

Research on Care of the Elderly in Covenant Health

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ABSTRACT

Background. Covenant Health has a core of Care of the Elderly (COE) physicians. These physicians provide care to seniors in Covenant Health and also are part of the University of Alberta's Division of Care of the Elderly program. This academic program is accredited by The College of Family Physicians of Canada and our program produces one of the largest number of graduates in the country. These COE physicians, residents, and COE researchers have conducted a considerable body of research in Covenant Health and other institutions. **Objective.** To present an overview of the research projects of the COE physicians, residents, and researchers in Covenant Health in the last 5 years. **Methods.** We reviewed the vitae of members of the Division of COE's for research projects in Covenant Health in a 5 year period (2012-2016). We created a list of the grants, conference presentations, and publications. From this list, we identified the research themes, relevance to healthcare, and future directions. **Results.** Covenant Health has 18 COE physicians. Research has involved these physicians, residents, and/or internal and external researchers collaborating with Covenant Health sites. Research has focused on six research themes: (1) Dementia, (2) Decision-Making Capacity Assessment, (3) Support for Caregivers of Seniors, (4) Accessibility to Geriatric Services, (5) Core Competencies in Care of the Elderly Program, and (6) Medically At-Risk Driving and Transportation Mobility. These research projects were done across acute care, continuing care, outpatient services, and community-based settings. The results of the research and knowledge dissemination activities have been published and presented locally, nationally, and internationally. **Discussion.** The research by COE physicians, residents, and researchers in Covenant Health, and the Division as a whole, responds to the demands of clinical care in a variety of settings, within the academic program of the Division of Care of the Elderly. The research has influenced policy and practice within Covenant Health and externally. **Conclusion.** The research and knowledge translation activities of Division members have resulted in an advancement of care of the elderly and an increased capacity to care for this rapidly expanding segment of the population both within and within and outside of Covenant Health. **Research on Care of the Elderly in Covenant Health Bonnie Dobbs, PhD; Lesley Charles, MBChB, CCFP(COE), Jean Triscott, MD, CCFP(COE); Peter George Tian, MD, MPH** Division of Care of the Elderly, Department of Family Medicine, University of Alberta Corresponding Author: Bonnie Dobbs, PhD (bdobbs@ualberta.ca)