



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

January 2025

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Strategic and Operational Priorities

Government of Ontario announces funding to expand LHSC's Nazem Kadri Surgical Centre

On January 16, the Government of Ontario announced [funding to expand the Nazem Kadri Surgical Centre](#), which will help Ontarians receive surgery faster and in the best possible environment. The expansion will add four new operating rooms, an expanded medical device reprocessing department (MDR), and additional preparation and recovery space, allowing the Surgical Centre to triple its surgical capacity and perform approximately 6,000 surgeries annually. This expansion will also create more capacity across all of LHSC's operating rooms, allowing us to make better use of our main operating rooms for more complex procedures, such as transplants or cancer surgeries. Patients at the high-efficiency Surgical Centre will continue to receive "low-risk" surgeries, including hernia repairs and orthopaedic procedures.

LHSC treats first publicly funded Canadian patient with new prostate cancer therapy

Following extensive research conducted at London Health Sciences Centre Research Institute (LHSCRI) and globally, LHSC became the first hospital in Canada [to provide publicly funded Novartis PLUVICTO™ therapy for prostate cancer on December 27, 2024](#). This was announced by the Government of Ontario on January 14, 2025. This marks a significant milestone in cancer treatment and offers renewed hope to patients with advanced-stage prostate cancer. This innovative radiopharmaceutical treatment targets cancerous cells while sparing healthy ones, leading to fewer side effects than chemotherapy and improved survival rates. LHSC's Molecular Imaging and Theranostics team is expanding capacity to treat up to 100 patients in 2025. The team is also exploring the use of theranostic therapies for other types of cancer and advancing research to continue transforming patient care.

Organizational Updates

Victoria Hospital Gynecology Emergency Department Offload Clinic pilot

In December 2024, a pilot for the Gynecology Emergency Department (ED) Offload Clinic took place to help reduce pressures and wait times in the Victoria Hospital ED. Starting January 6, 2025, the clinic will operate four days a week, offering a dedicated space for gynecology examinations. Its effectiveness in improving ED metrics and patient care will be monitored with a review in April to assess sustainability and utilization.

LHSC holiday e-card

LHSC marked the season with a [holiday e-card](#) reflecting on the light that guides its care and connects the organization. The 2024 card highlights how LHSC staff and physicians are lighting the way for care and innovation, emphasizing their role in serving the community.

Holiday events at Children's Hospital supported by Children's Health Foundation

In December, Children's Health Foundation organized several holiday events at Children's Hospital at LHSC to bring joy to hospitalized children. Highlights included an acapella carol performance by the Port of Hope Youth Group, a Santa visit with gifts for children, and festive activities like the Jingle Bell Rappel and Santa photo sessions. These events created a festive atmosphere, providing much-needed cheer for children unable to be with their families during the holidays.

Team LHSC supporting individuals and families in need

During the holiday season, Team LHSC donated 990 pounds of non-perishable food to the London Food Bank and 675 items of winter clothing including coats, boots, hats, and gloves to Youth Opportunities Unlimited, Ark Aid Street Mission, and Rotholme Family Shelter. The food drive is an annual holiday tradition at LHSC.

December Community Update Meeting

LHSC hosted its third Community Update Meeting on December 18, 2024, offering community members insights into key initiatives and ongoing operational improvements. David Musyj, Supervisor at LHSC, was joined by Roy Butler, President and CEO of St. Joseph's Health Care London, to discuss collaboration between the two organizations. A [recording](#) of the December meeting and previous meetings can be found on the LHSC website.

Holiday concerts at Verspeeten Family Cancer Centre spread holiday cheer

In December, a holiday concert took place in the atrium of the Verspeeten Family Cancer Centre, featuring the "Clinic Notes", a talented group of LHSC physicians including Dr. Kylea Potvin, Dr. Muriel Brackstone, Dr. Maria Parent, Dr. Scott Ernst, Dr. David DeVries, Dr. David D'Souza, and Dr. Vivian Tan. The event highlighted the uplifting power of music within our hospital, spreading holiday cheer and bringing smiles to patients, visitors and members of Team LHSC.

