



MEDIA RELEASE

**For Immediate release:
January 30, 2023**

LHSC Department accredited with Stroke Distinction™

(LONDON, Ontario) - Accreditation Canada, the accreditation body that evaluates Canadian hospitals to ensure national standards are met, has accredited the London Health Sciences Centre - University Hospital Clinical Neurological Sciences with Stroke Distinction™ designation.

Stroke Distinction™ means that LHSC has demonstrated national leadership in the delivery of high-quality stroke care and has met the criteria of Canadian Stroke Best Practices with Heart and Stroke Canada.

During the accreditation process, a team of surveyors visits hospital to review processes and observe care. All frontline staff, nurses and doctors were involved in preparing for the survey, and their dedication contributed to this achievement.

“Being accredited with Stroke Distinction validates the commitment of our staff and physicians in providing safe and high-quality care to our patients,” says Cathy Vandersluis, President, University Hospital, LHSC. “Stroke patients at LHSC benefit from our exemplary care and research.”

LHSC was evaluated in five key areas: Standards; Protocols; Key Quality Indicators; Excellence and Innovation; and Client and Family Education. LHSC-UH achieved distinction for acute stroke services, and the Stroke Distinction™ team highlighted the following key successes:

- Making the Network a truly integrated system of care
- Successfully forging partnerships with patients and families
- Raising public awareness about stroke care throughout the region
- Nurturing “passionate and caring” stroke teams and
- Providing discipline-specific networks to support best practices

In addition, LHSC was commended for our extensive research in the fields of stroke emergency and hyperacute/acute intervention.

“LHSC's Department of Clinical Neurological Sciences is dedicated to advancing the field of stroke research and providing the best possible care for our patients”, says Dr.

Luciano Sposato, Head of the Stroke Program. “Stroke Distinction™ is the result of our commitment to excellence and a testament to the passion and dedication of our team. This recognition will serve as a driving force for us to continue to push the boundaries of what is possible in stroke care and research.”

LHSC was recognized along with its partners in the Southwestern Ontario Stroke Network which includes:

- Bluewater Health
- Chatham Kent Health Alliance
- Grey Bruce Health Services, Owen Sound Hospital
- Huron Perth Healthcare Alliance, Stratford General Hospital
- London Health Sciences Centre, University Campus
- St. Joseph’s Health Care, Parkwood Institute
- St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital
- Windsor Regional Hospital, Ouellette Campus
- Woodstock Hospital

Each organization was evaluated individually and as part of the Network, and each achieved a Stroke Distinction™.

Read More

- Learn more about heart health and strokes from the [Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada](#)
- Meet the [Stroke Team](#) at LHSC - University Hospital Clinical Neurological Sciences
- Learn more about the [Southwestern Ontario Stroke Network](#)

About London Health Sciences Centre

With roots going back a century and a half, London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC), is an award-winning, research-intensive acute tertiary and quaternary teaching hospital, one of only 14 such hospitals in Ontario. LHSC is also home to Children’s Hospital, one of just four acute tertiary care paediatric hospitals in the province. Our unique place in the health system positions us well to inform and advise on provincial, national and international health policy. We are the cornerstone of care for many specialized programs and services in Western Ontario. And, as a major provider of emergency care and through our community hospital mission, we also care for the more than 400,000 people who call London home as well as many in surrounding communities. With Ontario’s health system continuing its transformation, LHSC has an opportunity to inform it and to place itself at the locus of the regionalized health system by virtue of its size, specialized capabilities, research and education capacity and its current regional footprint. LHSC’s formal relationship and strong bond with Western University provides a mechanism for collaboration to enable the delivery of high quality care through a process of continuous learning and research. At its core, the affiliation is a reciprocal relationship that leverages the learning, teaching and care environments of both Western University and LHSC. London Health Sciences Centre is a 15,000-person

strong team of physicians, staff and volunteers – collaborators, innovators and pioneers, meeting the care needs of those we serve and charting a course for the future.

More information about LHSC can be found at www.lhsc.on.ca.

About the Southwestern Ontario Stroke Network

Stroke is the leading cause of adult disability in Canada, and the third leading cause of death. Of those who have a stroke 25% make a full recovery, 60% are left with some form of disability, and 15% die. Not only are these strokes devastating for the individuals who experience them, but they have tremendous impact on family, the community, and the health care system.

One of 11 Stroke Networks in the Province, the Southwestern Ontario Stroke Network (SWOSN) is comprised of a team of stroke experts who work with partner organizations to decrease the incidence of stroke and improve patient care and outcomes for people who experience stroke. Based out of the Regional Stroke Centre at University Hospital, London Health Sciences Centre in London Ontario, SWOSN's geography spans 10 counties with a population of 1.8 million people.

Access to best practice stroke care, stroke outcomes and community reintegration have improved significantly in Southwestern Ontario because of strong partnerships across the stroke care continuum, from Primary Care to Hospitals to Community Organizations and Long-Term Care Homes. Within these organizations are teams of dedicated health care leaders and providers who are working together to improve the stroke journey and the patient and family experience.

Visit the [SWOSN website](#).

###

For more information contact:

Steve Robinson

Senior Media Relations Consultant

London Health Sciences Centre

519-685.8500 Ext: 35947

media@lhsc.on.ca

After-hours assistance:

Call LHSC Switchboard at [519-685-8500](tel:519-685-8500) and ask to page the communicator on-call.

Visit the LHSC [Media website](#).

Like us on Facebook at [London Health Sciences Centre \(LHSC\)](#), follow us on Twitter [@LHSCCanada](#) and watch us on YouTube at [LHSCCanada](#).