

***Transforming Everyday Life  
into Extraordinary Ideas***





# Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA) as a Platform for Research on Aging

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# CLSA Leads



**Co-principal Investigator  
Christina Wolfson (McGill)**



**Lead Principal Investigator  
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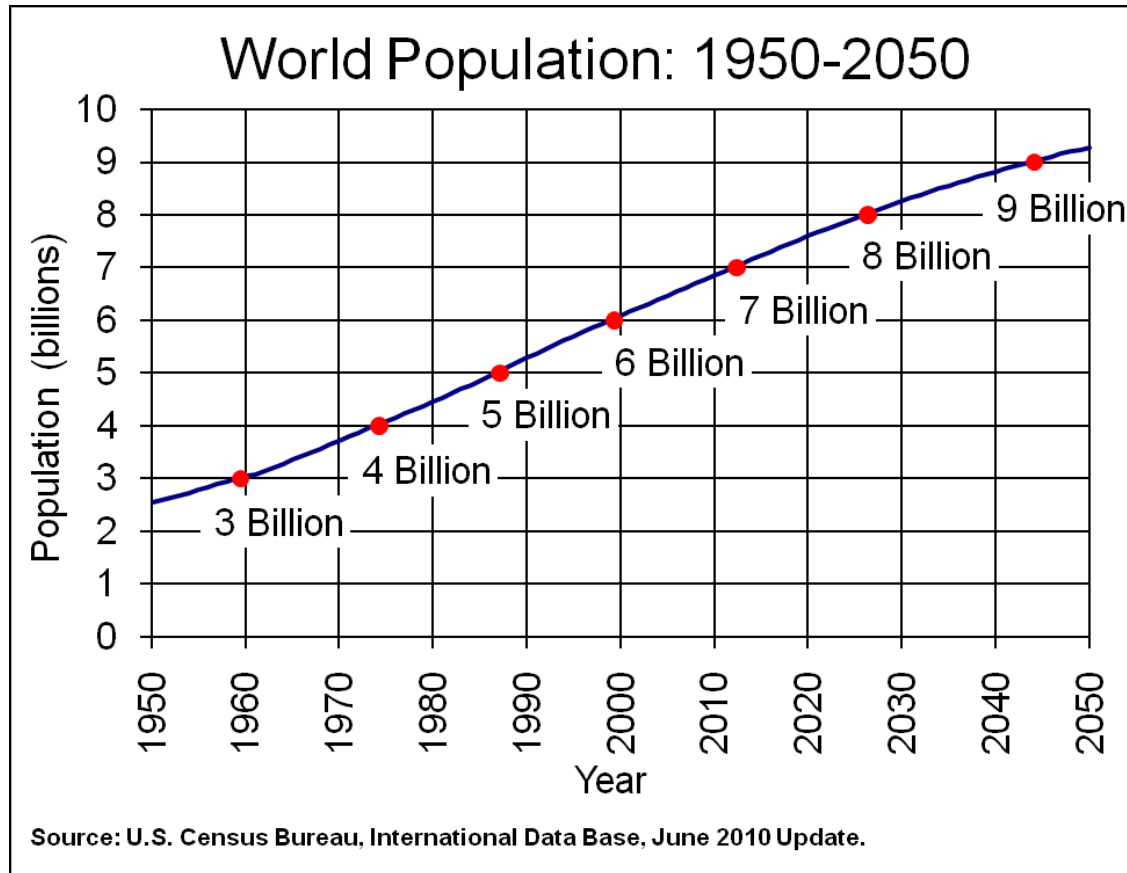


**Co-principal Investigator  
Susan Kirkland (Dalhousie)**



# WORLD POPULATION

The world population is rapidly growing:



# WORLD POPULATION AGING

- World population is especially **growing older**:
  - the share of the population aged 65+ is expected to double between 2010 and 2040, from 7.8% to 14.7%
  - the number of older people will increase from 530 million in 2010, to 1.3 billion by 2040.

([U.S. Census Bureau, International Data Base](#))

# WORLD POPULATION AGING

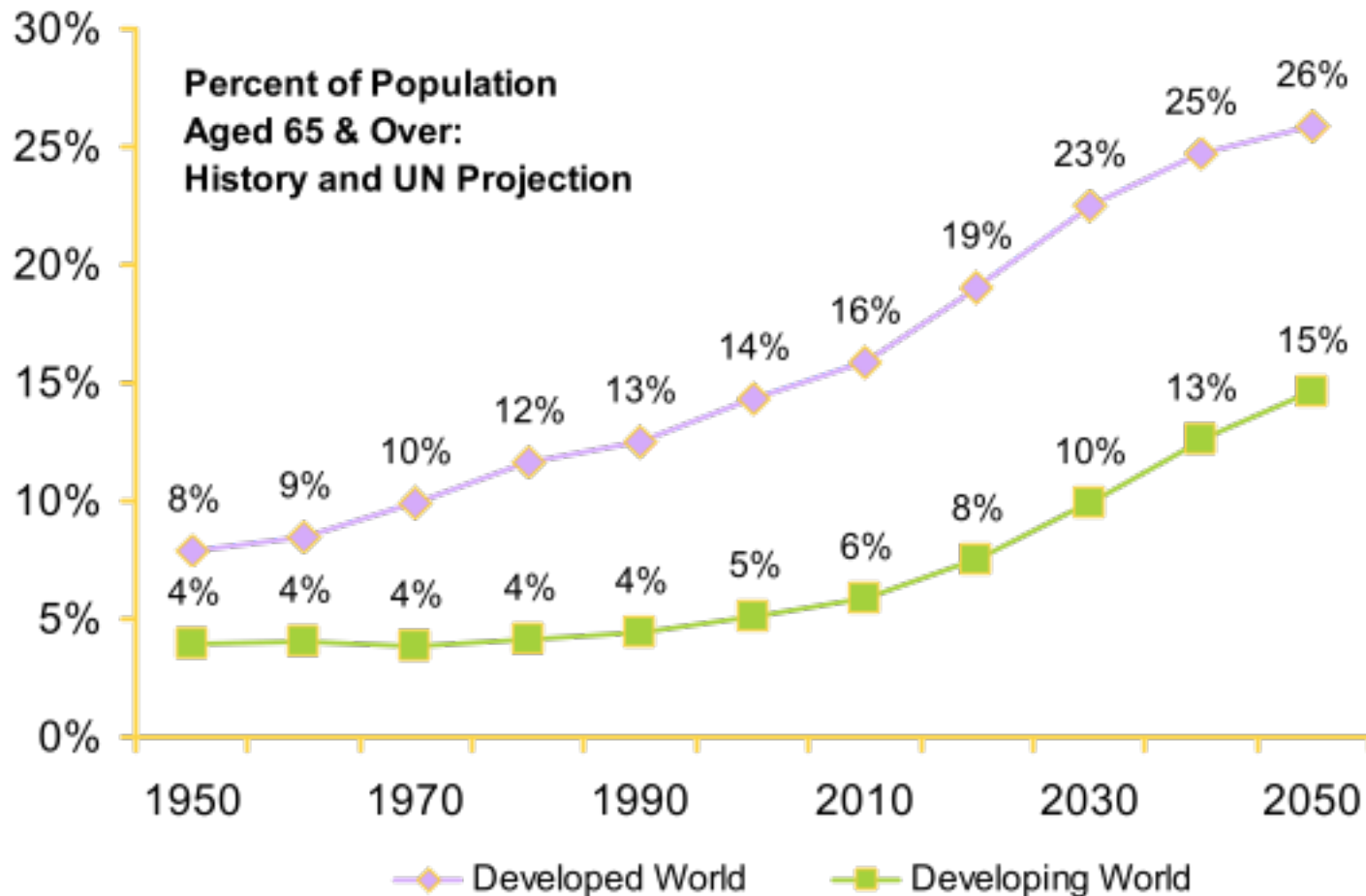
- Another aspect of world population aging is **the aging of the older population**; the share of the older at ages 80+ (the “oldest-old”) is growing more rapidly than the older population itself.
- This growth will translate into a large increase of oldest-old within the world’s older population, from 16% in 2000 to 24% in 2040.  
([U.S. Census Bureau, International Data Base](#))