Media and Storytelling

Media coverage and metrics

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

Total news media mentions (media exposure): 348

- Negative – 4 (1.1%)
- Neutral – 220 (63%)
- Positive – 125 (35.8%)

Total potential reach (number of people who saw LHSC mentioned in the news): 262 million

Earned media value (how much LHSC would have to spend on ad placement to achieve this type of coverage): \$3.16 million

Top stories by reach:

- 26 million reached:

- [Palisade Bio Appoints Brian Feagan, MD, FRCPC, to its Clinical Advisory Board](#) - Reuters via Trading View
- 11 million reached:
 - [LHSC expands pediatric emergency, reduces wait times for children and families](#) - CTV London
- 11 million reached:
 - [Over the holidays, the gift you can give yourself is taking care of your mental health](#) - CTV London
- 11 million reached:
 - ['It was quite spectacular': LHSC brass marvel at staff professionalism during weekend shooting, improved security on the way](#) - CTV London

Coverage analysis

The Communications and Public Engagement team was involved with seven independent proactive media stories in December 2024. The team shared the expansion of Children's Hospital's Emergency Department which received robust coverage from local media. Seasonally themed story pitches were also successful, with reporters choosing to cover topics including holiday safety and health-care options, mental health and a heartwarming festive performance by Clinic Notes, a group comprised of clinicians from the Verspeeten Family Cancer Centre.

December featured LHSC's third Community Update Meeting which was well attended by local media. The team also assisted our partners within LHSC's Auxiliary by promoting a feature on the group's 100th anniversary and its recruitment of new members.

Communications and Public Engagement also responded to 20 media requests over the course of the month. A Code Silver called at Victoria Hospital on December 14 and associated follow-up topics were the most frequent subject of reactive requests through the month. There were also requests for information related to Emergency Department wait times and a proposal by The London Free Press for a year-end interview with LHSC Supervisor David Musyj.

Social media

The Communications and Public Engagement team posted 36 pieces of content across LHSC's social media platforms in December 2024 (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): 80,861 (+992 new followers, +1.2%)**
**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:** 289,114
**number of times posts across all LHSC social media platforms appeared on someone's screen*
- **Total social media engagements:** 15,812
**number of people who liked, commented, or shared LHSC's content/stories on social media*

Top social media posts by engagement included:

- Children's Hospital Emergency Department expansion | [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)
- Babies in holiday hats | [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)
- LHSC Wrapped: Piping out | [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)
- Molecular Imaging and Theranostics renaming | [LinkedIn](#)

Social media analysis

Content on social media this month highlighted stories celebrating LHSC staff and physicians, hospital initiatives, top content from 2024 and festive moments throughout the holiday season.

The Children's Hospital Emergency Department expansion was met with positive engagement from audiences across all platforms. Users were pleased to see the work being done to meet the growing demands for paediatric emergency care in southwestern Ontario and appreciated the important collaboration with hospital partners and Ontario's Ministry of Health.

Annual festive content, including babies in holiday hats, consistently performs well this time of year. Additionally, the LHSC Wrapped campaign reminds users of our highest engaged stories of the year and is a great way to bring positive staff and patient stories back on user's feeds once again.

Audiences on LinkedIn were pleased with the renaming of Molecular Imaging and Theranostics. LHSC staff as well as leaders in health care across the province identified this change as a positive step forward in better representing the services and care provided to patients.

Content on London Health Sciences Centre Research Institute's platforms continues to see positive engagements. We are currently sitting at 2,537 followers across all platforms and generated over 6,300 impressions and 160 engagements in December 2024.

LHSC welcomes first baby of 2025

The [first baby of 2025](#), Mariya Halbouni, was born at 12:05 a.m. on January 1 at Victoria Hospital. To celebrate this special arrival, parents Eman and Ahmed received a thoughtful gift

basket for their newborn, generously donated by London Shoppers Drug Mart franchisees. They were also gifted a hand-knitted baby blanket from London Health Sciences Foundation, along with a onesie and teddy bear from Children's Health Foundation.

