



London Health  
Sciences Centre



Children's Hospital  
London Health Sciences Centre

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

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December 2024

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# Strategic and Operational Priorities

## YOU's Community Youth Hub opens at Victoria Hospital

On November 18, Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU), LHSC, the City of London and London Community Foundation announced the opening of YOU's [Community Youth Hub](#) at Victoria Hospital. Led by YOU, the hub officially opened on November 25. It offers 15 beds and provides a safe, supportive environment where youth aged 16 to 24 can stabilize, access health care, and connect with wraparound services as they transition to stable housing. This initiative reflects LHSC's commitment to fostering community health and addressing complex challenges like youth homelessness.

## LHSC expands Children's Emergency Department by 50 per cent

LHSC has expanded its [paediatric emergency department](#) (ED) at Children's Hospital by 50 per cent. With the support of Ontario's Ministry of Health and donor funding through Children's Health Foundation, the expansion consists of eight new beds and two dedicated procedure rooms in a child friendly and family-centred setting. Since September 24, 2024, the expansion has seen more than 2,628 patients, helping to reduce wait times and ensure patients and their families are seen more quickly.

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# Organizational Updates

## Community Advisory Committee launches survey to gather community feedback

The newly established Community Advisory Committee (CAC) at LHSC is seeking community feedback as they work with LHSC leadership to strengthen the organization's governance, finances and operations. Through a community survey, available in seven languages, the CAC is

providing fellow community members with an opportunity to provide feedback on their experiences at LHSC, community health priorities, and areas for improvement.

## Children’s Hospital at LHSC expands eligibility criteria for new RSV Immunization Clinic

Children’s Hospital at LHSC has [expanded eligibility for its RSV Immunization Clinic](#) to include all infants born on or after January 1, 2024. Previously limited to patients without a primary care provider, the clinic now accepts appointments directly from parents without a referral. Administered in the Paediatric Medical Day Unit, the immunization provides passive immunity to reduce the risk of severe illness and hospitalization by 80 per cent.

## Celebrating 2024 Patient Safety Champion Award recipients at LHSC

During Canadian Patient Safety Week (October 28 to November 1), LHSC celebrated the work and dedication of team members who play vital roles in ensuring patient safety. This year’s [Patient Safety Champion Awards](#) saw more than 40 nominations, highlighting the breadth of commitment across the organization. The 2024 award recipients include Navreet Dhillon (Individual Award), Christina Low (Leader Award), Dr. Jennifer Mandzia (Physician Award), the Orthogeriatric Hip Unit at Victoria Hospital (Team Award), and Deb Beaupre (Patient Partner Award). These honorees were chosen from a highly competitive group, showcasing excellence in fostering a culture of safety at LHSC.

## LHSC launches new safety incident management system called SPEAK

LHSC’s new safety incident management system, SPEAK, is now live. Replacing the Adverse Event Management System (AEMS), SPEAK is designed to streamline incident reporting, provide trend analysis through dashboards, and keep Team LHSC informed about the outcomes of their submissions. This initiative directly responds to feedback from the 2023 Team LHSC Survey and the ongoing Patient Safety Culture Survey.

## Provincial funding to benefit LHSC’s ALS clinic

The Government of Ontario has announced funding for a provincial Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) program as part of its [2024 Fall Statement](#). This initiative will include direct transfer payments to hospitals to support multidisciplinary ALS care, equipment, community support for patients, and enhanced ALS care in Northern Ontario. LHSC’s ALS clinic, recognized

as the “ideal” clinic model for best practice care in the province, will benefit from these transfer payments, enabling the maintenance of current services and potential expansion of allied health support. This funding aligns with the Canadian Best Practice Recommendations for ALS, authored by one of LHSC’s team members, and will help ensure that all five ALS clinics across the province meet this high standard of care.

## All Our Sisters Forum

On November 13, 2024, the All Our Sisters Forum was held in London, Ontario, bringing together community and hospital representatives to commit to collaborative action to address the growing number of unhoused women in the city. A significant concern highlighted was the rise in first-time homelessness among older women over 50. The forum featured powerful stories from people with lived experience. LHSC’s Women’s Care program is partnering with Anova, the London Abused Women’s Centre, and Street Level Women at Risk to identify and implement strategies to provide critical resources and support for this vulnerable and growing population.

