

Living with Risk
Research Team

Dignity of Risk Symposium

How can we implement and sustain innovations that promote the dignity of risk for older people?

APRIL 29, 2026
8:30 am - 4:00 pm (ET)

Full program

Online
Registrations closed

8:30 WELCOME

Véronique Provencher, Professor & Researcher - Occupational Therapy, Université de Sherbrooke (UdS)

INTRODUCTION Presentation of 3 innovations promoting the dignity of risk

8:45 Heather MacLeod, Director, Programs & Partnerships, Provincial Geriatrics Leadership Ontario

"Living with Risks: Decision Support Approach" (LwR:DSA): a collaborative decision-making approach centered on the dignity of risk

8:55 Catherine-Anne Murray, Occupational Therapist, Dignity of Risk Team Lead, Frailty & Elder Care Network, Nova Scotia Health

Nova Scotia Health Frailty and Elder Care Network: Dignity of Risk Program

9:05 Meiqi Guo, Psychiatrist, Medical Director, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, University Health Network (UHN)

'Therapeutic' Falls - Embracing Risk, Enhancing autonomy, and Accelerating recovery

PART 1

How can we reduce the fears of accountability associated with adopting an approach that values the dignity of risk?

9:15 Rosie Macri, Bioethicist, Site Lead - Hennick Bridgepoint Hospital, Sinai Health, Toronto;

Jordan Pelc, Hospitalist, Hospital Medicine Director, Hennick Bridgepoint Hospital & Sinai Health, Toronto;

Omar Ghaffar, Staff Psychiatrist & Physician Lead-Mental Health and Addictions, Sinai Health & University of Toronto;

Si Me (Amy) Li, Hospitalist & Clinician Investigator, Sinai Health, Toronto

An Approach for Working with At-Risk Patients Expressing Desire for Discharge

9:25 Didier Mailhot-Bisson, Professor & Researcher - Nursing Science, UdS;

Mélissa Leblanc, Master's student - Nursing Science, UdS

Empowerment in Long-Term Care Facilities: A Dilemma of Values at the Heart of the Dignity of Risk

9:35 Marie-Ève Carignan, Professor & Researcher - Communication, Co-holder of the UNESCO Chair in the Prevention of Radicalization and Violent Extremism, UdS

Promoting the dignity of risk through a collaborative approach with the media

9:45 Angie Andreoli, Physiotherapist, Safety & Quality Lead, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, UHN

The Hidden Cost of Safety: How Zero Falls Policies Can Hold Patients Back (and How Data Can Help)

9:55 Interactive workshop with online participants

10:30 Break



PART 2

How to engage a person living with cognitive difficulties, and the family, in decisions involving dignity of risk?

- 10:45 **Dominique Giroux**, Professor & Researcher - Occupational Therapy, Université Laval et Centre d'excellence sur le vieillissement de Québec
Consent and Capacity to Consent
- 10:55 **Véronik Lamoureux**, Communications Professional , UdS
Co-constructing commitment: communication challenges and the dignity of risk in the context of incapacity
- 11:05 **Thomas Tannou**, Geriatrician & Researcher, Université de Montréal et Centre de recherche de l'Institut de gériatrie de Montréal
The right to risk: clinical and ethical challenges of aging at home
- 11:15 **Danielle Jepson**, Advanced Practice Leader, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, UHN
When Risk Matters Most: Supporting Mobility for Patients with Cognitive Impairment
- 11:25 **Lise Bergeron-Proulx**, Caregiver
Lived experience
- 11:35 **Interactive workshop with online participants**
- 12:10 **Break** - Sharing the progress of the visual synthesis
- 12:25 **LUNCH-CONFERENCE** **Francis Etheridge**, Consultant, Trainer & Researcher, Gérontosphère
"Taking the Risk" of Engaging in Sustainable Improvement in Collective Living Environments
- 12:55 **Break**



PART 3

How to sustainably adapt an approach that values the dignity of risk in different settings and workers?

- 1:10 **Marta Woolford**, Researcher - Organizational Change , Monash University, Australia
Organizational conditions for Dignity of Risk implementation and sustainability: A systems view of workforce practice
- 1:20 **Liza Behrens**, Professor & Researcher - Nursing, Penn State University, USA
Scaling Evidence-based Training Approaches to Honor the Dignity of Risk in Long-Term Care Settings for Sustainability
- 1:30 **Sarah Boudreault**, Physiotherapist, Professional consultant, CIUSSS de la Capitale-Nationale, Québec
Helping Users in Positive Risk-Taking: The Importance of Supporting the Whole Team!
- 1:40 **Questions & Answers period with online participants**
- 2:10 **Break**



PART 4

How can an approach that values the dignity of risk be adapted to various clienteles and cultures?

- 2:25 **Martin Caouette**, Professor & Researcher - Psychoeducation, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières
Self-determination and support for people with intellectual disabilities
- 2:35 **Sarah Boudreault**, Physiotherapist, Professional consultant, CIUSSS de la Capitale-Nationale, Québec
The Living with Risks Approach: Developed for Older Adults, but Applicable to Other Populations?
- 2:45 **Guy Drouin**, Caregiver
Lived experience
- 2:55 Questions & Answers period with online participants



CONCLUSION

- 3:25 **Marie-Ève D'Amour**, Graphic Facilitator, L'Îlot
Presentation of the visual summary of the day
- 3:45 **Véronique Provencher**, Professor & Researcher - Occupational Therapy, UoS
Closing
- 4:00 End of the symposium

« To live carefully,
without taking risks, it's
to risk not living. »

Wladimir Wolf Gozin,
French writer and painter

