



## Scientific/Educational Workshop

### Workshop title

**Living knowledge mobilization: transitions within, between, and out of academia and industry**

### Workshop organizer

Pooja Viswanathan (University of Toronto)

### Speakers

Pooja Viswanathan,  
Rosalie Wang

### Workshop goals

- 1) Provide an overview of the Smart Wheelchairs in Assessment and Training (SWAT) workshop as the context for knowledge mobilization and career transitions.
- 2) Share stories regarding tangible outcomes of the workshop including new international research projects collaborations, attitudes, and careers outside of academia.
- 3) Encourage the audience to share their own stories related to career decisions in knowledge mobilization.

### Abstract

The objective of the workshop is to share stories that influenced individual decisions to transition within, between and out of academia and industry in pursuit of knowledge mobilization. The personal motivations, interests, and backgrounds of the panel speakers, and opportunities and championing experienced by each are discussed in the context of the Smart Wheelchairs in Assessment and Training (SWAT) workshop conducted in Toronto in 2014. The panel speakers were all co-organizers/attendees of the SWAT workshop and pivotal moments during the workshop that inspired the speakers to pursue their academic, industry, and entrepreneurial journeys (beyond their publication records) are discussed. For example, Pooja Viswanathan made the decision to found a start-up as a result of workshop discussions regarding commercialization challenges in wheeled mobility products, and Rosalie Wang decided to pursue policy research to enhance equitable and sustainable access to assistive technology as a result of workshop discussions regarding funding barriers. This will be a unique workshop as it discusses the tangible outcomes of a transdisciplinary and international workshop that not only led to new research collaborations (papers and presentations), but also led to new attitudes, research directions, and career paths/decisions outside of academia. The discussions will encourage AGE-WELL members to share and reflect on their own successes, failures, and challenges in knowledge mobilization within and outside of AGE-WELL.