

# Making an IMPACT with the IMPACT Initiative !



# !mpact



Interdisciplinary | Mentorship | Practice  
Applied | Community | Transformative



# IMPACT Initiative Co-Leader



**Dr. Lovaye Kajiura**

**Associate Professor, Biology**

pronounced Love-A, Kah-Jer-Rah

Pronouns: she,her

<https://www.lovayekajiura.com/>  
<http://impactinitiatives.ca/>

# IMPACT Initiative Co-Leaders



Dr. Robert Fleisig (Eng)



Dr. Brenda Vrkljan (OT)



Dr. Liz Hassan (Eng)

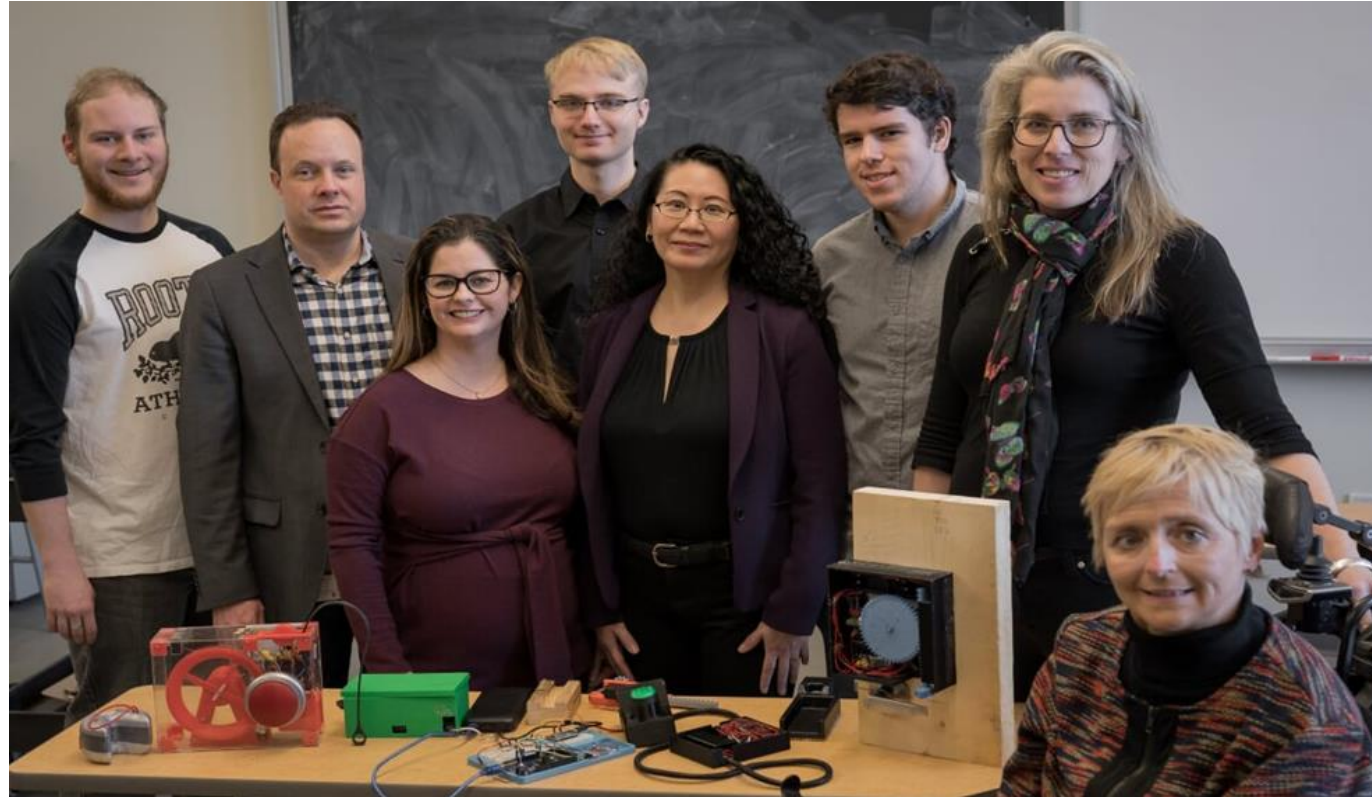


Dr. Shelir Ebrahimi (Eng)



Dr. Lovaye Kajiura (Sci)

# IMPACT Initiative Team



Visit the IMPACT Initiative Website

<http://www.impactinitiatives.ca/>

# Science 2P03 Impactful Initiatives In Health & IMPACT Team



Undergraduate & graduate students of diverse fields of study.

