



Supervisor, Corporate Nursing Executive (CNE) and Chair, Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) Report

November 2024

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Strategic and Operational Priorities

Building stronger connections: LHSC launches Community Advisory Committee

[LHSC has launched a Community Advisory Committee \(CAC\)](#) to strengthen transparency and its relationship with the community. Formed in October 2024 and chaired by LHSC Supervisor David Musyj, this 10-member committee brings together a diverse group of Londoners to provide advice and recommendations to LHSC's leadership team, ensuring community needs, views, and opinions are considered. Michelle Palmer, Executive Director of Creative Team Solutions, joined the CAC to represent challenges faced by those with developmental disabilities, emphasizing that "investing in the success of LHSC is a shared responsibility." One of their first actions is the launch of two comprehensive surveys aimed at gathering insights from Team LHSC and the public.

Strengthening LHSC through team and community input

As LHSC works to enhance governance, finances, and operations, input from our team members and the community is essential. To guide planning and decision-making for the hospital's future, the newly formed CAC will launch two surveys on November 20 – one for the public and one for Team LHSC members. Both surveys are anonymous, providing an opportunity for candid feedback that will shape strategies to enhance LHSC's operations and maintain the delivery of high-quality care. The community survey can be access on the LHSC website.

LHSC hosts first Community Update Meeting

On October 23, LHSC held its first [Community Update Meeting](#). These monthly livestreamed meetings aim to promote transparency and accountability, helping patients, families, and community members stay informed about LHSC's work and the decisions shaping health care at LHSC. The meetings provide updates on LHSC operations, progress on key initiatives, and answers to questions submitted by the community.

Launching our Great Moments program

LHSC has launched [Great Moments](#), a new recognition program celebrating the exceptional contributions of our staff, physicians, learners, volunteers, and patient partners. Supported by the London Health Sciences Foundation and Children's Health Foundation, this initiative allows patients and colleagues to submit positive feedback through a simple webform. Each recognized team member will receive a letter of appreciation from David Musyj, LHSC Supervisor, as well as a small item of appreciation. Great Moments fosters a culture of appreciation, highlighting the meaningful impact of Team LHSC.

Organizational Updates

Significant increase in obstetrical and postpartum care

LHSC has received funding from the Ministry of Health to expand Midwifery Care, allowing the Women's Care program to add three midwives dedicated to an early discharge program. This program enables eligible families to be discharged approximately 10 hours earlier than the typical 25-hour stay for low-risk births, increasing capacity while maintaining patient safety and satisfaction. Launched on September 30, 2024, the program has received positive feedback from 26 participating families, who appreciated in-home newborn care provided by registered midwives.

Media and Storytelling

Media coverage and metrics

The following highlight metrics from LHSC's October media exposure:

Total news media mentions (media exposure): 579

- Negative – 13 (2.2%)
- Neutral – 233 (40.2%)
- Positive – 333 (57.5%)

Total potential reach (number of people who saw LHSC mentioned in the news): 294 million

Earned media value (how much LHSC would have to spend on ad placement to achieve this type of coverage): \$4.82 million

Top stories by reach:

- 14 million reached:
 - [Reproducibility of 3D chemical exchange saturation transfer \(CEST\) contrasts in the healthy brain at 3T - Nature](#)
- 10 million reached:
 - [London police investigating LHSC's 'past financial practices'](#) - CTV London
- 10 million reached:
 - [First in Canada: Researchers in London, Ont. treat cancer patient with innovative therapy](#) - CTV News
- 10 million reached:
 - [How early intervention can help mood and anxiety disorders](#) – CTV London
- 10 million reached:
 - [Taking Halloween to new heights at Children’s Hospital in London, Ont.](#) - CTV London

Coverage analysis

October proved to be an extremely active month for media coverage at LHSC. The Communications and Public Engagement team responded to 21 reactive requests while also pitching eight proactive stories independently and in collaboration with partner organizations.

Media covered the launch of London Health Sciences Centre Research Institute (LHSCRI), LHSC’s first Community Update Meeting, and how a cancer patient at LHSC was the first in Canada to be treated with a rare radioisotope. Additionally, they covered a special Halloween rappel down the front of Children’s Hospital by members of the London Police Service’s Emergency Response Unit (ERU).

