



Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging  
Étude longitudinale canadienne sur le vieillissement

Transforming Everyday Life  
Into Extraordinary Ideas!  
Transformer la vie quotidienne  
en idées extraordinaires!



NO.5

WINTER 2011

Dear Colleagues:

It has been a year of exciting developments for the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA). Over the last few months, our researchers have achieved a number of important milestones, including the launch of our first Data Collection Site (DCS) at McMaster University and the rollout of additional recruitment for the CLSA Tracking (or the telephone interview) cohort, using provincial health registries as a sampling frame in two Atlantic provinces.

As you will read in this newsletter, the CLSA continues to make great strides in implementing **the most comprehensive study of aging ever undertaken in Canada**. Among our many achievements, we have **developed a coordinated ethics review process**, which has resulted in an efficient approval process across all our participating institutions. A poster on this coordinated process, submitted by the Hamilton Health Sciences/Faculty of Health Sciences Research Ethics Board, won first prize at the 2011 conference of the Canadian Association of Research Ethics Boards.

As part of our Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) award, we have **completed renovations on all but one of our Data Collection Sites**. We have also completed bidding and purchasing of almost all our equipment funded through CFI. We are proud of the fact that the CLSA is **one of the most technologically advanced longitudinal studies**. The integration of our site equipment with secure, open-source computer software has allowed us to move forward with paperless data collection – new territory for a study of this kind.

Beyond all these successes, our greatest achievement remains **our ability to work together at the national level to advance research and knowledge of aging**. We would like to thank you for your ongoing commitment to the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging. We look forward to updating you regularly on our progress and sharing more milestones with you in 2012.



From left: Dr. Susan Kirkland, co-principal investigator at Dalhousie University; Dr. Christina Wolfson, co-principal investigator at McGill University; and Dr. Parminder Raina, lead principal investigator at McMaster University.

Special thanks to Dr. Anne Martin-Matthews for providing outstanding leadership and championing the CLSA over two terms (2004-2011) as Scientific Director of the CIHR Institute of Aging. We are grateful for your support.

## CLSA Tracking

### Recruitment from the Statistics Canada Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS)

More than 5,000 participants in the Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS) – Healthy Aging, who agreed to share their contact information with the CLSA, have completed their 30-minute recruitment interview.

### CATI Site Update

The CLSA Tracking component (the telephone interview portion of the study) is being conducted through four Computer-Assisted Telephone Interview (CATI) sites across Canada. CATI sites are located at the University of Victoria, the University of Manitoba, Université de Sherbrooke and Dalhousie University. Trained interviewers are now conducting baseline 60-minute interviews. To date, more than 800 interviews with the 5,000 CCHS participants have been completed.

## **CLSA Tracking launches in N.B., P.E.I. using provincial health registries**

Recruitment of the remaining 15,000 participants for the CLSA Tracking cohort commenced in fall 2011 using provincial health registration databases. This cycle of recruitment was launched in New Brunswick in November 2011 and Prince Edward Island in December 2011. Residents who have provided their consent to be contacted will begin to receive calls from CLSA interviewers in early 2012.

## **CLSA Comprehensive**

### **In-home interview pilots launched**

The pilot comprehensive component of the CLSA, involving the in-home interview and Data Collection Site (DCS) visit, began in spring 2011. In-person interviews with 86 participants were completed in both Montreal and Hamilton to assess the feasibility of the in-home interview.

### **McMaster, McGill launch DCS pilots**

In December, the CLSA welcomed its first group of participants for a pilot study at the Data Collection Site (DCS) at McMaster University. The purpose of the pilot was to assess and validate the instruments and procedures at the DCS. Together, the in-home interview and DCS pilots have served to fine-tune testing procedures and evaluate CLSA questionnaires. The DCS pilot in Montreal, at the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre, will be conducted with French-speaking participants in January 2012.

### **Comprehensive recruitment begins in January**

In January 2012, recruitment will also begin for the full CLSA Comprehensive (30,000 participants) using provincial health registries and random digit dialing. The first cycle starts in Ontario, Alberta and British Columbia. Remaining provinces will begin in late February 2012.

### **Coordinated ethics review process approved**

Acting as the coordinating body, the Hamilton Health Sciences/Faculty of Health Sciences Research Ethics Board (REB) at McMaster University posted the CLSA Comprehensive protocol to the CNPHI system established by the Public Health Agency of Canada. The objective was for each of the 11 ethics boards to undertake and post their own review of the protocol. The response to reviews from participating institutions was coordinated by McMaster REB in consultation with the CLSA. Approval was granted in June 2011. The next submission to the REBs will be for amendments of the comprehensive and tracking protocols.

