Hello,

Baycrest Health Sciences, in partnership with North East Specialized Geriatric Centre, is excited to announce the second cycle of “**Project ECHO Care of the Elderly**” (ECHO COE), a telehealth program that aims to help primary care providers build capacity in the care of older adults through weekly videoconference sessions.

***What is Project ECHO?***

Project ECHO, which stands for Extension of Community Health Outcomes, was created by Dr. Sanjeev Arora at the University of New Mexico. Project ECHO follows a ‘Hub' and ‘Spoke' model of knowledge dissemination and capacity building, which aims to exchange knowledge between academic health science centres (the “Hubs”) and the frontline of community care partners (the ”Spokes”). It relies on the flow of knowledge in multiple directions: from experts to primary care providers; between primary care providers; and from primary care providers to experts. This model is appropriate for physicians, nurses and other healthcare providers and has been successfully replicated throughout the United States, Canada and globally.

Each ECHO COE session will include a short presentation by specialists on specific topics of interest relevant to care of older adults, followed by cases **presented by the learning partners (spokes)**. Feedback and recommendations are provided by the Hub team as well as the other learning partners.

***Who can be a Learning Partner?***

Any primary care providers who want to expand their skills and build their capacity in the care of older adults can become a learning partner either individually or as a team. Physicians, nurse practitioners, nurses, social workers, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, dietitians, and/or any other healthcare professionals are welcome to join.

***When will ECHO COE run?***

ECHO Cycle 2 will run for 15 sessions, weekly, from September 5, 2018 – December 19, 2018 on Wednesdays from 3:30 – 5:00 pm, with the exception of September 19, 2018. Learning partners are expected to participate in a minimum of 80% of the 15 ECHO COE sessions and to present at least one case during the 15 sessions.

***Do I Need Special Equipment?***

No special equipment is required to participate, just an internet connection and a computer, tablet or smartphone. You will be given access to the free internet-based videoconference system through a link.

***Is this Being Evaluated?***

Feedback is important to us. In order to improve the program, the ECHO COE team is evaluating the feasibility and efficacy of the ECHO Care of the Elderly program to enable primary care providers’ skills and capacity in the care of older adults. In addition to attending ECHO COE session, learning partners will be asked to provide feedback on their training and experience via questionnaires and qualitative interviews/focus groups at various time points during the program.

***Does it Cost Anything to Participate?***

This project is fully funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and does not require any payment from participants. Furthermore, the project is fully accredited for Continuing Medical Education (CME), so participants receive CME credits at no cost.

***Next Steps?***

For more information on how to join ECHO Care of the Elderly and the commitments of being a learning partner, please email Diana Markova at **echo@baycrest.org** and/or see the attached brochure.

For more information on Project ECHO New Mexico, visit: <https://echo.unm.edu>.

For more information on ECHO programs in Ontario, visit: <https://www.echoontario.ca/>.

**For more information on ECHO Care of the Elderly and to apply, visit:** [www.baycrest.echoontario.ca](http://www.baycrest.echoontario.ca)