Résumé: Given demographic projections, clinical service providers in all domains of health care are increasing their capacity to provide appropriate interventions for the growing population over the age of 65 years. Multiple chronic co-morbidities are becoming more and more prevalent, and the provision of sensory rehabilitation must to be prepared to compensate and/or adapt to the presence of other diseases that may interfere with a traditional approach to service delivery.

The rehabilitation of age-related causes of vision impairment, such as age-related macular degeneration and glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy and cataract, has begun to include screening measures for hearing impairment, in order to flag potential communication limitations. The same is done in reverse, since many aspects of hearing rehabilitation require at least some level of functional vision (e.g., changing the battery in a hearing aid, setting the time on a vibrating alarm clock).

The combination of age-related vision- and hearing-loss increases in prevalence with age and is highest in vulnerable subgroups, such as long-term care residents or centenarians. Therefore, health professionals are more likely than ever to encounter clients with vision and hearing problems. Specifically, rehabilitation interventions that include assistive technologies are at risk of failure and may lead to possible device abandonment when the senses are not properly considered in the effort to integrate a device into the life of a client.

This presentation will provide a brief overview of the main age-related changes in vision and hearing, and their functional implications, followed by a synopsis on the current knowledge of dual sensory impairment research as it relates to assistive technology. The goal is to increase awareness of the importance of vision and hearing, and the possible compensation strategies that health professionals can implement in order to optimally care for their clients.

Note:
Prière d’avisser vos étudiants gradués et stagiaires postdoctoraux afin d’avoir la participation de tous.