahir Masud
2:15 – 2:20 p.m.	<i>Role of British Geriatricians during the COVID-19 Pandemic</i>	Prof. Tahir Masud	Dr. David Hogan
2:20 – 2:25 p.m.	<i>Role of Canadian Geriatricians in the COVID-19 Pandemic</i>	Dr. David. Hogan	Prof. Tahir Masud
2:25 – 2:30 p.m.	<i>Lessons learnt from the Alberta experience</i>	Dr. James Silvius	Dr. Montero-Odasso
2:30 – 2:35 p.m.	<i>Hospital Partnership with Nursing Homes: A Torontonian Experience</i>	Dr. Nathan Stall	Dr. Montero-Odasso
2:35 – 2:50 p.m.	Discussion among panel and attendees. Response to questions raised by attendees	Open Forum	Dr. David Hogan Prof. Tahir Masud
2:50 – 3:00 p.m.	Closing Remarks		

Acknowledgements: This webinar is organized by the Canadian Geriatrics Society, the CGS Covid19 Working Group and supported from a competitive grant from MD Management.

Speakers and Panelists

The following experts in geriatric medicine and gerontology compose the list of speakers and panelists:



Manuel Montero-Odasso (MD PhD FRCPC), is a Professor in the Departments of Medicine at the University of Western Ontario (Faculty Scholar Awardee 2020-2021), Director of the “Gait & Brain Lab” at Parkwood Institute, and a geriatrician and clinician-scientist at the Lawson Health Research Institute.

He serves as secretary-treasurer of the Canadian Geriatrics Society and as the Canadian Geriatric Society COVID 19 Working Group Co-Chair, and the Alzheimer Society of Canada Covid-19 Task force Co-Chair. With colleagues he authored “Canadian Geriatrics Society COVID-19 Recommendations for Older Adults. What Do Older Adults Need to Know?” (*Can Geriatr J. 2020;23(1):149-151*), COVID-19 and Older Adults. Lessons Learned from the Italian Epicenter” (*Can Geriatr J. 2020;23:155-159*), “Age Alone is not Adequate to Determine Health-care Resource Allocation During the COVID-19 Pandemic.”(*Can Geriatr J. 2020;23:152-154*); Canadian Geriatrics in the Time of COVID-19” (*J Am Geriatr Soc. 2020;68:1173-1174*).

As a scholar, he has published over 150 peer-reviewed articles in the area of falls, cognition, frailty and dementia, and edited 2 books and written 14 chapters. He has received several accolades including the American Geriatrics Society (AGS) Merck Investigator Award, the Schulich Clinician Scientist Award, the Premier of Ontario Excellence Research Award, the CIHR New Investigator Award, Honorary Membership of the Spanish Geriatrics Society and Argentina Geriatrics Society, and the TD Top 10 Most Influential Spanish-Canadians recognition. He has delivered more than 100 international presentations as a guest or key-note speaker.



Prof. Peter Lloyd-Sherlock (MA PhD). Leader of the Global Platform for the Rapid Generation and Transfer of Knowledge on COVID-19 and older adults LMIC (Corona-Older) School of International Development, UEA (UK). Peter Lloyd-Sherlock is Professor in Social Policy and International Development at the School of International Development, University of East Anglia, UK. He has long-standing research interests in public policy for older adults in Latin America, Asia and Africa. Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, he has established an informal network for academics and stakeholders with related interests (<https://www.corona-older.com/>)



Prof. Tahir Masud (MBBS FRCP), is the current President of the British Geriatrics Society. He trained at University of Oxford and St Bartholomew's Hospital, London. After postgraduate training in London and Newcastle-Upon-Tyne and a Research Fellow post in St Thomas' Hospital, London he took up a position of Consultant Physician in General and Geriatric Medicine at Nottingham in 1994. He has a research and clinical interest in osteoporosis, falls and syncope and has published over 200 peer-reviewed articles in these areas. He heads the Clinical Gerontology Research Unit at

Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust. He has previously been a scientific advisor to the National Osteoporosis Society and is the main organizer of the annual International Conference on Falls and Postural Stability. He has also served as the Clinical Sub-Dean at the University of Nottingham Medical School. He also has Honorary/Visiting Professorships at the Universities of Nottingham, Derby and Southern Denmark. He is the former President of the European Union of Medical Specialists-Geriatric Medicine Section.



Dr Benoît Robert (MD MBA), earned his medical degree at the University of Ottawa in 1986. He has been involved with long term care for over 25 years and continues to maintain his private practice since 1988. He is the Chief Medical Officer for the Perley and Rideau Veterans' Health Centre, a 450 bed long term care facility. He continues to maintain active hospital privileges at the Ottawa Hospital, the largest academic teaching hospital in Ottawa. He is on the Board of the Ontario Long Term Care Clinicians and chairs the Community of Practice for Long Term Care in the Champlain region.