# Gender and Aging

- NUMBERS
- MORBIDITY
- POVERTY



# Trends in Global Aging

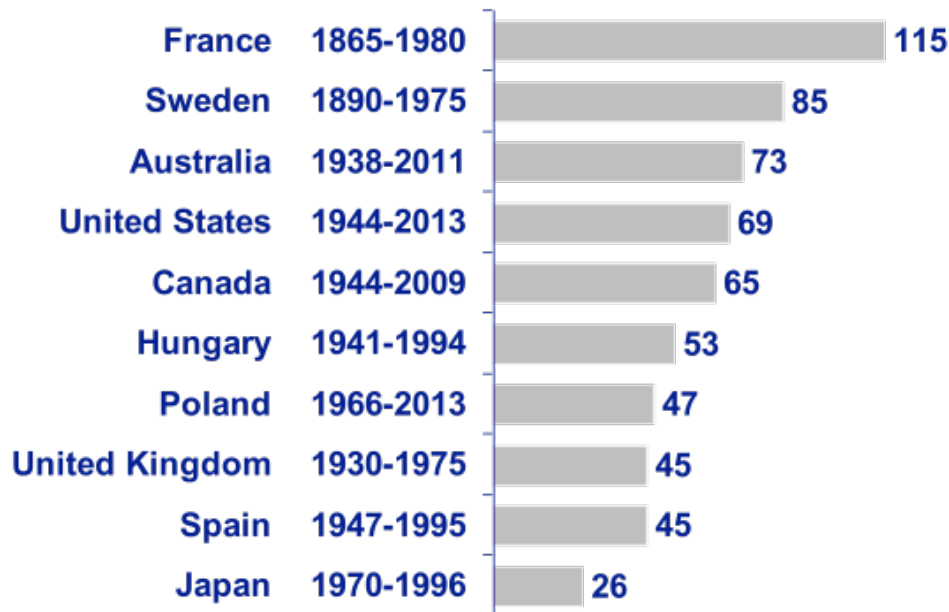


Source: UN (2005)



# Number of Years for Percent of Population Age 65 or Older to Rise from 7% to 14%

## More developed countries



## Less developed countries



\* Dates show the span of years when percent of population age 65 or older rose (or is projected to rise) from 7 percent to 14 percent.

Source: K. Kinsella and Y.J. Gist, *Older Workers, Retirement, and Pensions: A Comparative International Chartbook* (1995) and K. Kinsella and D. Phillips, "The Challenge of Global Aging," *Population Bulletin* 60, no. 1 (2005).

# Population Totals in Canada by Age Group and Year

AGE	MALES	BOTH SEXES	FEMALES
80+	229898	670192	440294
75-79	255599	622194	366595
70-74	364298	833991	469693
65-69	497996	1084588	586592
60-64	578596	1190087	611491
55-59	618096	1238387	620291
50-54	673295	1339986	666691
45-49	844194	1674182	829988
40-44	1076892	2138777	1061885
35-39	1173491	2344675	1171184
30-34	1311991	2597873	1285882
25-29	1282190	2528572	1246382
20-24	1067593	2108978	1041385
15-19	984993	1925780	940787
10-14	980292	1912979	932687
5-9	998293	1953079	954786
0-4	1000393	1953280	952887
1991 TOTALS	13938100	28117600	14179500

