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**NEWS RELEASE**

## **NIA receives \$3M from The Slaight Family Foundation to support families living with dementia**

*Strategic funding to address an expected surge in dementia diagnoses by 2030*

**TORONTO, June 25, 2024** — This week, the National Institute on Ageing at Toronto Metropolitan University received a \$3 million gift from The Slaight Family Foundation. This gift is part of The Slaight Family Foundation's newest phase of strategic philanthropy, a \$30 million donation to support seven Canadian organizations in enhancing dementia prevention, compassionate care and research. This investment comes at a critical time, as researchers project that by 2030 nearly 1 million people in Canada will be living with dementia.

"This significant donation will foster strategic partnerships between health care institutions and community organizations, to better support families living with dementia," said Alyssa Brierley, Executive Director of the NIA. "This generous gift will promote greater awareness and more inclusive care for people living with dementia across Canada."

With funding from The Slaight Family Foundation Dementia Initiative, the NIA is proud to once again partner with The Slaight Family Foundation and collaborate with other initiative partners to lead a national campaign raising awareness about dementia, including its prevention, treatment, and care. In partnership with people living with dementia and an established network of valued partners, the NIA will develop practical, best-in-class resources to assist those living with dementia, their families, and caregivers. These new resources will be amplified through engaging digital content that will be curated and hosted by the NIA and drive a stronger national conversation on ageing and dementia.

"One of the greatest health care challenges we face is the growing number of older Canadians living with dementia, projected to affect 6.3 million people between 2020 and 2050. This necessitates urgent action to drive meaningful change and improve lives," said Gary Slaight, President and CEO of The Slaight Family Foundation. "Dementia care demands a comprehensive, collaborative approach. Through this funding to our exceptional partners, we aim to accelerate progress, foster innovation and enhance the lives of those affected by dementia."

This significant donation will build strategic partnerships between health care institutions and community organizations and will support the creation of better national awareness on both preventing dementia and supporting people living with it.

“Currently, more than 350 people in Canada develop dementia each day. This is more than 15 every hour. Yet many Canadians are not aware of what they can do to prevent it or how to access the right care and support,” said Dr. Samir Sinha, Director of Health Policy Research of the NIA. “This visionary and transformative donation will support those living with and affected by dementia especially amongst Canada’s underserved populations.”

“We are thankful for this wonderful gift,” said Cynthia Holmes, dean at Ted Rogers School of Management. “This tremendous contribution will continue to address the unique challenges faced by older adults in Canada such as dementia and will allow the NIA to continue their work to improve the lives of older adults and the systems that support them.”

The Slaight Family Foundation Dementia Initiative will promote more inclusive care, strengthen community support networks, improve public awareness and encourage bold action. “TMU has a longstanding relationship with The Slaight Family Foundation, including being home to the Allan Slaight Radio Institute in The Creative School,” said Mohamed Lachemi, President and Vice-Chancellor, TMU. “This recent gift will better support efforts to prevent dementia and to better care for the millions of Canadians who will be affected by dementia. We are grateful to The Slaight Family Foundation for recognizing this urgent need.”

The NIA is thankful to The Slaight Family Foundation for their latest gift to support its work. This overall initiative will specifically further help to accelerate the adaptation and implementation of proven models and programs into communities across Canada, ensuring more comprehensive support for all, particularly underserved and vulnerable communities.

The Slaight Family Foundation Dementia Initiative recipients include:

- Alzheimer Society of Canada
- Baycrest
- Belmont House
- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health
- Egale
- Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
- The National Institute on Ageing

### **About The National Institute on Ageing**

The National Institute on Ageing (NIA) improves the lives of older adults and the systems that support them by convening stakeholders, conducting research, advancing policy solutions and practice innovations, sharing information and shifting attitudes. Our vision is a Canada where older adults feel valued, included, supported, and better prepared to age with confidence.

### **About The Slight Family Foundation**

The Slight Family Foundation was established in 2008 by John Allan Slight and his son Gary Slight. Allan Slight (1931-2021), known as Canada's broadcast pioneer, was a leader in the music industry and a prominent Canadian philanthropist. Through the Slight family's generosity, the foundation proactively supports charitable initiatives in healthcare, at-risk youth, international development, social services and culture. Gary Slight oversees the Foundation as President & CEO.

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### **For media inquiries, please contact:**

Magdalen Stiff, Director of Communications, National Institute on Ageing  
[magdalen.stiff@torontomu.ca](mailto:magdalen.stiff@torontomu.ca)