

# **Dr. David Conn**

**Vice-President, Education ; Director, Centre for Education and Knowledge Exchange at Baycrest**  
Toronto, ON, CA

An expert and author specializing in training psychiatric and behavioral problems encountered by medical and non-medical staff.

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## **Description**

Dr. David Conn is the vice-president of Education and inaugural director of the Centre for Education and Knowledge Exchange in Aging at Baycrest. He is a Professor in the Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto and the founding Co-Chair of the Canadian Coalition for Seniors' Mental Health and Chair of the Coalition's National Guidelines Project.

Dr. Conn completed his Medical Degree at Trinity College, Dublin, and his training in psychiatry was carried out at the University of Toronto. He subsequently completed a Fellowship in Consultation-Liaison Psychiatry at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

He joined the Department of Psychiatry at Baycrest in 1983 and served as department chief from 1992 to 2010. He also served as vice-president of Medical Services at Baycrest from 2007 to 2010. He was the medical director of the Mood and Related Disorders Clinic from 2004 to 2012. He has a keen interest in telemedicine and is medical director of Tele-health Services at Baycrest.

Dr. Conn's academic interests include nursing home psychiatry, guideline development and knowledge translation. He is the author or co-author of more than 100 publications and is the co-editor of three textbooks including "Practical Psychiatry in the Long-Term Care Home: A Handbook for Staff".

He received the 2005 Canadian Academy of Geriatric Psychiatry Award for Outstanding Contributions to Geriatric Psychiatry in Canada and a Distinguished Service Award from the International Psychogeriatric Association in 2009. He has also received the Ivan Silver Award for Excellence in Continuing Mental Health Education and the Henry Durost Award for Excellence in Creative Professional Activity from the Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto. In 2010 he was co-recipient of the CIHR Betty Havens Award for Knowledge Translation in Aging.

Dr. Conn is a past president of the Canadian Academy of Geriatric Psychiatry and is currently a Board member of the International Psychogeriatric Association (IPA). He chairs the IPA Task Force on Mental Health Services in Long-Term Care Homes and co-chairs the IPA Education Committee.

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## **Availability**

Keynote, Moderator, Panelist, Workshop, Host/MC, Author Appearance, Corporate Training

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## **Industry Expertise**

Elder Care, Health Care - Providers, Health Care - Facilities, Research, Health and Wellness, Education/Learning, Mental Health Care

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## Topics

Geriatric Psychiatry, Aging and Depression, Geriatrics

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## Affiliations

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### Sample Talks

#### **Mental Health and Aging**

There is evidence that there is a connection between a positive attitude towards aging and longevity! This session will explore factors connecting age and mood, help dispel the myth that depression is a normal part of aging, and offer strategies for maintaining a positive mood as you age. Treatment of depression in older adults will also be reviewed.

#### **Psychotropics in Older Adults: What's Best? What Benefits?**

This session will focus on the benefits versus the risks of utilizing psychotropic medications in older adults, including antipsychotics, antidepressants and benzodiazepines. Approaches which aim to optimize patterns of prescribing in LTC Homes will also be addressed.

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### Past Talks

#### **Aging and Depression**

Aging, Innovation and the Mind

#### **Maintaining A Positive Mood**

Insights Into Aging 101

#### **Paving the Way to Improve Seniors' Mental Health: Overview of the Canadian Coalition for Seniors Mental Health National Guidelines**

Dr. Ira Pollock Clinic Day and Wulf Grobin Memorial Lecture

#### **Sexual Expression in Long-Term Care Settings: Clinical and Ethical Issues**

American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry Annual Meeting

#### **Improving the mental health of older adults: How can we maximize our impact?**

The U of T Department of Psychiatry Professorial Lecture Series

### **KEYNOTE SPEECH**

Mindful Care II...A Psychogeriatric Conference

#### **Mental Health and Aging**

Sex, Aging & Memory: Canada's First Women's Brain Health Conference

**Baycrest Centre of Learning, Research & Innovation in LTC: An Overview**  
OLTCA Research & Education Day

**Psychotropics in Older Adults: What's Best? What Benefits?**  
Taboo Topics: Time to Take Charge

**Optimizing mental health in long-term care homes**  
Gazing into the crystal ball: The future of aging in Ontario

**Dementia Care: Behavioural Support Systems**  
Long Term Care Applied Research Education Day

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## **Education**

**Trinity College, Dublin**  
M.D.

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## **Accomplishments**

### **Recipient of "Outstanding Contributions to Geriatric Psychiatry in Canada"**

In 2005, Dr. Conn received the Canadian Academy of Geriatric Psychiatry Award for Outstanding Contributions to Geriatric Psychiatry in Canada. This award recognizes a geriatric psychiatrist who has made a significant contribution to geriatric psychiatry through education, research or innovations in service delivery.

### **Recipient of "Distinguished Service Award"**

In 2009, Dr. Conn received the Distinguished Service Award from the International Psychogeriatric Association. The award recognizes people who have demonstrated inspiration, leadership, vision, ethics, innovation, organizational development and motivation in areas of Psychogeriatrics.

### **Recipient of "Betty Havens Award for Knowledge Translation in Aging"**

In 2010, Dr. Conn received the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Betty Havens Award for Knowledge Translation in Aging. The award honours and supports the exemplary knowledge translation efforts and activities of an exceptional individual, team or organization that has made an outstanding contribution to improving the health of individuals, providing more effective health services and products and strengthening the health care system at a national or international level.

**Vice-President, Education ; Director, Centre for Education and Knowledge Exchange of Baycrest**  
Headquartered in Ontario and fully affiliated with the University of Toronto, Baycrest is the global leader in developing and providing innovations in aging and brain health. Baycrest is unique in the world, combining a comprehensive system of care for aging patients, one of the world's top research institutes in cognitive neuroscience, dedicated centres focused on mitigating the impact of age-related illness and impairment, and unmatched global knowledge exchange and commercialization capacity.

**Steering Committee Co-Chair â€™ Canadian Coalition for Seniors' Mental Health**

The Canadian Coalition for Seniors' Mental Health (CCSMH) is hard at work ensuring that seniors' mental health is recognized as a key Canadian health and wellness issue. Working with partners across the country, the CCSMH is busy facilitating initiatives to enhance and promote seniors' mental health. The mission of the CCSMH is to promote the mental health of seniors by connecting people, ideas and resources.

**Board of Directors â€™ International Psychogeriatric Association**

The International Psychogeriatric Association (IPA), founded in 1982 and representing more than 66 countries, is a unique and diverse professional healthcare community promoting better geriatric mental health â€™ across disciplines, across borders, and across geriatric issues. IPA promotes research and education, facilitates an international exchange of ideas on Psychogeriatric issues, and fosters cross-cultural understanding of the latest developments in the field.

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