

THE LOOP

The Foundation's Quarterly Update



Fall 2024



Foundation solicits input for granting program from all 51 RTOERO district president

The most important aspect of the RTOERO Foundation's work is our annual granting program. The overarching goal of this program is to identify and partner with researchers and community programmers to address the most critical issues faced by our aging population. We award grants to projects that improve seniors' health and wellness, promote social engagement and pursue innovative research in geriatrics and gerontology and projects that produce practical and impactful resources.

Although we aspire to award grants **across the country**, most proposals we receive are from organizations in Southwestern Ontario. To address this issue, we reached out to all 51 RTOERO district presidents to ask for the names of organizations in their local community - **especially outside of Ontario** - that could use grant funding of \$20,000-\$50,000.

We recognize that district presidents are deeply involved in their communities and likely know of organizations that work on projects to benefit older adults. These could be local hospitals or academic institutions, small grassroots groups and everything in between. Our focus with this outreach initiative was to gather the names of as many organizations from **across the country - not just Ontario** - as possible and include them on our list to receive the Request for Proposals we distribute each September.

The RTOERO Foundation's granting program is a powerful way to channel funding into local communities across the country. It's also a chance to connect organizations from

every province with this unique, impact-focused foundation created by RTOERO and generously supported by RTOERO members since 2010.

This new classroom model can be expanded across Trent as it becomes Canada's first intergenerational university. It will be implemented within Trent's ground-breaking University-Integrated Seniors Village, contributing knowledge that will show how institutions, such as universities, can play an important social role in reducing ageism.

How well do you know the [RTOERO Foundation](#)? Here are some fast facts about us....

- We are the philanthropic partner of RTOERO.
- Registered Canadian charity, established in 2011.
- Inspired by RTOERO members' desire to improve the quality of life for aging adults.
- Our mission is to invest in programs, research and training to support healthy, active aging for all Canadians.
- Our activities aim to improve seniors' health care, end social isolation and combat ageism.

In case you didn't know:

- We rely on voluntary donations from RTOERO members, as well as financial support from corporate partners and others who care about improving the quality of life for older adults.
- The Foundation issues a tax receipt for every donation of \$20 or more.
- RTOERO provides in-kind support to the Foundation in the form of office space and shared human resources; a standard arrangement for a parent association with a charity formed under its umbrella.

Granting History:

- \$3.05 million for geriatric research
 - \$596,660 for community projects addressing social engagement
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Dr. Paula Rochon's student trainee program update

In 2022, we brought you a four-part series on Dr. Rochon's Women's College Hospital student trainee program. We introduced you to five innovative minds and gave you a sneak peek at their research initiatives and what inspires them to pursue the field of geriatrics and where their future aspirations lie. This year, we bring you an update on where these bright students are today.



Part 3: Parya Borhani

In many positive ways, much has changed since the last time Parya chatted with the RTOERO Foundation as a trainee at the Women's Age Lab. She completed her study looking at potential gender bias among physicians and its impact on their prescribing practices for older men and women.

The research revealed very interesting results that Parya hopes to have published soon. It was an invaluable learning experience to be involved in this research and to see it through to the end. Parya is grateful for the confidence Dr. Rochon instilled in her early in her career to contribute to such important work.

Parya is also happy to report that she has nearly completed her first year of medical school. Parya credits Dr. Rochon's support and mentorship for this achievement.

No matter the research or specialty Parya eventually chooses to pursue, she hopes to always put into practice the values and teachings of Dr. Rochon and the Women's Age Lab. These values emphasize the importance of considering the unique needs of older women in support of healthy aging and positive health outcomes.

October is Social Isolation Awareness Month



The RTOERO Foundation has the power to make a difference. Through voluntary support from within our network of over 85,000 members, we can invest in projects that increase our understanding of social isolation and loneliness among older adults and propose innovative methods to address social isolation.

Over the past five years, the foundation's Social Isolation Awareness Month campaign has raised \$470,940.

This year, we are asking you once again to help us raise an additional \$100,000 to invest in innovative methods to address social engagement for older adults. Please join the campaign to let isolated seniors know they are not alone.

Here are some ways you can participate in Social Isolation Awareness Month:

[Chime In](#). Connect with other RTOERO members for weekly online chats. [Please register here](#).

Attend a free webinar. September 24 at 2:00pm EST. Join Kate Dupuis, Schlegel Innovation Leader at the Centre for Elder Research, and Cailey Massey, founder of Artfull Enrichment, for an interactive webinar. Discover findings from the RTOERO Foundation-funded project, Using visual arts to address social isolation in older adults, and see participant artwork. Registration will be open in early September.

Support the Foundation. Choose to support the campaign by [making a donation](#). Please donate online, call 1-800-361-9888 ext.271 or mail a cheque to:

The RTOERO Foundation
18 Spadina Rd., Toronto ON M5R 2S7

Inquire. Find out what your district is doing to help the Foundation put an end to social isolation.

For more information about the work of the RTOERO Foundation, please visit us on the [web](#).

Email: foundation@rtoero.ca **Web:** rtoerofoundation.ca

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