• have new ideas about how they can share their audit results and success stories in an engaging way

Technologies for reducing risk of injury when falls happen
Dawn Mackey, Simon Fraser University
Alexandra Korall, Simon Fraser University
Chantelle Lachance, Simon Fraser University
Tyler Weaver, University of Waterloo
Dan Martel, University of Waterloo

Purpose: This symposium will present new research on three technologies designed to prevent fall-related injuries in high-risk environments: hip protectors, compliant flooring, and novel headgear.

Activities: This symposium will include presentations from four speakers: (1) Alexandra Korall (PhD Candidate) will present on the determinants of care provider commitment to the use of hip protectors in long-term care; (2) Chantelle Lachance (PhD Candidate) will present results from a scoping study about the biomechanical efficacy, clinical- and cost-effectiveness, and workplace safety associated with compliant flooring systems that aim to prevent fall-related injuries in long-term care; (3) Tyler Weaver (PhD Candidate) will describe the effects of compliant flooring on reactive stepping during dynamic balance perturbations; and (4) Dan Martel (MSc Candidate) will discuss the protective capacity of headgear during fall-related impacts. The presentations will be followed by a question and discussion period with the audience facilitated by Dr. Dawn Mackey (Assistant Professor).

Expected Outcomes: This symposium will provide decision makers, researchers, and practitioners with current evidence to inform fall injury prevention strategies.

Implementing societal steps to safer, more usable stairways and bathing/toileting facilities everywhere: Improving and applying built environment standards and codes locally, nationally and beyond
Jake Pauls, Jake Pauls Consulting Services
Linda Strobl, Public Health, City of Hamilton
Peter Bartus, former Medical Officer of Health BC
Ted Miller, Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation
Chris M. Tye, Construction Codes Consulting, AB & BC

This is the second of two 120-minute workshops intended to occur sequentially. Their shared Purpose is discussion of state-of-the-art information on significantly reducing the two leading categories of built-environment-related falls across all ages. This second workshop builds on the first, but addresses major influences on built-environment-related fall prevention achieved through safety standards, codes, laws and their adoption plus enforcement nationally, provincially and locally. Joining the group of five subject matter experts (from workshop 1) is Chris Tye who brings decades of front-line experience in Alberta and nationally in these potent, societal-level mechanisms of built-environment control (bringing to over 200, the years of relevant professional experience of presenters). Leading off the Outline of proceedings is a quick overview of various built environmental controls and the extent to which they (should) deal with key environmental factors at the heart of stairway and bathroom-related falls in homes and other buildings in Canada. This will include economics examinations into benefit-cost, an essential aspect of getting improved requirements into codes. Five presenters will give their perspectives on a recent success story leading to changes, to home stair design, in the 2015 National Building Code of Canada (NBCC). This involved an effective, national coalition of public health expertise addressing policy, process and technical issues. Next, for discussion, is the upcoming need for additional coalitions to address not only the provincial adoption of the stair-related changes, but currently proposed NBCC-2020 changes on baths/showers entailing innovative approaches to mainstreamed grab bar provision. These can drastically reduce fall injuries while achieving other valuable health benefits. Such interventions work equally well in existing facilities with minimal costs and relatively minor aesthetic implications. These Outcomes will have profound, positive effects on home usability and safety in Canada. There will be ample time for questions and full-group discussion.