# Population aging

THE GLOBE AND MAIL



## Canada shows its age as seniors outnumber children for first time

ERIC ANDREW-GEE

The Globe and Mail

Published Tuesday, Sep. 29, 2015 9:50PM EDT

Last updated Wednesday, Sep. 30, 2015 8:07AM EDT



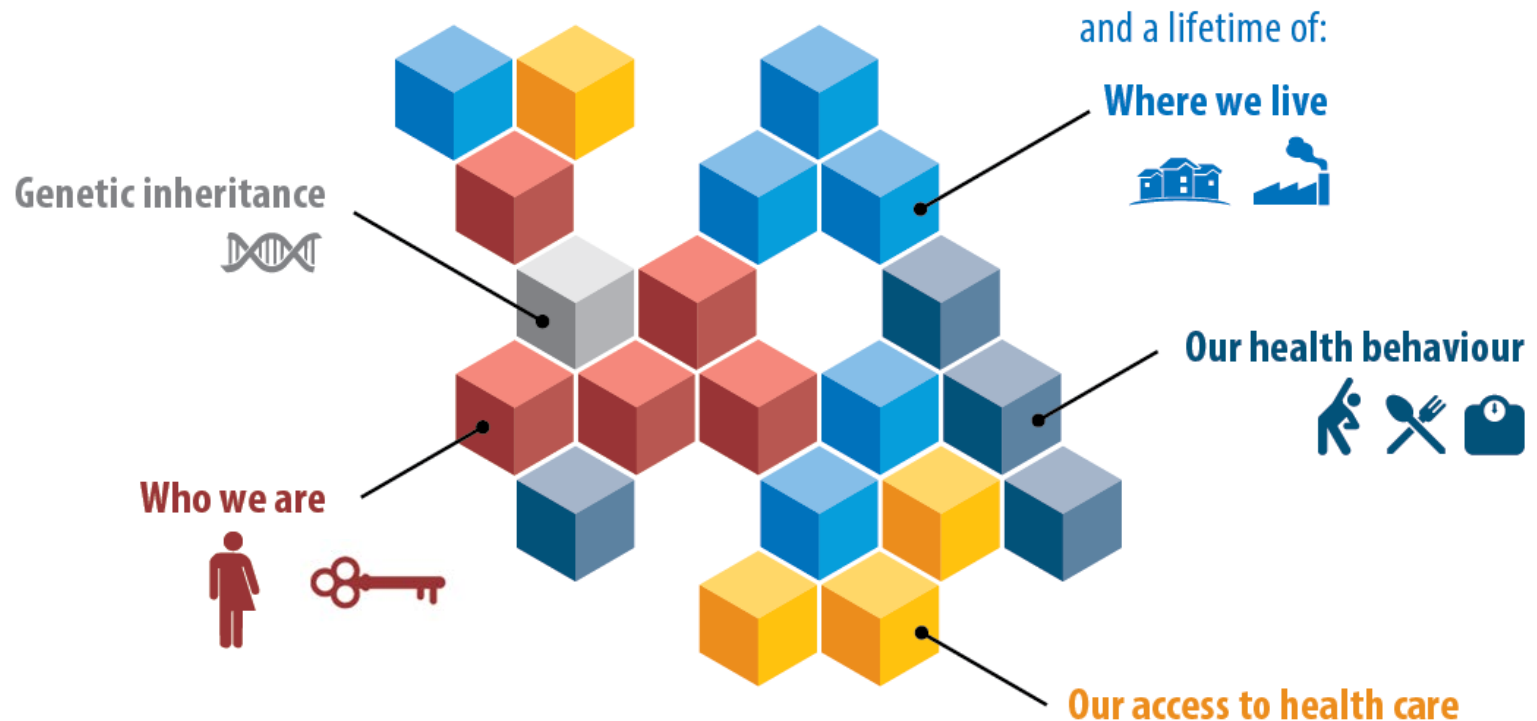
# There is no “typical” older person



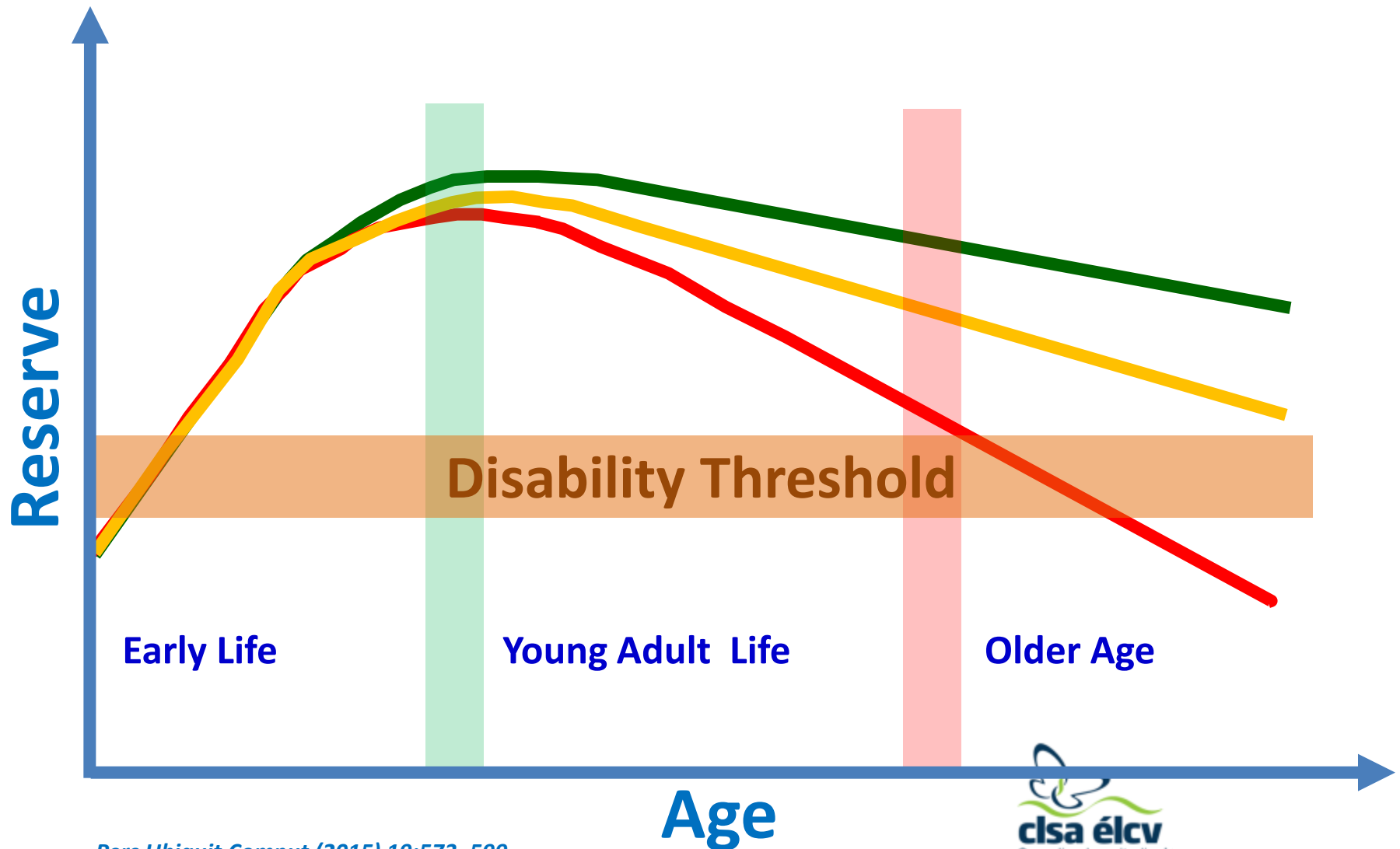


# Health and Functional Abilities in older age are not random

What makes us age differently?