# Our IMPACT Mega-Interdisciplinary interactions



# IMPACT Alumni



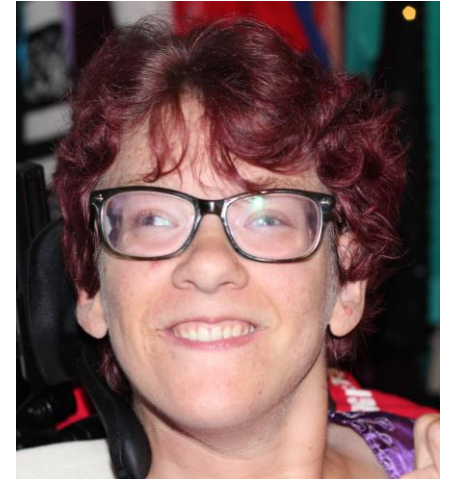
... and others

# Graduate Students & Research Assistants





# IMPACT Community Clients



# Science 2P03

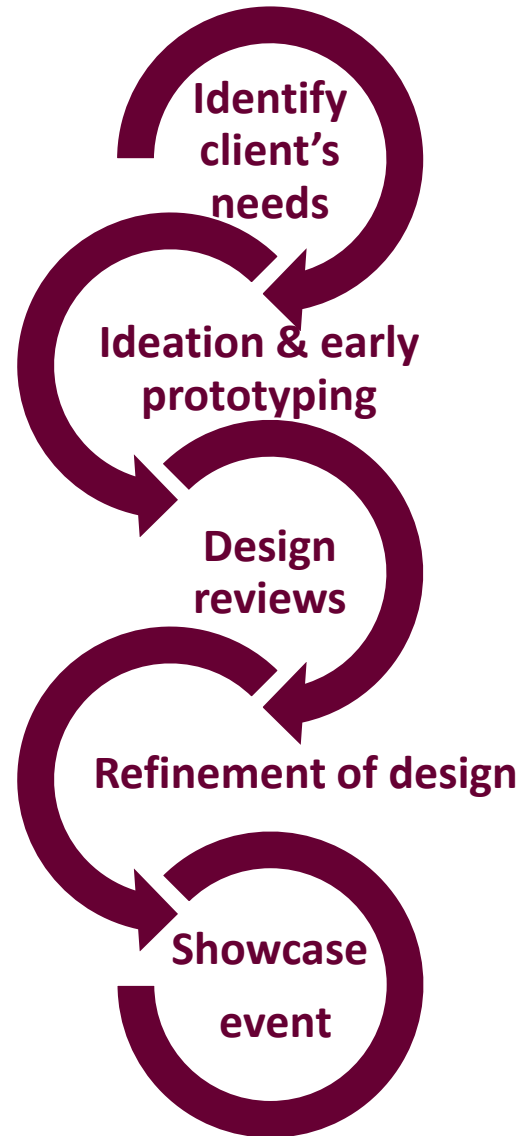
## 21<sup>st</sup> Century – Essential Skills



# “IMPACT Initiative Model – The “Process””

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**AIM:** To develop and validate concepts using a unique design thinking approach.

# Learning Objectives

**Upon completion of students will be able to:**

- Discuss the **fundamental concepts & underlying processes related to the health conditions** experienced by our IMPACT clients.
- **Implement skills** necessary for scientific research by working independently & in teams to compile, analyze, interpret, & present scientific findings using oral, written, & online formats.
- **Prepare students academically** for subsequent, specialized courses, & to ensure that students acquire skills essential for upper level science courses & science-related fields of study.

# IMPACT Clients

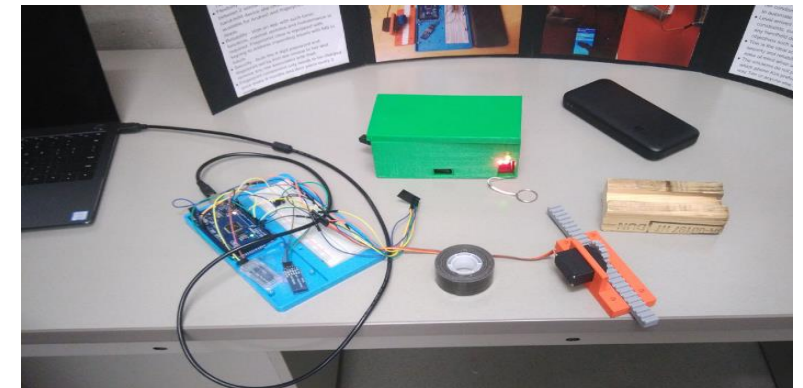


Collaborating with real clients, understanding & caring about their specific situations & challenges of an aging population.