Through research, Dr. Jog is improving the quality of life of patients with neurodegenerative diseases

Dr. Mandar Jog, Neurologist at LHSC and Scientist at LHSCRI, was recently profiled through LHSCRI's 'Through research' campaign. Dr. Jog made a world-first breakthrough in 2019, transforming [Parkinson's care](#). His innovative approach to spinal cord stimulation addresses "freezing" episodes by reactivating sensory feedback, allowing patients to walk more freely with lasting results. The discovery gained global recognition, including a feature on BBC News. With over 360 published papers and 300 presentations, Dr. Jog's passion for discovery continues to drive advancements in neurodegenerative disease care.

LHSC takes first place in the 2024 Canadian Blood Services Hospital Challenge

It December 2024, it was announced that LHSC took first place in the [2024 Canadian Blood Services \(CBS\) Hospital Challenge](#), donating 117 units of blood during the Ontario-wide hospital competition. Now in its 15th year, the CBS Hospital Challenge is an annual event where hospitals across Ontario compete to donate the most units of blood per capita, based on their employee population.

Awards, Recognitions & Publications

Dr. Christie MacDonald receives London Hospitals' MAC Award

Dr. Christie MacDonald, Interim Vice Chair, Medical Advisory Committee, Department Head, Emergency Services, has been awarded London Hospitals' Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) Award. This recognition is given to a hospital or professional staff member at LHSC and St. Joseph's Health Care London who has recently demonstrated qualities of leadership within the

scope of their position or provided outstanding contribution to the success of initiatives aligning with the strategic directions of both LHSC and St. Joseph's. It is awarded by the respective MAC Chair.

Dr. Daniel Pepe receives LHSC MAC Award

Dr. Daniel Pepe has been awarded the LHSC Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) Award, recognizing a professional staff member at LHSC for their leadership and contributions to the success of initiatives aligning with the strategic direction of LHSC.

Research funding announcements

The following researchers at LHSCRI have recently been awarded funding:

- Dr. Daniel Keir was awarded a 2024/2025 Heart & Stroke Foundation New Investigator Grant for the study entitled "Optimizing Aerobic Exercise Training Outcomes in Cardiovascular Disease".
- Drs. Saman Maleki, Masoud Vedadi, and Rima Al-awar were awarded a Cancer Therapeutics Innovation Pipeline (CTIP) grant from the OICR for the study entitled "Identifying an MLH1 small molecule inhibitor for combination with immune checkpoint inhibitors" – \$300,000 (2 years)

The following researchers are awardees of the 2024 Verspeeten Family Cancer Centre Catalyst Translational Cancer Research Grant Competition through London Health Sciences Foundation:

- Dr. Alison Allan (Depts. of Anatomy & Cell Biology, Oncology) and Dr. Vasu Bhat (Cancer Research Laboratory Program) "Elucidating the Role of Phosphoproteome Dynamics in Regulating Stemness and Metastatic Behavior of Breast Cancer Cells" –\$25,000 (Breast Cancer Canada Translational Breast Cancer Research Grant)
- Dr. Eva Turley (Depts. of Biochemistry, Oncology, Surgery), Dr. Len Luyt (Depts. of Chemistry, Oncology), Dr. Eugene Wong, (Depts. of Astronomy & Physics, Oncology), Dr. Sarah Mattonen (Depts. of Medical Biophysics, Oncology) "Targeting RHAMM to blunt radiotherapy-induced lung toxicity" – \$25,000 (Keith Samitt Translational Cancer Research Grant)
- Dr. Ricardo Fernandes (Dept. of Oncology), Dr. Saman Maleki (Depts. of Pathology & Lab Medicine, Oncology) "Association between androgen receptor pathway inhibitors and gastrointestinal microbiota in patients with prostate cancer (INTEGUT)" –\$22,500 (Translational Prostate Cancer Research focus)
- Dr. Jim Petrik (Dept. of Biomedical Sciences, University of Guelph; Western Dept. of Oncology), Dr. Trevor Shepherd (Depts. of Anatomy & Cell Biology, Ob/Gyn Oncology), Dr. Leslie Ogilvie (Dept. of Biomedical Sciences, University of Guelph) "Fc3TSR as a novel

therapeutic in Advanced Stage Ovarian Cancer” – \$25,000 (Translational Ovarian Cancer Research Grant)