# Heterogeneity of Aging



# What do we know or don't know?

- Risk factors
  - Many factors contribute
  - Aging populations are not homogeneous
  - Environmental and **Climate** influences remain unexplained
  - Gender difference remains unexplained
  - Paradoxes in prediction
- New opportunities
  - Larger number of very old people
  - Longer term follow-up
  - Longitudinal data – identify optimal trajectory
  - Common risk factors

# Future Opportunities

- **Research** on biodemography, dynamic of health, epidemiology, economics, psychology, social sciences and aging are needed.
- **Longitudinal data** are essential in order to sort causal relationships among demographic, biological, psychosocial and economic factors, and health. (CLSA)
- **Cross-national comparison** are important, considering variability across societies, in terms of status and well-being of older persons, experiences of health and mortality, family and social support. (PURE and Harmonization with international cohorts)



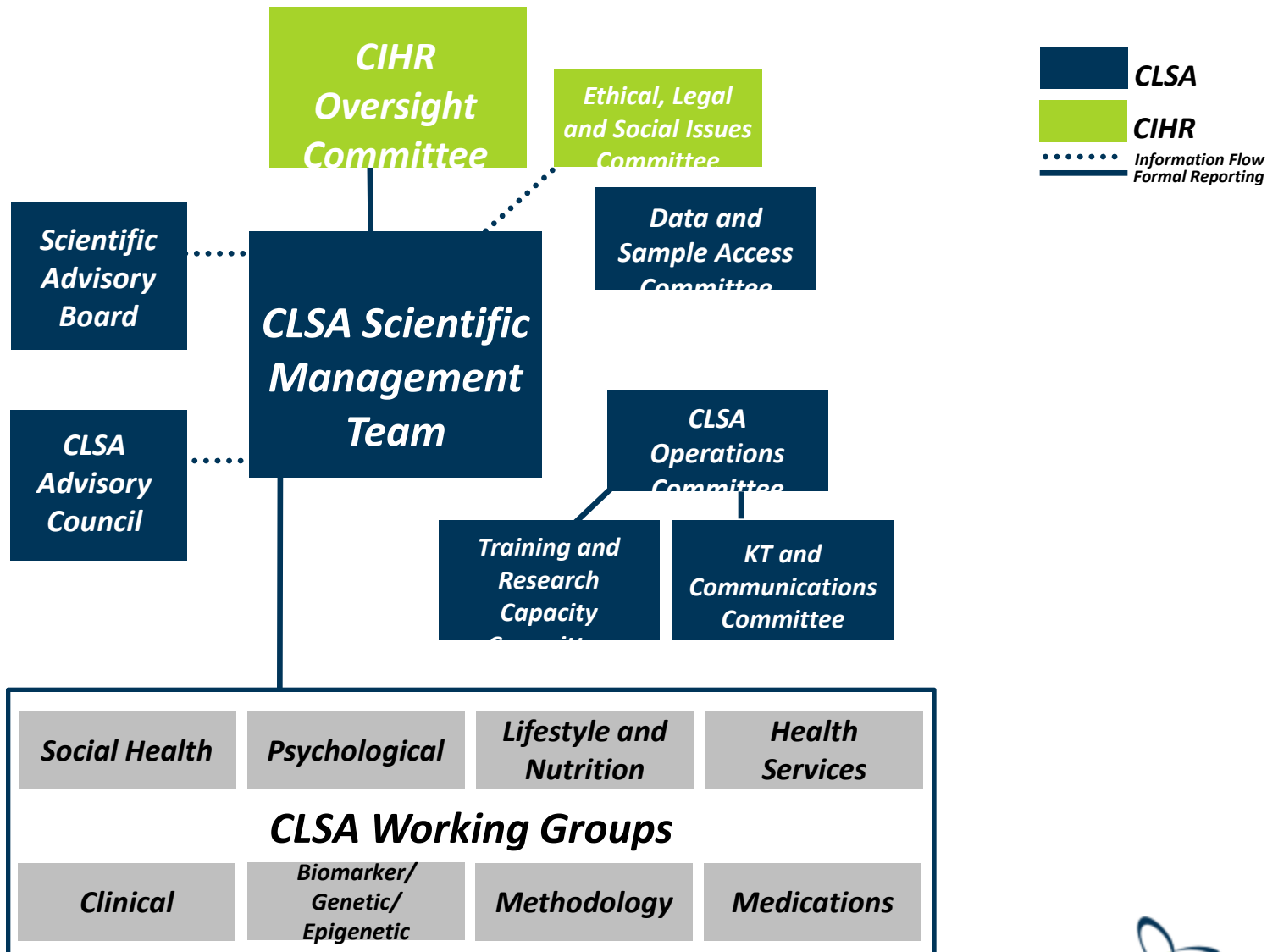
# What is the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging (CLSA)?

*“The Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging is the largest most comprehensive research platform and infrastructure available for aging research with longitudinal data that will span 20 years from over 50,000 Canadians over the age of 45”*

**A research platform – infrastructure to enable state-of-the-art, interdisciplinary population-based *research* and *evidenced-based* decision-making that will lead to better health and quality of life for Canadians**