## **Data Stewardship**

### **Conference explores linking health care data with research studies**

In September, CLSA investigators joined other longitudinal study researchers, provincial data stewards and privacy commissioners from across Canada for an inaugural meeting to evaluate the feasibility of accessing and linking Health Care Utilization (HCU) databases for research purposes.

The meeting explored the challenges and opportunities of data linkage and led to the creation of an action plan to move the initiative forward. Watch for the report from this meeting on [www.clsa-elcv.ca](http://www.clsa-elcv.ca) in the near future.

## **CLSA Funding**

### **CFI award finalized in spring 2011**

The CLSA is in the final stages of completing renovations and purchasing equipment for our project sites. There are 11 Data Collection Sites located across the country at the following institutions:

- University of British Columbia
- Simon Fraser University
- University of Victoria
- University of Calgary
- University of Manitoba
- McMaster University
- Bruyère Continuing Care/University of Ottawa
- Université de Sherbrooke
- McGill University
- Dalhousie University
- Memorial University

In addition, the Biorepository and Bioanalysis Centre will be located alongside the National Coordinating Centre in Hamilton, the Statistical Analysis Centre in Montreal and the Genetics and Epigenetics Centre in Vancouver.

In order to ensure consistency across our distributed Data Collection Sites, a coordinated purchasing process was initiated at McMaster University and adopted by our institutional partners. Most equipment will be received by the end of 2011 for the anticipated launch of the Data Collection Sites in 2012.

## **CLSA Governance**

### **International Oversight Committee commends CLSA on progress**

The International Oversight Committee (IOC) on the

Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging held two face-to-face meetings in 2011. In its annual report to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the IOC commended the CLSA on its “remarkable success” in implementing a coordinated Research Ethics Boards (REB) process and developing bilateral frameworks to deal with participant recruitment, data linkage and privacy with a number of provinces across Canada.

For more information on our governance model and committees, visit [www.clsa-elcv.ca](http://www.clsa-elcv.ca).

## Staff Changes

In 2011, the CLSA welcomed several new members to the National Coordinating Centre management team:

Dr. Ine Wauben, CLSA National Manager  
Harriet Sauve, National Operations Manager  
Lorraine Moss, National Comprehensive Coordinator  
Kashif Siraj, National CFI Project Manager  
Laura Thompson, National Communications Officer

Local Data Collection Sites also welcomed many new staff members in 2011. As many as 160 researchers and research coordinators, laboratory staff and IT systems personnel will be hired as these sites open across the country in 2012.

For a CLSA staff listing, visit [www.clsa-elcv.ca](http://www.clsa-elcv.ca).

## CLSA Online Methodology Seminars

CLSA Online Methodology Seminars provide experts and learners with a forum to present research and ideas related to the methods of conducting longitudinal studies. The CLSA Methodology Working Group seminars are held every six-to-eight weeks.

To view past seminars, please visit [www.clsa-elcv.ca](http://www.clsa-elcv.ca) and sign into the ‘Researchers’ section. Dates of 2012 seminars will be announced soon.

If you have any questions or if you wish to be added to the seminar mailing list please contact [Sharon Langs](mailto:Sharon.Langs@clsa-elcv.ca).

## Stay Connected

For the latest CLSA news, please visit us at [www.clsa-elcv.ca](http://www.clsa-elcv.ca). You can also find us on:

FOLLOW US ON 

@clsa\_elcv

 Find us on  
**Facebook**

Canadian Longitudinal  
Study on Aging (CLSA)

 Retrouvez-nous sur  
**Facebook**

Étude longitudinale  
canadienne sur le  
vieillessement (ÉLCV)

## CLSA Volunteer Inquiries

Have you received an e-mail from someone who wants to volunteer for the CLSA? Please contact [Sharon Langs](mailto:Sharon.Langs@clsa-elcv.ca) for our procedure on how to respond to these requests.

## Share your news

Do you have research or career news that you would like to share with the CLSA? Please contact our communications officer [Laura Thompson](mailto:Laura.Thompson@clsa-elcv.ca).

---

Thank you again for your commitment to the CLSA. We look forward to continued success in 2012.

Parminder Raina  
McMaster University

Susan Kirkland  
Dalhousie University

Christina Wolfson  
McGill University

**Support from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) is gratefully acknowledged.**