Additionally, LHSC’s organizational restructuring continued to garner local media interest. Those stories included an investigation by the London Police Service into previous financial practices which were reported by the hospital and two wrongful dismissal lawsuits filed against the organization.

There has also been considerable positive feedback from members of the local media and the broader community regarding LHSC’s commitment to transparency and its efforts to increase communication with the public.

Social media

The Communications and Public Engagement team posted 36 pieces of content across LHSC's social media platforms this month (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and X). Content included staff stories as well as hospital and partner initiatives, all of which garnered positive sentiment and engagement.

- **Total social media followers (across all platforms): 78,800 (+1068 new followers, +1.4%)**
**number of stakeholders/members of the public that see and have the potential to engage with LHSC's stories on a regular basis*
- **Total social media impressions: 315,347**
**number of times posts across all LHSC social media platforms appeared on someone's screen*
- **Total social media engagements: 27,591**
**number of people who liked, commented, or shared LHSC's content/stories on social media*

Top social media posts by engagement included:

- [Cardiac Surgery Intensive Care Unit \(CSICU\) photo essay | all platforms](#)
- [Re-sharing London Police Service Children's Hospital visit | Facebook](#)
- [What's your favourite baby name? | Instagram](#)
- [LHSCRI teaser: behind-the-scenes look at a cancer research lab | LinkedIn](#)

Social media analysis

On October 16, we launched four social media channels for London Health Sciences Centre Research Institute (LHSCRI). In the first month, we have seen positive engagement from both the research and broader London community. Across all platforms, we gained 959 new followers, generated 34.2K impressions and received nearly 1K engagements. Content on LHSC's social media channels this month represented a balance of storytelling that supported hospital initiatives and strategic priorities, as well as content that spotlighted our great staff and partnerships.

A CSICU photo essay was a new strategy that provided audiences with a behind-the-scenes look at the important work our staff do every day.

The positive response to London Police Service's visit to Children's Hospital on Halloween demonstrates how meaningful it is to positively engage with our city partners.

The ‘baby name’ video featured dozens of staff members — another reminder that our own staff as well as the London community continue to enjoy hearing directly from Team LHSC.

Finally, the behind-the-scenes look at the cancer research lab was one of several videos that were shared in anticipation of the LHSCRI brand launch. These posts were an effective way to engage users and build excitement around the launch of the new brand, while highlighting our respected researchers and their work.

Cancer patient first in Canada to be treated with a rare radioisotope

A team at [London Health Sciences Centre Research Institute \(LHSCRI\)](#) is the first in Canada to [treat a patient with neuroendocrine tumours \(NETs\) – a rare form of cancer – using a radioisotope](#) (an atom that releases radiation) called actinium-225 DOTATATE. This treatment, part of an international clinical trial, is being assessed for its effectiveness in improving outcomes for patients. Early results suggest good patient tolerance and minimal side effects, with potential to enhance both quality of life and life expectancy. Led by Dr. David Laidley, LHSCRI’s team is actively recruiting more patients, with five currently enrolled. The trial is expected to conclude in 2026 with hopes this approach may also benefit other cancers, such as prostate and breast cancer.

‘Bridging a gap:’ Children’s Hospital at LHSC opens RSV immunization clinic for those without a primary care provider

Children’s Hospital at London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) [has launched an RSV Immunization Clinic within the Paediatric Medical Day Unit](#) to provide the Nirsevimab antibody to eligible infants without primary care providers. Led by Nurse Practitioner Erin Fleischer, this clinic bridges a gap in access, promoting health equity for high-risk infants and alleviating pressure on the health-care system during RSV season. RSV, a virus causing severe respiratory infections, often spikes emergency visits in colder months. While immunization does not stop a child from getting an RSV infection, it has been shown to reduce the chance of serious illness and the need for hospitalization by 80 per cent.

Study provides clarity around blood pressure management in non-cardiac surgery

A global clinical trial led by Dr. Amit Garg, nephrologist at LHSC and researchers at LHSCRI, has provided valuable insights on [managing blood pressure during non-cardiac surgeries](#). The study explored two strategies: one avoiding low blood pressure and another avoiding high blood pressure. Findings, presented by Dr. Garg at the American Society of Nephrology and published in *Kidney International*, showed no significant difference in acute kidney injury risk between the two approaches for over 7,000 patients across 22 countries. The results showed that it is safe to continue blood pressure medications during the perioperative period. It also showed that there was no ideal blood pressure target during surgeries.

