

# MEDIA RELEASE

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MANITOBA MEDICAL SERVICE  
FOUNDATION

## The MMSF Congratulates Dr. David Dawe as Recipient of the MMSF John Henson Clinical Research Professorship in Population Health Award



Dr. David Dawe's work on "Improving Chemotherapy Decision-Making for Older Patients with Cancer" has merited the MMSF John Henson Clinical Research Professorship in Population Health Award from the Manitoba Medical Service Foundation (MMSF).

This Clinical Research Professorship Award provides \$50,000 annually for three years (including benefits) for the awardee. Up to \$20,000 is also available toward a grant-in-aid during the first year of the appointment, for a total value of \$170,000.

Dr. Dawe's term begins July 1, 2018, with a guaranteed 50 per cent time commitment toward population health research. As an Assistant Professor of Internal Medicine at the University of Manitoba, Dr. Dawe's work focuses on developing a new screening tool as the standard of care for older patients receiving cancer chemotherapies. This award will also help to promote clinical research at the University of Manitoba.

"In people over 70 years old diagnosed with cancer, there are many confounders (other ongoing health issues or conditions) that may affect their ability to deal with and recover from standard therapies," says Dr. Dawe. "Our trial will help to find out if using screening questionnaires will assist the oncology team in identifying geriatric patients who are well and others who may be frail, as those who are frail may be harmed by aggressive cancer therapy."

A Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment is the current gold standard to detect frailty, but because it requires special team members, it is resource intensive. Determining patient frailty often relies on an oncologist's gut feeling about the perceived functional status of the patient.

The goal is to develop a tool that oncologists routinely use to determine frailty. This research could lead to a new geriatric screening tool that becomes the new standard of care. This could reduce toxicity and health care costs, as well as provide a better quality of life for patients undergoing treatments that could be better tailored to their unique health circumstances.

The awards selection committee is comprised of members of the MMSF and representatives from the University of Manitoba. Administrative support is provided by the University of Manitoba.

For further details on MMSF awards, please refer to the Award Recipients pages on [mmsf.ca](http://mmsf.ca).

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**Interviews available upon request.**

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