# Media and Storytelling

## Media coverage and metrics

The following highlight metrics from LHSC’s November media exposure:

**Total news media mentions (media exposure): 378**

- Negative – 2 (0.5%)
- Neutral – 49 (13%)
- Positive – 327 (86.5%)

**Total potential reach (number of people who saw LHSC mentioned in the news): 212 million**

**Earned media value (how much LHSC would have to spend on ad placement to achieve this type of coverage): \$2.12 million**

**Top stories by reach:**

- 48 million reached:
  - [Children’s Miracle Network and Walmart Canada Celebrate 30 Years of Partnership with the 2024 Spark a Miracle Campaign](#) - The Associated Press

- 10 million reached:
  - [Killing cancer cells with alpha particles could be the next frontier in treatment](#) - CBC News
- 10 million reached:
  - ['Landing place for young people': New Community Youth Hub unveiled at London Health Sciences Centre](#) - CTV London
- 10 million reached:
  - [London Ont. hospital achieves national first in new cardiovascular procedure approved by Health Canada](#) - CTV London
- 10 million reached:
  - [No family doctor? Thanks to this vaccine clinic, you can still protect your child from RSV](#) - CTV London

### Coverage analysis

The Communications and Public Engagement team coordinated eight proactive media stories, five independently and three with partner organizations. CBC News National published its story on a cancer patient who received care at LHSC and was the first in Canada to be treated with a rare radioisotope through research at London Health Sciences Centre Research Institute (LHSCRI). The story aired coast to coast on CBC's vast network and also online. The opening of the new Youth Opportunities Unlimited (YOU) Community Youth Hub at Victoria Hospital and a new RSV Immunization Clinic at Children's Hospital at LHSC also received widespread coverage. Communications and Public Engagement also responded to 17 media requests over the course of the month.

Regional capacity pressures as well as a surge of respiratory illnesses were covered by local media, leading to several requests for comment and interviews to help explain the current landscape to the public.

LHSC's organizational restructuring also remained a topic of interest for local media and the public.

## Social media

The Communications and Public Engagement team posted 35 pieces of content across LHSC's social media platforms this month (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, X). Content included patient and staff stories as well as hospital and partner initiatives, all of which garnered positive sentiment and engagement.

- **Total social media followers (across all platforms): 79,869 (+1,069 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:** 376,988  
*\*number of times posts across all LHSC social media platforms appeared on someone's screen*
- **Total social media engagements:** 26,598  
*\*number of people who liked, commented, or shared LHSC's content/stories on social media*

#### **Top social media posts by engagement included:**

[Porters Week moments | all platforms](#)

[Canada's first EV-ICD | Instagram, X](#)

[In case you missed it: YOU Hub | Facebook, LinkedIn](#)

#### **Social media analysis**

Content on social media this month highlighted LHSC staff and physicians, the patient care outcomes of Canadian medical milestones happening within our walls and the continued success of partnerships with community organizations.

The Porters Week moments campaign struck a chord with many community members and staff on social media who were quick to celebrate these members of Team LHSC and the hard work they do every day.

The implantation of Canada's first EV-ICD device was a great way to highlight Dr. Jaimie Manlucu's work and tell the story from the patient perspective. This accomplishment earned praise from both academic audiences and the local community across most platforms.

The YOU Community Youth Hub post was shared twice in both video and photo formats, which was an effective way to showcase this story multiple times throughout the month. Through this strategy we more than doubled the post's overall reach and engagement, ensuring this important story was shared as broadly as possible.

Content on London Health Sciences Centre Research Institute's platforms continues to see positive engagements. We are currently sitting at 2,389 followers across all platforms and have generated over 8,500 impressions and 200 engagements in November.

## **Ontario Institute for Cancer Research features Dr. Saman Maleki on "Ask a cancer researcher"**

London Health Sciences Centre Research Institute (LHSCRI) Scientist, Dr. Saman Maleki, talks about the gut microbiome in relation to cancer on [Ontario Institute for Cancer Research's YouTube channel](#). The video explains why a microbiome transplant might be important for patients undergoing immunotherapy.

## Innovative medical simulation program inspires the next generation of health-care professionals

The Canadian Surgical Technologies and Advanced Robotics (CSTAR) team at LHSC, in partnership with the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame Museum School, has launched an innovative [health-care education program for youth](#). Aimed at students in grade seven and up, the curriculum offers hands-on experience with advanced medical simulators and insights into diverse health-care careers beyond traditional roles. The program includes interactive activities, historical context, and guest lecturers from CSTAR's research division who offer a glimpse into the future of health-care technologies.

## LHSC Auxiliary looks for helping hands to continue legacy of support

LHSC's Auxiliary is [celebrating its centennial anniversary](#) by recruiting new members to join its legacy of philanthropy and service. Founded in 1924, the Auxiliary has contributed over \$10 million to LHSC since 1985, supporting groundbreaking care initiatives like Dr. Richard Kim's Personalized Medicine program. With approximately 70 volunteers, the Auxiliary operates five hospital gift shops, with proceeds funding patient care and research. Recently recognized as a member of London Health Sciences Foundation's Banting Society, the Auxiliary is known for its financial contributions and compassionate support for patients, families, and staff. Interested individuals can apply through [Volunteer Services](#) at LHSC.