- Dr. Matthew Cecchini (Depts. of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Oncology), Dr. Rohann Correa (Dept. of Oncology), Dr. Jason Wasserman, (Dept. of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine), Dr. Brian Keller (Dept. of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine) “Leveraging AI to Improve Patient Understanding of Prostate Cancer Pathology Through Customized Large Language Model” – \$22,500 (Translational Prostate Cancer Research Grant)
- Dr. Pencilla Lang (Dept. of, Oncology), Dr. Sarah Mattonen (Depts. of Medical Biophysics, Oncology), Dr. Doug Hoover (Dept. of Oncology), Dr. Danielle MacNeil (Dept. of Otolaryngology, Oncology), Dr. Matt Cecchini (Depts. of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, Oncology), Edward Wang (MD/Ph.D. Candidate, Dept. of Medical Biophysics) “A Feasibility Study on Integrating Real-Time 3D Scanning of Surgical Specimens into Adjuvant Radiation Therapy Planning for Oral Cavity Cancer” – \$25,000 (Keith Samitt Translational Cancer Research Grant)
- Dr. Chris Pin (Depts. of Physiology & Pharmacology, Pediatrics, Oncology) “Defining interplay between cancer and non-cancer cells using patient-derived organoids” – \$25,000 (Baker Centre Translational Pancreatic Cancer Research Grant)
- Dr. Armen Parysan (Depts. of Surgery, Anatomy & Cell Biology, Oncology), Dr. Alison Allan (Depts. of Anatomy & Cell Biology, Oncology), Dr. Vasu Bhat (Cancer Research Laboratory Program, VFCC) “Artemis as a novel target to enhance radiosensitivity in triple-negative breast cancer” – \$25,000 (Breast Cancer Canada Translational Breast Cancer Research Grant)
- Dr. Trevor Shepherd (Depts. of Anatomy & Cell Biology, Ob/Gyn, Oncology), Jack Webb (Ph.D. Candidate, Dept. of Anatomy & Cell Biology) “ULK1-mediated regulation of mitochondrial dynamics in ovarian cancer spheroids” – \$25,000 (Translational Ovarian Cancer Research Grant)
- Dr. Teklab Gebregiworgis (Depts. of Biochemistry, Oncology) “Characterizing Metabolic Phenotype of Pancreatic Cancer-Associated Fibroblasts” – \$25,000 (Baker Centre Translational Pancreatic Cancer Research Grant)
- Dr. Nathalie Berube (Depts. of Anatomy & Cell Biology, Pediatrics, Oncology), Kasha Mansour (PhD Candidate, Dept. of Anatomy & Cell Biology) “Oligodendrocyte precursors as cells of origin in astrocytomas” – \$25,000 (Keith Samitt Translational Cancer Research Grant, Undesignated)

The following are recipients of the Heart & Stroke 2024/25 Grant-in-Aid (GIA) competition:

- Dr. Janice Tijssen was awarded a 2024/2025 Heart & Stroke Foundation Grant-in-Aid for the study entitled “Pediatric Out-of-Hospital Cardiac Arrest Resuscitation: Evaluation of IM Epinephrine (The PRIME-1 Trial)” – \$224,494 (3 years)
- Clemens, Kristin and Moist, Louise “Closing cardiovascular care gaps in women with diabetes”

External Landscape

The Just Culture Company becomes part of the Emergency Care Research Institute (ECRI) total system safety approach

Emergency Care Research Institute (ECRI) has announced its [acquisition of The Just Culture Company](#). The Just Culture Company has been a source of guidance for many organizations seeking to implement a system of just culture within their organizations. ECRI's acquisition of The Just Culture Company strengthens efforts to improve system design, accountability, and safety in health care. LHSC's Just Culture program models this approach. The collaboration between ECRI and The Just Culture Company presents new opportunities for LHSC to advance its Patient Safety Plan and remain a leader in quality improvement and safety innovation.

