

THE BARBARA G. STYMIEST CHAIR IN REHABILITATION TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH

“People don’t just want to cope with the daily challenges caused by illness, injury and older age. They want to live their lives to the fullest—and they expect solutions so that they can.”

– Dr. Geoff Fernie, VP Research, Toronto Rehab

What is Rehabilitation Technology?

- Rehabilitation technology helps people deal with everyday problems faced by older adults and those with disabilities. It equips people to manage in the real world, enhancing their quality of life, participation and productivity.



A Growing Need

- The number of Canadians living with disabilities is on the rise. One in seven Canadians—or 4.4 million—now has a disability.
- The fastest growing segment of Canada’s population is the elderly; approximately 35% of Canadians over 75 use assistive devices like wheelchairs and scooters.

The Problem Today

- Current assistive devices often do not function well in challenging environments such as winter conditions.
- Today’s assistive devices are not as user-friendly as consumers would like; stairs and narrow corridors often pose problems.
- Most assistive devices are not very high-tech or attractive.

The Barbara G. Stymiest Chair in Rehabilitation Technology Research will:

- Provide funding for Toronto Rehab to **recruit a leading researcher in the field of rehabilitation technology** who will work with an academic, clinical and engineering team and collaborate with industry
- Support the development of devices such as advanced wheelchairs, walking aids and robotic assistants
- Lead to changes in the environment, including safer handrails, new sidewalk designs and high-tech safety features for the home incorporating artificial intelligence
- Ensure innovative ideas are turned into useable products so that people can benefit as soon as possible

Further funding is needed to help Toronto Rehab Foundation establish this chair as a lasting tribute to Barbara G. Stymiest for her ongoing commitment to Toronto Rehab, including her leadership of *Everything Humanly Possible: The Campaign for Toronto Rehab*.

For more information please contact:

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