Living kidney donor pair success spotlight: Arlene and Reuel

LHSC's Multi-Organ Transplant Program has been transforming lives through living kidney donation and transplantation since 1975. As the program approaches its 50th anniversary, patient success stories are being shared, including [Reuel Valencia and his wife Arlene Trabado Valencia](#). The couple recently won a silver medal in the Pickleball Ontario Championship Series, demonstrating the active lives they are living post-transplantation.

London Health Sciences Centre first in Canada to implant cutting edge cardioverter defibrillator

Ian McCulloch, 56, became the [first Canadian to receive the Medtronic Aurora Extravascular Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator \(EV-ICD\) at LHSC](#). Enrolled in a global clinical trial, Ian's procedure was part of a study that demonstrated the device's safety and effectiveness in treating life-threatening arrhythmias. Unlike traditional ICDs, the EV-ICD is implanted outside the vascular system, offering greater comfort and fewer battery replacements. The global study, involving 356 patients across 17 countries, demonstrated the device's success.

Awards, Recognitions & Publications

Nicole Yawney receives Truth and Reconciliation Achievement Award

Nicole Yawney, Youth Indigenous Wellness Consultant at Children’s Hospital at LHSC, has recently been awarded the Truth and Reconciliation Achievement Award by Children’s Healthcare Canada for the second time. This award recognizes individuals who demonstrate outstanding dedication and innovation in advancing Truth and Reconciliation within the health-care sector for children and youth. Nicole’s work has made a significant impact on Indigenous care experiences at Children’s Hospital, helping to strengthen relationships with Indigenous communities and furthering the goals of Truth and Reconciliation at LHSC. Since the launch of the Youth Indigenous Wellness Program in July 2021, Nicole has supported access to mental health resources and cultural wellness for Indigenous youth. In addition, she has been instrumental in organizing the Youth Indigenous Career Fair, leading the Land-Based Healing/Nature Prescriptions initiative, and maintaining the Indigenous Healing Garden.

Research funding announcements

The following researchers at LHSCRI have been awarded funding:

- Drs. Richard Kim and Ute Schwarz (Personalized Medicine) were awarded a pre-Clinical Acceleration Team Award (pre-CATA) grant from the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research (OICR) for the study entitled “Pharmacogenomic and circulating biomarkers for predicting toxicity or suboptimal benefit from small molecule kinase inhibitor therapy” – \$749,054 (3 years)
- Dr. Brant Inman (Cancer) was awarded a National Institutes of Health (NIH) sub-award (Lead PI: Dr. Qianben Wang, Duke University) for the study entitled “Elucidating alternative polyadenylation regulation during prostate cancer progression to castration-resistance” – \$150,590 USD (5 years)
- Drs. Mark Vincent , James Koropatnick, Pete Ferguson, Jean-Yves Masson, and Sue Costerus (Cancer) were awarded a Breast Cancer Canada Research Grant from Breast Cancer Canada for the study entitled “Evaluating small molecule RAD51 inhibitors” – \$50,000 (2 years)

External Landscape

National pharmacare legislation

In October, the Senate passed Bill C-64, a national pharmacare bill aimed at enhancing the accessibility and affordability of prescription medications. The bill includes initial coverage for treatments such as diabetes medications and contraceptives, and it paves the way for the creation of a national formulary, listing essential drugs to be included in a comprehensive pharmacare program. Additionally, the bill seeks to reduce drug costs through national bulk purchasing. The federal government has committed to long-term funding for provinces, territories, and Indigenous Peoples via separate agreements.

Ontario connecting one million more women to life-saving breast cancer screening

In October, women over the age of 40 in Ontario gained the ability to self-refer for publicly funded mammograms through the Ontario Breast Screening Program (OBSP). This historic expansion provides an additional one million women with access to important screening services, allowing for earlier detection and treatment of breast cancer. With one in nine women in Ontario affected by breast cancer, early detection, improved treatment, and better care access are crucial in reducing mortality. [Provincial funding](#) supports increased OBSP site hours, more appointment slots, and additional staff training to meet the increased demand.