# IMPACT Initiative Final Show Case



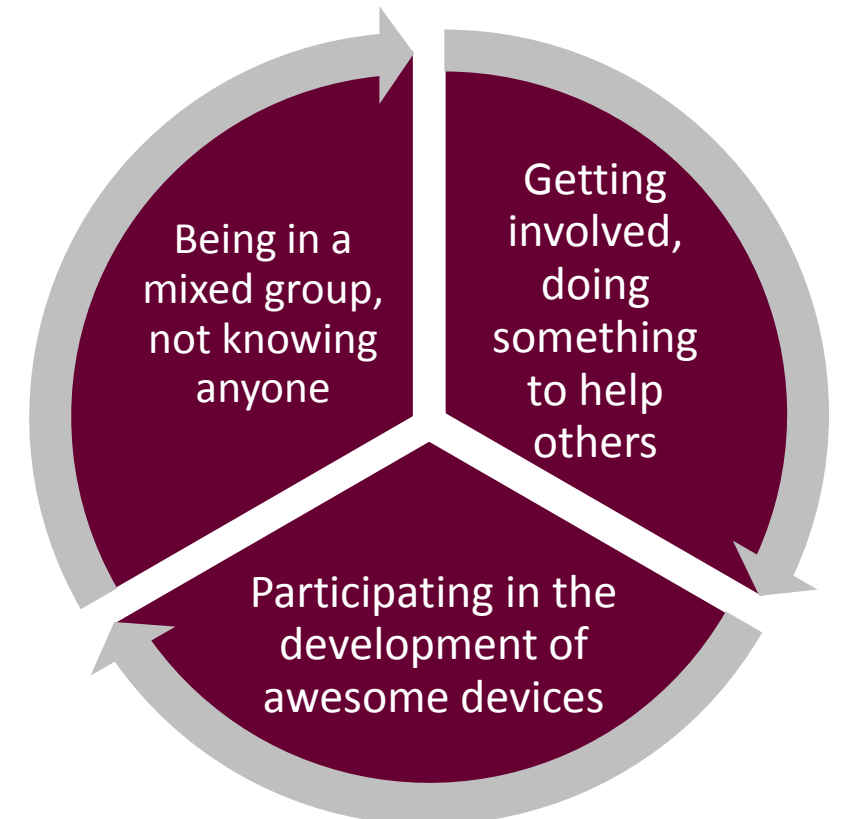
# IMPACT Initiative Devices



# SCIENCE Students' Perspectives & Feedback

“... I found this interdisciplinary project to be extremely engaging, it teaches students valuable transferable skills, allowing them to apply in-class knowledge to solve real-life problems”

“...it’s great to be able to interact with students with different perspectives. You learn from their ideas, share, and discuss together the project”

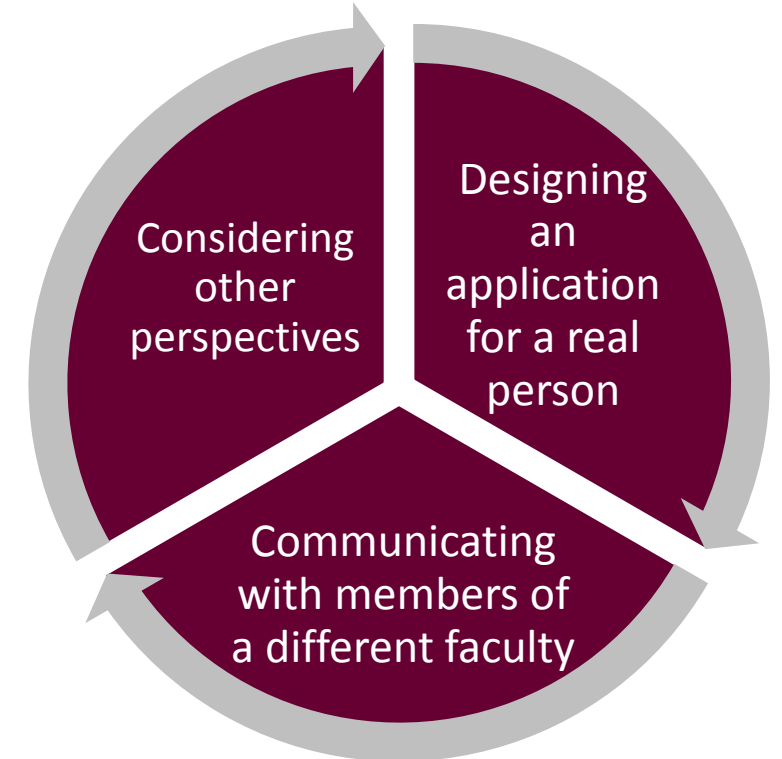




# ENGINEERING Students' Perspectives & Feedback

“excellent exercise in ‘thinking outside of the box’ and using our creative problem-solving skills.”

