



THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO'S
Institute for Life Course and Aging is pleased to present

**HEALTHCARE FOR OLDER ADULTS WITH CONCURRENT
HEARING AND VISION LOSS:
AN EXAMINATION OF IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THEIR
ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE AND HEALTH-RELATED
INFORMATION IN CANADA**

Atul Jaiswal
CIHR Health System Impact Postdoctoral Fellow
Wittich Vision Impairment Research Laboratory
École d'optométrie (School of Optometry)
Université de Montréal (University of Montreal)

Thursday, Jan 20, 2022
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

[ZOOM LINK](#)

Approximately 1.1 million older Canadians experience combined vision and hearing impairment [referred to as dual sensory loss (DSL)]. Older adults with DSL often experience challenges in accessing health services and are at high risk of cognitive impairment, depression, falls, functional decline, social isolation, and mortality. The current COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the challenges for this ageing population due to physical distancing restrictions that restrict their communication, mobility, and social interactions. Dr. Jaiswal will present a picture of the continuum of care for older adults with DSL in Canada and highlight the barriers in access to healthcare and health-related information for this group during the COVID-19 pandemic, drawing from the synthesis of a two-year qualitative study with older Canadians with DSL from Quebec and Ontario and their caregivers, and an online survey and qualitative interviews with healthcare professionals across the country. The emphasis will be on the practical strategies that could help overcome the barriers to health-related information and health services access for older adults with DSL during the pandemic and provide better geriatric care services. Findings of this study will inform the design, development, and implementation of equitable healthcare services for older Canadians with DSL during and post-pandemic.

Atul Jaiswal, Ph.D. (Rehabilitation Science), MSW (Disability Studies), BSc. (Occupational Therapy) is a postdoctoral fellow in Vision Science at the School of Optometry, University of Montreal, Canada, in collaboration with the research partner organization "the Institut Nazareth et Louis-Braille (INLB)," Montreal. He obtained his Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Science from Queen's University. He is also a recipient of the MITACS Accelerate Fellowship to pursue a research study on how best to integrate vision loss rehabilitation in the Canadian healthcare system. He is a trained occupational therapist as well as a rehabilitation social worker with experience of more than ten years in the field of disability rehabilitation. He received a gold medal during his Master's degree in Social Work (with specialization in Disability Studies & Action) and was instrumental in initiating a successful advocacy campaign for people with sensory disabilities.

This seminar will be recorded and can be accessed within a week
on our [YouTube Channel](#) under [Seminars Playlist](#).

Please RSVP to aging@utoronto.ca