## LHSC launches permanent Early Discharge Program for postpartum patients and newborns

Eligible families now have the option to receive postpartum and newborn care in the comfort of their own homes after birth. Through the [Early Discharge Program](#), birthing individuals and their newborns can be discharged before 24 hours in hospital, with a midwife following up at home to complete necessary assessments and screening tests. Participation is voluntary. Eligibility for the birthing person includes having a vaginal delivery, being able to void independently, having adequate pain control, and no history of conditions that could lead to postpartum complications. Newborns may be eligible if they were born at full term, have been assessed by a physician, and have successfully fed at least once.



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# Awards, Recognitions & Publications

## Mayor Morgan honours LHSC Black Health team

Mayor Josh Morgan has honoured LHSC's Black Health team with the 2024 Diversity, Race Relations, and Inclusivity Award (DRRIA). Cathy Wood, Black Health Lead, and Suishanie Brooks, Black Health Navigator, accepted the award on behalf of the team at the City of London Diversity, Inclusion, and Anti-Oppression Community Advisory Committee meeting. This recognition underscores the team's ongoing commitment to advancing Black health equity and ensuring that LHSC's services are responsive to the diverse needs of the community. Congratulations to the team for this well-deserved recognition of their dedication.

## Research funding announcements

The following researchers at LHSCRI have recently been awarded funding:

- Dr. John Basmaji (Critical Care) for his project entitled "Beta-Blocker Therapy Versus Standard Care in Patients with Septic Shock: A Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial Utilizing Predictive Enrichment with Point-of-Care Ultrasound" – \$99,660 (2 years)
- Dr. Anurag Bhalla (Respirology) for his project entitled "Role of PI3K-mTOR-NLRP3 axis in patients with moderate to severe asthma and neutrophilic bronchitis" – \$99,467 (2 years)
- Dr. Aleksandra Leligdowicz (Critical Care) for her project entitled "iPROMOTE (Induced Pluripotent Stem Cell for Modeling of Life-Threatening Infection)." – \$100,000 (2 years)
- Dr. Erin Spicer (General Internal Medicine) for her project entitled "Prospective evaluation of artificial intelligence tools to equitably identify and predict delirium in hospitalized medicine patients" – \$87,405 (2 years)

# External Landscape

## Ontario continuing to support and grow its nursing workforce

The Ontario government is [investing over \\$500 million to strengthen the nursing workforce](#) through education, specialized training, and a streamlined process for internationally educated nurses. Initiatives include the Enhanced Extern Program, offering hands-on experience to health-care learners, and the Supervised Practice Experience Partnership (SPEP), supporting internationally educated nurses to meet registration requirements. Beginning in April 2025, internationally educated nurses will be able to move through the College of Nurses (CNO) registration process faster. These efforts build on the addition of nearly 100,000 nurses since 2018.

## Strengthening Canada's health-care systems with data-driven insights

The Canadian Institute for Health Information has published a [report](#) outlining key priorities shared by governments across Canada. These include:

- Expanding family health services and improving access to primary health care;
- Increasing the supply of the health workforce and decreasing wait times for surgery;
- Improving access to mental health and substance use services; and
- Modernizing health care information systems and digital tools for secure sharing of electronic health information.

Key findings of this report include:

Primary Health Care: 83% of Canadians reported access to a regular health-care provider in 2023, but 100,000 hospitalizations could have been prevented in 2023-2024 with stronger community care.

- Health Workforce: Most regions saw net increases in health workers in 2021-2022, and surgeries have returned to pre-pandemic levels in 2023-2024.
- Mental Health: Half of Canadians referred for counselling accessed care within 25 days in 2023-2024. Integrated youth service sites rose from 63 sites in 2022-2023 to 92 sites in 2023-2024.

- Digital Health: While 81% of Canadians said they want online health access in 2023, only 39% have used it.

The report also highlights commitments to supporting Indigenous health and enabling seniors to age at home.

## Increasing patient safety outcomes by addressing diagnostic issues

As part of Canadian Patient Safety Week 2024, Accreditation Canada [highlighted](#) the importance of diagnostic information transfer on patient safety. The focus of this event was on the need for accurate and timely communication, as well as the need for integrated health systems to prevent harm. During the Accreditation Canada event, presentations were shared on five key topics related to diagnostic harm and harm prevention including:

- Diagnostics and patient safety;
- Integrating systems for better care;
- Technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI) in harm prevention;
- Communication to reduce errors; and
- Balancing innovation and cost.

The event concluded with a call to action: all partners must take concrete steps to enhance diagnostic accuracy and ensure resilient, people-centred health systems.