# Governance



# The CLSA platform collects data and biospecimens from:

**51,338 Canadian women and men aged 45 - 85 at baseline**

**Questionnaires by telephone  
interview (~150 min) on 21,241  
participants**

**Randomly selected  
10 provinces**

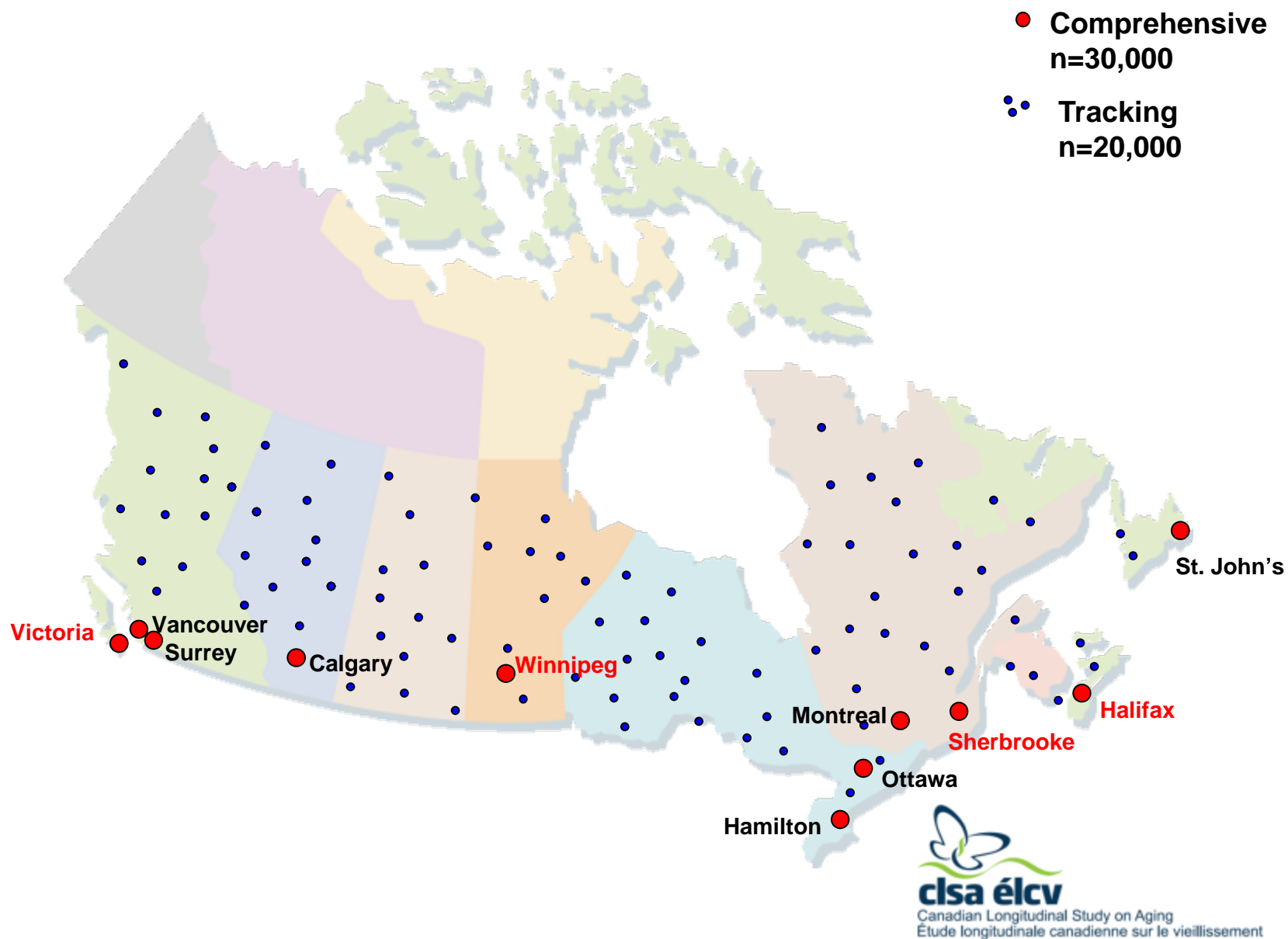
**Questionnaires by in-person interviews  
(~60 min)  
and physical assessments (~180 min)  
on 30,097 participants**

**Randomly selected  
25-50 km of 11 sites in 7 provinces**

**20 year study: Follow up every 3 years, maintaining contact in between**

**Data Linkage with health care, mortality and disease registries**

# Participant Recruitment





# CLSA Overview

2010-2015

2015

2018

2021

2024

2027

2031

TIME  
20 Years

Participants  
(51,338)

Enrolled

MC

F

MC

F

MC

F

MC

F

MC

F

MC

F

MC

F

Questionnaire Data (telephone  
and in person interviews)  
(>50,000)

Active Follow-up  
(F) Every 3 years

- Questionnaire
- Physical exam
- Biological samples

Maintaining  
Contact  
(MC) mid-wave

- Update contact  
information & implement  
Retention strategies

Active Follow-up  
Every 3 years

- Questionnaires
- Physical exams
- Biological samples
- Implement sub-studies

Physical Exam and  
Biological Specimen  
(>30,000)

Data Linkage

Data and Biological Sample Repositories

Researchers

# How did we recruit our Sample

- **Telephone Interviews** Recruitment of **21,241 participants** (age 45-85) for telephone interviews:
  - ✓ Statistics Canada CCHS on Healthy Aging
  - ✓ Provincial Health Care Registries
  - ✓ Random Digit Dialing
- **Home Interviews and Data Collection Site Visits** Recruitment of **30,097 participants** (age 45-85) for Home Interviews and Data Collection Site Visits:
  - ✓ Provincial Health Care Registries
  - ✓ Random Digit Dialing
- Baseline data collection completed on 51,338 participants
- Data are available to researchers now, additional data and biospecimen release in 2017
- First follow-up ongoing and to be completed early 2018 (2/3<sup>rd</sup> completed)  
Retention rates to date are about 98%



# CLSA Data Processing



Telephone interview  
(n=20,000)



Home interview and data collection  
site visit (n=30,000)



Blood and urine  
stored in  
Biorepository and  
Bioanalysis Centre  
(BBC)

Questionnaire data processed



Data stored in National Coordinating Centre/  
Statistical Analysis Centre (NCC/SAC)



Linkage to  
administrative data  
with **consent**

Major Challenge for a National Platform



Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging  
Étude longitudinale canadienne sur le vieillissement

# Depth and Breadth of Baseline CLSA

## PHYSICAL & COGNITIVE MEASUREMENTS

- Height & weight
- Waist and hip measurements
- Blood Pressure
- Grip strength, timed up-and-go, chair raise, 4-m walk  
Standing balance
- Vision (retinal imaging, Tonometer & visual acuity)
- Hearing (audiometer)
- Spirometry
- Body composition (DEXA)
- Bone density (DEXA)
- Aortic calcification (DEXA)
- ECG
- Carotid Plaque sweep (ultrasound) (Only at baseline)
- Carotid intima-media thickness (ultrasound)
- Cognitive assessment (30 min. battery)
- Neuroimaging (Pilot sub-study) (Follow-up 2)

## HEALTH INFORMATION

- Chronic disease symptoms (**disease algorithm**)
- Medication and supplements intake
- Women's health
- Self-reported health service use
- Oral health
- Preventative health
- Administrative data linkage health services & drugs & other administrative databases

## PSYCHOSOCIAL

- Social participation
- Social networks and support
- Caregiving and care receiving
- Mood, psychological distress
- Veteran's Identifier & PTSD
- Coping, adaptation
- Injuries and consumer products
- Work-to-retirement transitions
- Retirement planning
- Social inequalities
- Mobility-life space
- Transportation
- Built environments & Contextual Factors
- Air Pollution
- Income, Wealth and Assets