New guideline edition released to support people with diabetic foot ulcers

The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) has released the third edition of its [best practice guideline \(BPG\) on diabetic foot ulcers \(DFU\)](#), aimed at improving prevention, assessment, and management. This updated guideline offers evidence-based recommendations for nurses and health-care providers supporting individuals at risk of or living with DFUs. With up to 34 per cent of people with diabetes expected to develop a DFU in their lifetime, the BPG emphasizes the importance of screening, education, personalized care plans, specialized wound care teams, and the integration of virtual care platforms. The guideline, which replaces two previous editions, aims to reduce preventable amputations and enhance quality of life, while also supporting cost-effective, equitable health care.

Ontario helping more people start and grow their families

The Ontario government is investing \$150 million over two years to [expand the Ontario Fertility Program \(OFP\)](#), aiming to reduce waitlists and triple access to publicly funded fertility services in hospitals and community clinics. The expansion will include more clinic options for patients seeking treatment. Commencing in January 2025, a new tax credit will provide financial relief by covering up to 25 per cent of eligible fertility expenses, including IVF cycles, medications, travel, and diagnostic tests, with a maximum benefit of \$5,000 annually. This initiative is part of the government's broader effort to make health care more accessible and support families in their fertility journeys. The OFP currently funds services for over 107,000 Ontarians and will be further supported by the new investments.

Free flu shot and new COVID-19 vaccines now available across Ontario

Since October 28, Ontarians have been able to get their free flu shot and updated COVID-19 vaccine at pharmacies, public health units, and primary care providers. In addition, [the province](#) is expanding its RSV immunization program, offering doses of Beyfortus® for infants and high-risk children, and providing Abrysvo® for pregnant women to protect newborns. Ontario also leads Canada with a publicly funded RSV program for older adults in long-term care and retirement homes.

Ontario launches first new university nursing program in 20 Years

The [Ontario government](#) is strengthening the health care workforce by launching a new Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at Carleton University in Ottawa, the first new nursing program in Ontario in 20 years. Starting in September 2025, the program will offer a direct entry, three-year degree, graduating over 200 nurses annually by 2030. Designed to prepare practice-ready registered nurses, the program combines hybrid coursework, experiential learning labs, clinical placements, and innovative technologies such as augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) medical simulations. The program offers concentration in mental health and neuroscience, emphasizing holistic care, and nursing science data, which integrates clinical knowledge with technology to help drive innovation. Equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) is central to the program's design, alongside an emphasis on understanding the social detriments of health, equity and ethics.

Ministry of Finance releases Fall Economic Statement

Ontario's [Fall Economic Statement](#) announced key investments and policies aimed at enhancing health care in Ontario. Notable highlights include:

- \$146 million for Phase 2 of the Ontario Life Sciences Strategy, focusing on biomanufacturing and clinical adoption of Ontario-made technologies
- \$13 million over three years to establish a provincial ALS program, improving patient care at regional clinics, particularly in Northern Ontario
- \$150 million over two years to expand the Ontario Fertility Program and introduce a fertility tax credit starting January 2025
- \$17 million over three years to establish 100 new Seniors Active Living Centres across Ontario

Ongoing investments, including \$546 million over three years to expand primary care, \$128 million over three years to increase nursing enrolment, and \$50 billion over 10 years for health infrastructure. These investments reflect the government's commitment to improving patient care, health-care accessibility, and workforce development across the province.

Letter to government on financial position of hospital sector and future outlook

On October 31, the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) [submitted a letter](#) to the Minister of Health, Minister of Finance and President of the Treasury Board detailing the financial position of the hospital sector and in-year pressures. Using government data, the letter calls for additional support, collaboration, and a focus on technology and innovation to address demographic changes and future health-care demand.

2023 Emergency Department Return Visit Quality Program Report

The 2023 Emergency Department (ED) Return Visit Quality Program Report highlights province-wide efforts to reduce ED return visits and improve care quality. Key themes include addressing patients leaving without being seen; enhancing diagnostic imaging accuracy and access; and improving discharge planning to prevent adverse events. Despite system-wide pressures, ED teams remain dedicated to advancing patient care and outcomes.