## Ontario's childhood cancer care plan

Ontario's new five-year Childhood Cancer Care Plan, produced by the Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario (POGO) and its partners, builds on province-wide coordination to deliver wrap-around care for children, youth, survivors, and families at every stage of the cancer journey. POGO's [Childhood Cancer Care Plan: A Roadmap for Ontario 2024-2029 outlines](#) five goals to improve care, including quality care, equitable psychosocial support, survivor wellbeing, timely diagnostics, and data-driven improvements. Children's Hospital at LHSC received funding to enhance pediatric oncology services, including an increase to the AfterCare Program, psychosocial supports, and care for adolescents and young adults. These funding allocations play a critical role in strengthening coordination and ensuring holistic care.

## Preparing for a digital future

Researchers at The Institute for Education Research (TIER) at University Health Network (UHN) are studying how Canadian medical schools are preparing for the [digital future of health](#) care. Led by Dr. Paula Rowland, the team analyzed 59 strategic plans from medical schools and

health research centres across Canada. Their findings reveal two main perspectives on digital health within medicine: one sees it as an extension of traditional practices, while the other envisions it as a transformative shift in care delivery.

## Canada launches Canadian Artificial Intelligence Safety Institute

The Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry has announced [the launch of the Canadian Artificial Intelligence Safety Institute](#) (CAISI) as part of a \$2.4 billion investment from Budget 2024. CAISI aims to address Artificial Intelligence (AI) safety risks and position Canada as a leader in the responsible development of AI technologies. This initiative supports Canada's broader strategy for safe AI development, which includes the proposed Artificial Intelligence and Data Act and a [Voluntary Code of Conduct for generative AI systems](#).

## Update on availability of Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Budget 2024 investments

Dr. Christian Baron and Adrian Mota from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) have outlined how the \$1.8 billion funding boost from Budget 2024 will be allocated between 2024 and 2029. The additional funds will strengthen the CIHR Project Grant program, with \$23 million available in 2024-25, increasing gradually to \$229.2 million by 2028-29. As a result, upcoming competitions, starting with the Fall 2024 round, will offer increased funding compared to the current \$325 million available.

## Government of Canada appoints new president of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research

The Honourable Mark Holland, Minister of Health, has [appointed Dr. Paul C. Hébert as the new President of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research](#) (CIHR), effective January 2, 2025. Dr. Hébert is a clinical scientist at the Bruyère Health Research Institute in Ottawa, is as well as a practicing palliative care physician and former critical care physician. He is also a professor at the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Medicine. Dr. Hébert has held notable positions, including Editor-in-Chief of the Canadian Medical Association Journal and Chief Medical Officer for the Canadian Red Cross. He is internationally regarded for his research in critical care and internationally recognized for his critical care research in both adult and children, palliative care, aging, and long-term care.

## Clinical Trials Ontario releases Universal Agreement for Clinical Trials (UACT) at the Clinical Trials Ontario Conference

The implementation of the Universal Agreement for Clinical Trials (UACT) has gained support from six Canadian pharmaceutical companies funding clinical trials in Ontario, as well as all major hospital research institutes, including London Health Sciences Centre Research Institute (LHSCRI). The initiative aims to streamline the clinical trials process by introducing a template clinical trials contract, reducing the time between sponsor and institution approval to an internationally competitive 45 days. Leaders from LHSCRI, including Dr. David Hill, Cheryl Litchfield, and Jocelyn Edwards, have played key roles in developing the Universal Agreement for Clinical Trials.

## CNO Nursing Statistics Report 2024

The College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) has released its [Nursing Statistics Report 2024](#) and updated its nursing data dashboard, showcasing trends in the Ontario nursing workforce. Key highlights include:

- A record-high 183,763 nurses renewed their registration in 2024, marking 3.1% growth year-over-year with a net gain of 5,579 nurses.

Registered Nurses (RNs) and Dual RN/Registered Practical Nurse (RPN) registrations increased by 4.5% and 25.5%, respectively, while RPN-only registrations declined by 0.3%.

- The percentage of nurses working outside Ontario rose from 1.6% in 2019 to 2.5% in 2024.
- Ontario graduates remain the majority of new registrants (54.8%), with internationally educated nurses driving supply growth.

## Ontario government announces expansion of the nurse practitioner and registered nurse role

The Ontario government has announced [regulations changes that will expand the scope of practice for nurse practitioners and registered nurses](#) with a start date of July 1, 2025.

Registration changes will include:

Nurse Practitioners:

- Order and apply a defibrillator to provide faster care to someone in cardiac arrest;

- Order and apply a cardiac pacemaker;
- Order and perform electrocoagulation, a process to treat skin conditions and lesions;  
and
- Certify a death in more circumstances, improving the end-of-life experience for families after the death of a loved one.

Registered Nurses:

- Certify a death when the death is expected, ensuring more timely completion of this process.

This expansion of scope is a component of the \$500 million investment to bring more nurses into the healthcare system by educating new nurses and increasing opportunities for current nurses to access specialized training.