“[the Sci and OT students] definitely make us think in different ways. It helps to realize how interdisciplinary things are nowadays. You really have to think of it not just as a slice of pie but as the whole thing.”



# OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY Students' Perspectives & Feedback

“when we engaged in the design process together  
...when we worked together...we can create  
products that benefit”



“ ...I have come to realize the importance of  
collaboration ... that will help members of our  
community... experience was truly instrumental in  
my development as an Occupational Therapist”

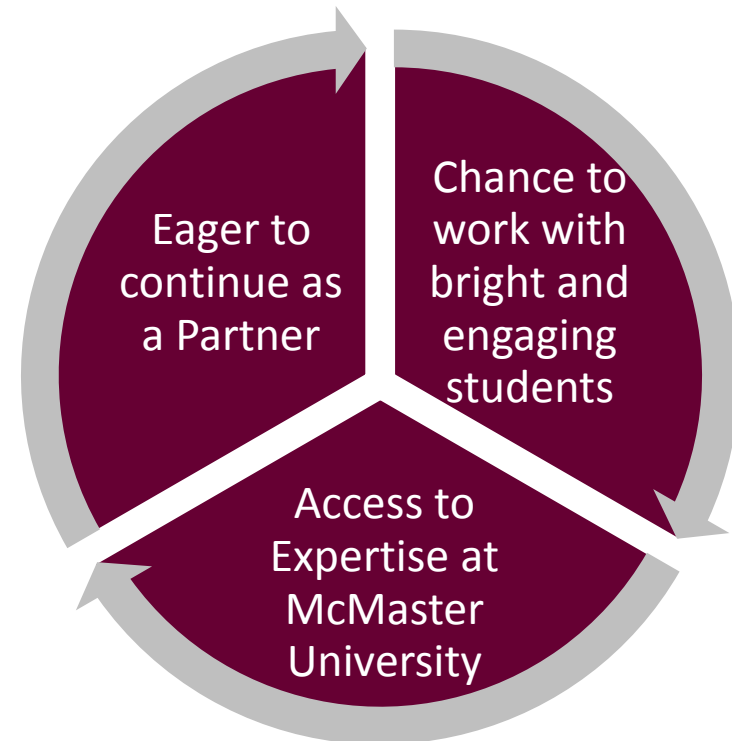


# Community Partner's Feedback - Janine Mills

“ the impact of this project has been remarkable as it supported specific needs of our residents and staff... also provided the unique opportunity to support student learning and the intergenerational collaboration between seniors and student learners”



Thrive Group  
Integration. Inspiration. Independence.



# Client Feedback - Sandi Mugford



“...the opportunity to learn with each of you has been an amazing journey and enriched my life in so many positive ways”

“...you may not know what a profound change you have made in daily life. My most generous gratitude for your collaborative efforts on this project”



# Client Feedback - Kim & Tim Nolan

“Kim & I were extremely impressed with the attention to detail, conceptual thinking and empathy.”

“This thorough approach to understanding disability in so many ways contributed to a most effective outcome.”



# IMPACT Community Outreach, Advocacy, & Fundraisers<sup>22</sup>



# Learning Outcomes

- Increased **confidence** in ability to critically **apply science knowledge to solve problems**
- Increase **awareness** of community health issues & **motivation to contribute** to their community
- By working outside of their academic silos, **strengthened** their sense of a broader campus cohort
- **Transformation** that they can make an impact to help others

# Acknowledgements

## *Special Thanks to ...*

Sandi, Brad, Sheila, Jaime, Christine, Bill, Betty, Fiona, Tim & Kim, Elissa, Alanna,  
James, Markie Ryckman, Janine Mills, Renee Guder  
Science Undergraduate & Graduate Students, Engineering,  
Occupational Therapy Graduate Students, MacMed Students, McMaster Alumni,  
HWDSB & Halton High School Teachers & Students.

*Our research is generously supported by McMaster University President's Forward  
With Integrity (FWI) Grant & MacPherson Institute Staff & Student Partners*