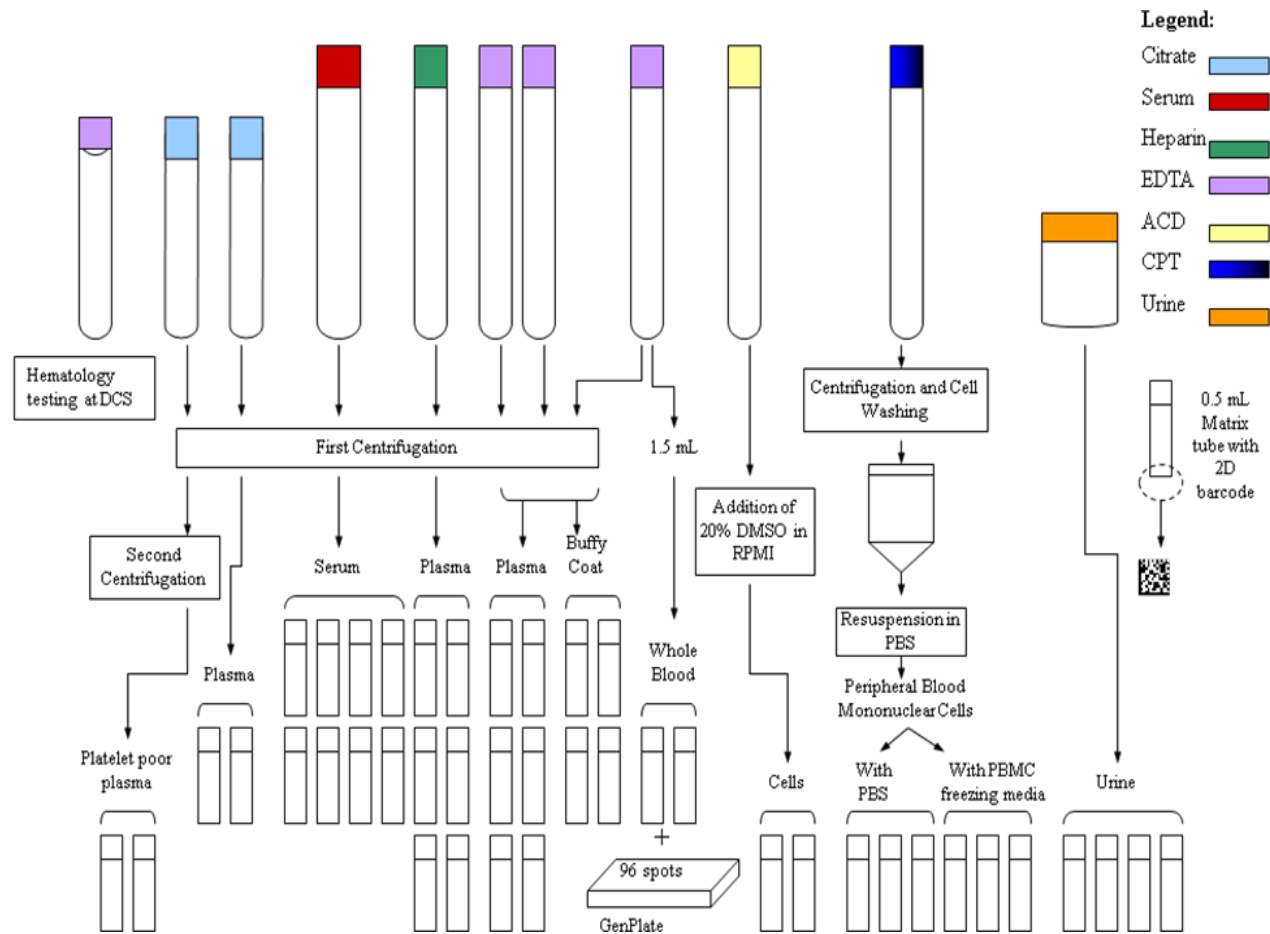
## LIFESTYLE & SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC

- Smoking
- Alcohol consumption
- Physical activity (PASE)
- Nutrition (nutritional risk and food frequency)
- Birth location
- Ethnicity/race/gender
- Marital status
- Education