Integration Decision Support now includes long-term care to better support patient journey analytics

The Ontario Hospital Association's (OHA) Integrated Decision Support (IDS) data and analytics network has added a new long-term care (LTC) data source for subscribers to share data and bring organizations together to support system-wide planning. Participating LTC homes include Exeter Villa, Providence Manor, and West Perth Village. IDS is Ontario's most mature and widely used collaborative solution for integrating health services utilization data across health providers, empowering its growing subscriber community with insight-rich, time-saving tools and reports designed by and for Ontario's health-care analysts and decision-makers. IDS equips providers and regional health teams with a longitudinal line of sight into patients' care journeys to enable planning, population health management, program evaluation and quality improvement, and operational benchmarking.

The Time to Act is Now report

Health Canada's [report](#), *The Time to Act Is Now*, outlines the urgent need for the federal government to strengthen Canada's pandemic preparedness and health outcomes. The report's recommendations emphasize the need for enhanced national risk assessment, establishing a science advisory system that is ready to activate in response to an emergency, ongoing research infrastructure, centralizing leadership for research investment coordination, and improved health data systems.

Tri-agency report on the new capstone research funding organization

The Government of Canada released a [report](#) on the new capstone research funding organization, informed by consultations with 94 organizations and 24 individuals. A main emphasis of the report was the need for effective coordination between the new capstone organization, existing funding agencies, and other key stakeholders, such as the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI). Additionally, they received strong feedback on the importance of research hospitals, the value of health research in clinical settings, and the recommendation that Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) funding eligibility be expanded to include research hospitals to maximize their impact. Key recommendations include:

- Maintaining research integrity: Ensure research independence, prioritize EDI, and create frameworks to assess research's societal, economic, and health impacts.
- Funding and resourcing: Increase investment in student and post-doctoral training, protect investigator-initiated research funding, and allocate separate budgets for the new capstone organization.

- Program delivery: Clearly define roles among the new organization, existing agencies, and stakeholders, while maintaining stability and CIHR's health portfolio ties.
- Continued education: Engage the research community throughout the design and implementation of the new funding agency and streamline support systems through a single portal.

Op-ed: A national vision to raise Canadian health research up from down the rabbit hole

[HealthCareCAN](#), the national voice for Canadian hospitals of which London Health Sciences Centre is a member, has submitted an [op-ed](#) around a National Vision for Health Research to the Canadian Science Policy Centre national conference.

Refreshing Canada's Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) community engagement- summary report

A [report](#) from Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) outlines patient and community feedback around the effectiveness of Canada's Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) and recommendations going forward. The report is organized into seven key themes:

1. Strengths and challenges of the SPOR program;
2. Important trends and future needs;
3. Advancing Indigenous self-determination in health research through SPOR;
4. Promoting equity, diversity, inclusion, accessibility, and anti-racism in patient engagement and research;
5. Building capacity and fostering partnerships for excellence in patient-oriented research;
6. Enhancing collaboration with policymakers and health system decision-makers; and
7. Strengthening governance for SPOR.

Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR) Impact Report 2023/2024

The Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (CIFAR) [annual report](#) highlights investment into Canada's academic strength in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning Science and translation of knowledge into the business and technology sector.

Government of Ontario Life Sciences Strategy

An investment of \$146 million was announced in October for the launch of Phase 2 of Ontario's Life Sciences Strategy, aimed at enhancing biomanufacturing capacity and boosting the adoption of Ontario-made technologies in clinical settings. This strategic investment aims to enhance the province's position in the life sciences sector, drive innovation, and improve patient outcomes.

Key highlights include:

1. \$46 million for the Ontario Biosciences Research Infrastructure Fund (BRIF)
2. \$15 million for a new wet labs program
3. \$12 million for the Health Technology Accelerator Fund (HTAF)
4. \$5 million for Clinical Trials Ontario's QuickSTART initiative
5. \$24 million for the Life Sciences Scale-Up Fund (LSSUF)
6. \$40 million additional funding, building on the Venture Ontario Fund's life sciences investment

Clinical Trials Ontario initiative on standardization of clinical trials approvals

A working group, including leaders from London Health Sciences Centre Research Institute (LHSCRI), have delivered a final draft of an Ontario Universal Agreement for Clinical Trials. The agreement aims to streamline the process between pharmaceutical sponsors and institutions, eventually resulting in "Negotiation-free Contracts" with a goal to reduce clinical trial approval times.