Dr. Helen M. Fernandez (MD MPH), Professor and Director, Geriatrics Fellowship Program, Co-Director, Geriatrics-Palliative Care Fellowship Program, Associate Director, Division of Medical Education Brookdale Department of Geriatrics and Palliative Medicine.

Dr. Fernandez completed her residency in Internal Medicine/Pediatrics at Saint Vincent's Medical Center in New York. She then completed her fellowship in Geriatrics, where she also served as a Chief Fellow, and a Masters of Public Health degree at Mount Sinai School of Medicine. Dr. Fernandez is a palliative care physician and geriatrician. Dr. Fernandez leads the largest geriatrics fellowship in the country which trains 20% of the workforce and has served as a mentor to many students, residents, fellows and faculty. She has presented on many national and international meetings including the World Gerontology Conference, the ACP International Meeting and the International Association for Medical Education Annual Conference. In 2010, she was named a National Hispanic Medical Association Fellow. In 2010, she received the Leo Tow Gold Humanism Award and appointed as a HRSA Advisory Committee member by the Secretary of Health. In 2010, she was named a Master Educator in the Mount Sinai School of Medicine Institute of Medical Education. In 2011, she co-created the first integrated geriatrics and palliative care fellowship which has now been disseminated to 10 other institutions. In 2013, she was awarded the first American Geriatrics Society Mid-Career Clinician Educator Award. She has published several articles in competencies and entrustable professional activities for geriatric fellows and leads the development of a geriatric fellowship assessment toolbox. Dr. Fernandez has appeared in several media outlets including CNN, CCTV, CNN en Espanol, Univision and NY 1 discussing issues of aging. Since 2011, she has been a master educator for rural interdisciplinary training which has been disseminated to Indian Health Services in Washington State, New Mexico and Anchorage, Alaska and the Aleutian Islands.



Dr. David B. Hogan (MD FRCPC), was born in Baie Comeau QC, David attended universities in Nova Scotia, Alberta, and Ontario. A specialist in internal medicine and sub-specialist in geriatric medicine, he joined the University of Calgary in 1990 where he held the Brenda Strafford Foundation Chair in Geriatric Medicine for 25-years and is now the Academic Lead of the Brenda Strafford Centre on Aging (O'Brien Institute for Public Health, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary). He served as Chair of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Specialty Committee in Geriatric Medicine, President of the Canadian Geriatrics Society, and editor of the Canadian Geriatrics Journal. David has authored over 300 peer-reviewed publications. With colleagues he authored Canadian Geriatrics in the Time of COVID-19 (J Am Geriatr Soc, 68: 1173-74) and Age Alone is not Adequate to Determine Healthcare Resource Allocation during the COVID-19 Pandemic (Can Geriatr J 2020, 23: 152-54).



Dr. James Silvius (BA (Oxon) MD FRCPC), is a Clinical Professor at the Cumming School of Medicine in the University of Calgary, Alberta. He is Senior Medical Director at Provincial Seniors Health and Continuing Care, AHS. Dr. Silvius has held numerous leadership positions over his career including Division Head of Geriatric Medicine at the University of Calgary, Medical Director of Pharmacy Services at Alberta Health Services, and most recently a combined role of Provincial Medical Director of Seniors Health and Senior Medical Director of Seniors Health Strategic Clinical Network. Dr. Silvius is the current Vice-Chair of the Canadian Drug Expert Committee. His medical and academic interests include his involvement as co-founder of the Canadian Deprescribing Network (CaDEN), participation in TREC and the DementiaNet, and distance health care delivery. He has led the development of medical

assistance in dying as a service on behalf of AHS and is a renowned leader in geriatric medicine and senior healthcare.



Dr. Nathan Stall, (MD, FRCPC), received his medical degree from Western University and completed his residency in Internal Medicine and fellowship training in Geriatric Medicine at the University of Toronto. He is currently a research fellow at Women's College Research Institute at Women's College Hospital and is completing a PhD in Clinical Epidemiology & Health Care Research at the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation (IHPE) at the University of Toronto. His doctoral research uses large administrative databases to study the population health impact of caregiving for dementia. His other research interests include drug safety for older adults, sex and gender-based determinants of ageing, and health care utilization among persons with dementia. His research is supported by the University of Toronto Department of Medicine's Eliot Phillipson

Clinician-Scientist Training Program and the Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship. He has been a Staff Geriatrician at Sinai Health System since 2017. His clinical work focuses on acute care geriatrics. Dr. Stall attends on the inpatient Geriatric Medicine Consultation Service and on the Internal Medicine Clinical Teaching Units at Mount Sinai Hospital.

References

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8. Lloyd-Sherlock P, Ebrahim S, Geffen L, McKee M. Bearing the brunt of covid-19: older people in low and middle income countries. *BMJ.* 2020;368:m1052.
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