# Biospecimens

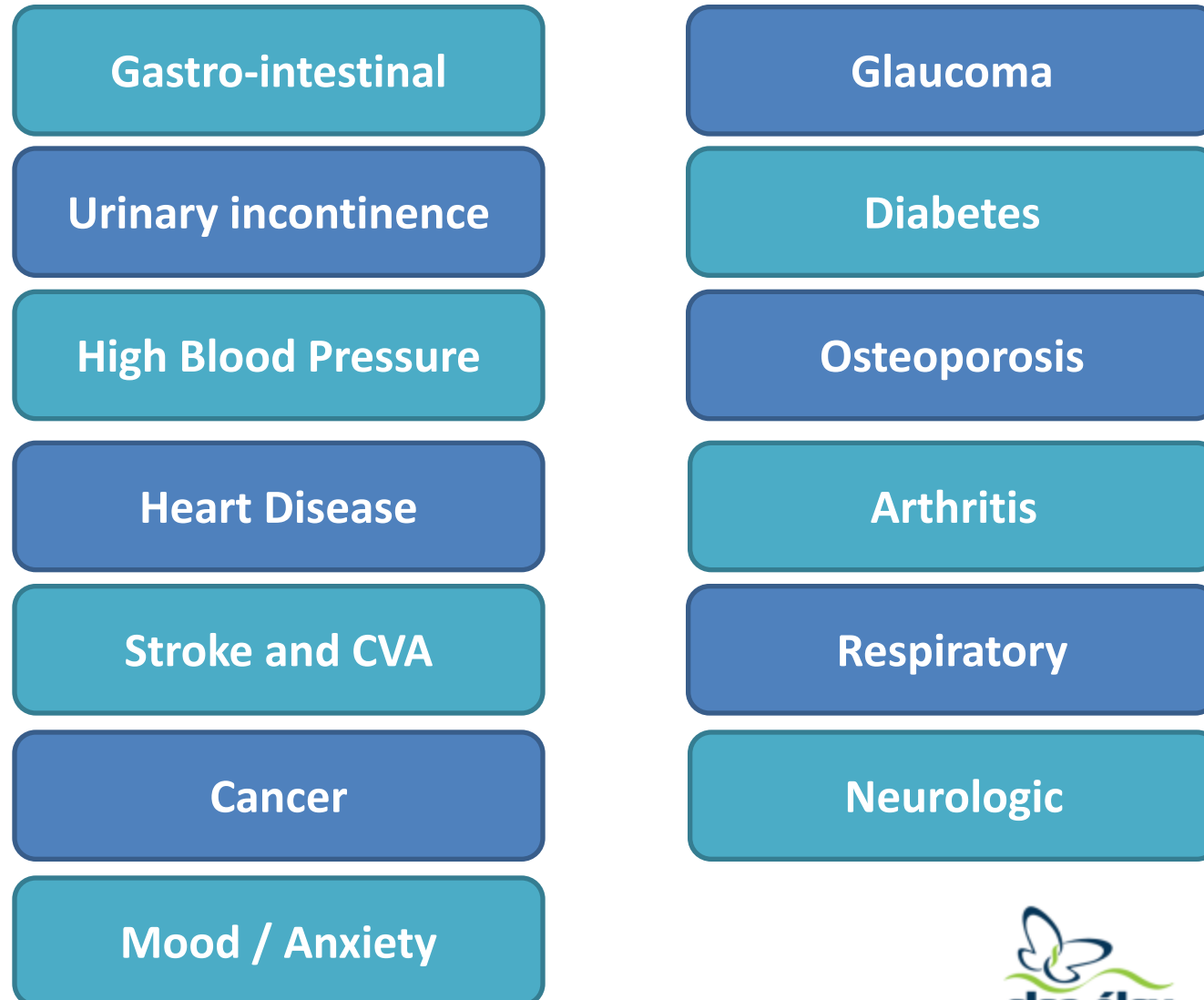
## 42 aliquots per participant



# Biomarker data in the CLSA

Available in 2018	<b>Hematology</b> Data Collection Sites	30,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Erythrocytes</li> <li>Granulocytes</li> <li>Hematocrit</li> <li>Hemoglobin</li> <li>Lymphocytes</li> <li>Platelets</li> <li>MCV</li> <li>MCV</li> <li>MCHC</li> <li>MPV</li> <li>RDW</li> </ul>
	<b>Chemistry</b> Calgary Laboratory Services	30,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Albumin</li> <li>Alanine Aminotransferase</li> <li>Creatinine</li> <li>Ferritin</li> <li>Free T4</li> <li>Hemoglobin A1c</li> <li>C-reactive protein</li> <li>Cholesterol</li> <li>HDL</li> <li>LDL</li> <li>Non-HDL</li> <li>Thyroid stimulating hormone</li> <li>Triglycerides</li> <li>25-Hydroxyvitamin D</li> </ul>
	<b>Genome-wide Genotyping</b> McGill University and Génome Québec Innovation Centre	20,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DNA extracted on all 30,000</li> <li>820K UK Biobank Axiom Array (Affymetrix)</li> </ul>
	<b>DNA Methylation Profiling</b> UBC Genetics and Epigenetics Centre	1500	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PBMCs used for DNA extraction</li> <li>850K Infinium MethylationEPIC BeadChip (Illumina)</li> </ul>
	<b>Metabolomics</b> Kyoto, Japan	1,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mass spectrometry</li> </ul>

# CLSA Data Available on Chronic Diseases:



# Additional content 2015-2018

(based on Working Groups, Collaborations & Partnerships)

- Child Maltreatment and adverse events
- Elder Abuse
- Epilepsy
- Decedent Information
  - Link with provincial mortality data (completed in all provinces except for BC and QC (in progress))
  - Primary data collection for end-of-life
- Transition to Institutions
  - Primary data collection versus using InterRai or equivalent data
- Workability
- Subjective Cognitive Decline and Meta Memory
- Preventive Health Behaviours
- Sexual orientation and Gender Identity

# Additional content 2018-2021

(based on Working Groups, Collaborations & Partnerships)

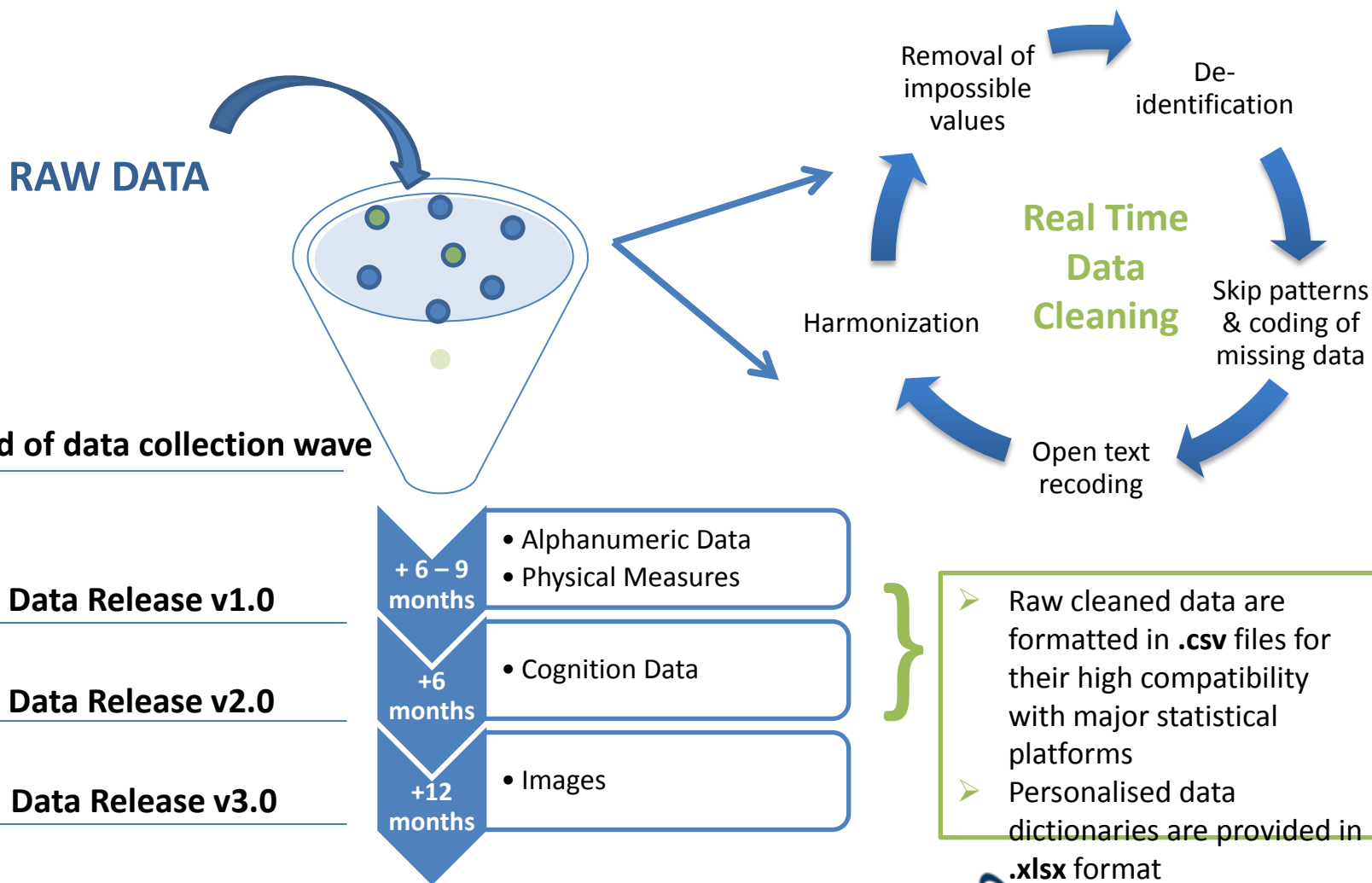
- New Modules
  - Intimate Partner Violence (PHAC)
  - Enhancing Mental Health (PHAC)
  - Anxiety (PHAC)
  - Dementia assessments
  - More enhanced modules on Hearing
  - Measures of Visceral fat

