



Minister's Medal Honouring Excellence in Health Quality and Safety

Team-Based Initiative

Centre for Family Medicine Memory Clinic

The Centre for Family Medicine (CFFM) Primary Care Memory Clinic initiative has transformed dementia care in Ontario by allocating resources earlier in the disease to offer higher-quality care options to vulnerable persons. This model builds capacity for improved care and offers a solution to people and their family physicians challenged with this difficult-to-diagnose, difficult-to-treat chronic condition.

Evaluation studies of Memory Clinics demonstrate that more timely access to diagnosis leads to delayed decline, improved quality of life, prolonged independence, and eased caregiver burden. Memory Clinics decrease unnecessary referrals to geriatric specialists, a scarce system resource.

Memory Clinics continue to help increasing numbers of people with dementia, growing to 64 clinics in 2014. They have spread to francophone and Northern Ontario communities, ensuring more equitable access and building a sustainable health system that provides better outcomes for Ontarians. This Memory Clinic initiative has been highlighted by Dr. Samir Sinha, Provincial Lead, Ontario's Senior Strategy, as a best practice in the 2012 "Living Longer, Living Well" Seniors Strategy Report for Ontario.

Contact:

Dr. Linda Lee, Director of CFFM Clinic, lee.linda.lw@gmail.com

Individual Champion

Dr. Linda Lee

Working in primary care for 26 years, Dr. Lee noticed that patients with cognitive impairment were not getting the best possible care. Identifying this need, she developed a comprehensive multi-disciplinary program, using evidence-based tools for diagnosis of cognitive dysfunction and best practices in patient care to provide accurate, efficient diagnosis and holistic care for patients and their families.

Dr. Lee has demonstrated constant dedication to not only the development of the CFFM Memory Clinic but also the training of 64 other teams across Ontario since 2008, serving over 500 family practices and a patient base of 700,000. Her efforts have led to measureable improvement in referral rates to geriatricians.

The information provided above is taken directly from 2014 Minister's Medal applications – Facts and information herein have not been checked for accuracy.