# Accommodation Strategies

- Accommodation strategies developed to maintain long term participant retention in the face of changing circumstances
  - Migration out of area
  - Sensory losses: hearing, sight, speech
  - Mobility, travel challenges
  - Institutionalization
  - Cognitive decline
- Allows for flexible participation



# Data Preparation



# How to access the CLSA Research Platform?

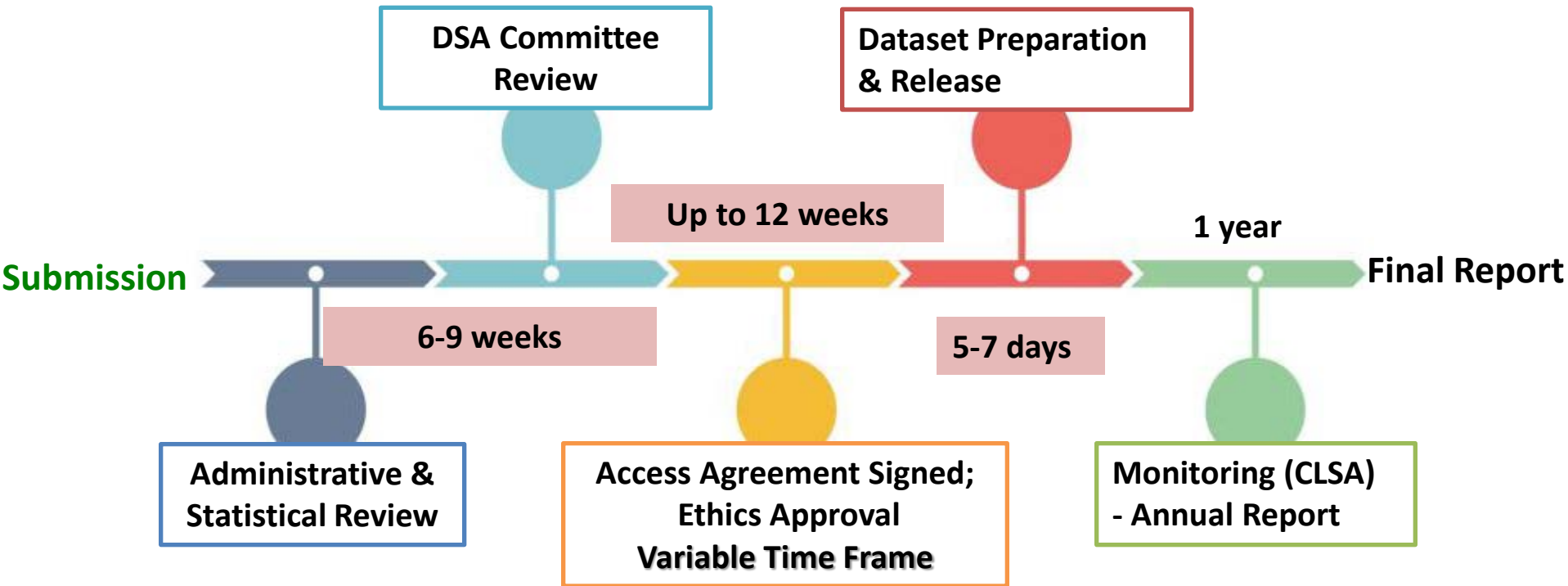
## Data and Biospecimen Access

- All data become part of the CLSA platform
- Data and biospecimens available to the research community
- Fundamental tenets:
  - The *rights, privacy* and *consent* of participants must be protected and respected at all times
  - The *confidentiality* and *security* of data and biospecimens must be safeguarded at all times
  - CLSA data and biospecimens must be used optimally to support research to benefit all Canadians.

# The process to access CLSA data

- via **CLSA DataPreview** portal
  - <https://datapreview.clsa-elcv.ca/>
- **Review:** Administrative → Data and Sample Access Committee → Scientific Management Team
- **Approval:** Preparation of CLSA access agreement, verification of ethics approval, cost recovery
- **Release:** Raw data provided to approved investigator
- **Enhance:** Return of derived variables to CLSA dataset as appropriate

# Data Access Timeline



- Plan on a receiving data 6 months after submission deadline

# Current use of the CLSA Research Platform

- To date 100+ research projects approved and ongoing using CLSA data (less than 2 years)
- 50+ partnerships/collaborations with federal and provincial governments, research organizations, associations, charities and industry to expand and enrich the CLSA Research Platform
- Over 50 HQP have been or are being trained

# Keywords – All projects





# Passive Data Collection Work in progress

- Linkage is an important CLSA strategy
  - Great potential for collecting information that is difficult to get from participants due to time, accuracy limitations; and/or may even be unknown to participants
  - Potential to obtain historical data prior to CLSA entry
- Types of databases
  - Individual level administrative provincial health databases
  - Vital statistics/disease registries
  - Population level databases of community characteristics, climate, **pollution**





### Contact:

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**[www.clsa-elcv.ca](http://www.clsa-elcv.ca)**



# CLSA Funders and Partners



Veterans Affairs  
Canada



Anciens Combattants  
Canada

Health PEI



Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging  
Étude longitudinale canadienne sur le vieillissement