Nurse Practitioner path to long-term care director roles

The Ontario government is leading an initiative that integrates [Nurse Practitioners as clinical directors in long-term care homes](#). Building on temporary measures introduced during the COVID-19 pandemic, this move makes Ontario the first province in Canada to adopt this role permanently. The legislation supporting this initiative was introduced on December 4, 2024, aiming to optimize care delivery for residents.

Ontario adding 100 new family doctors in rural and northern communities

To address physician shortages in rural and northern communities, Ontario will license [100 internationally trained family doctors in 2025](#). Participating physicians must complete a 12-week skills assessment followed by a three-year service commitment in underserved areas. To ensure they are prepared for their return of service, the assessment includes training in all aspects of rural family medicine across a variety of practice settings including office, hospital, emergency department, and long-term care and home care. This initiative will connect approximately 120,000 additional patients to primary care.

Ontario connecting northern and rural communities to critical care

The Ontario government is investing \$93 million to [expand and enhance Ornge Air Ambulance services](#) by add two larger, high-speed fixed-wing aircrafts, constructing a new hangar in Simcoe County, and improving pre-hospital care. This investment will ensure Ornge Air Ambulance service can better connect people in northern and rural communities to the care they need when they need it.

Youth mental health fund

The Public Health Agency of Canada's [Youth Mental Health Fund](#) is funding projects up to \$500,000 per fiscal year for projects lasting up to 48 months to strengthen the capacity of community health organizations in delivering care for young people and improve their ability to refer youth to other mental health services within their networks and partnerships. The fund also aims to strengthen referral networks within mental health services. Proposals exceeding \$500,000 may be considered based on potential impact. Eligible applicants include not-for-profit organizations and public post-secondary institutions. The application deadline is January 22, 2025.

HealthCareCAN has prepared a submission to the Standing Committee on Science and Research (SRSR): Study on the new Capstone Research Funding Organization

HealthCareCAN has submitted recommendations to the Standing Committee on Science and Research (SRSR) for the November 2024 study on the creation of a new Capstone Research Funding Organization.

Key points include:

- Health research drives innovation in health care, but it must remain connected to the broader health portfolio. Greater alignment across federal granting agencies is needed without weakening this connection.
- Canada requires a clear, ambitious strategy for health research and innovation to remain competitive globally, guiding the capstone's success.
- The capstone should ensure health-care organizations have direct, equitable access to federal research funding, removing current university-based barriers.

- Health system researchers must have a voice in the capstone's governance to reflect their role in advancing health care.
- Dedicated federal funding is critical to avoid reallocations from existing grants, maintaining support for investigator-led research with proportional growth tied to new investments.

Ontarians want to learn more about organ and tissue donation

Ontario Health, in collaboration with federal and provincial governments, [announced](#) that over 2.1 million Ontario residents have an easier way to learn about organ and tissue donation through their tax returns. This initiative aims to increase donor registrations by providing information via email from Trillium Gift of Life Network, improving public awareness and informed decision-making.

More Convenient Care Act

In December, Ontario Government introduced the [More Convenient Care Act](#). The act aims to ensure Ontario residents have the right to publicly funded care, in the right place. The act focuses on strengthening governance, enhancing patient care, and improving service delivery. Key measures include establishing a regulatory framework for health staffing agencies, enabling nurse practitioners to complete mandatory blood testing forms, providing digital access to personal health data, and supporting public health agency mergers for efficiency and responsiveness.

Health Standards Organization (HSO) 2024 achievements

On December 16, the Health Standards Organization (HSO) celebrated its annual achievements, highlighting global collaborations to improve health care quality.

Key accomplishments in the highlight [report](#) include:

- Improvements in health care quality through global standards and accreditation: Qmentum Global introduced new assessment programs for Primer, Canadian Accreditation, long-term care, and Indigenous health, conducted over 1,200 global assessments, and included national standards for mental health, addiction services, long-term care, and British Columbia's Cultural Safety and Humility Standard.
- Advancing people-centered care: HSO introduced a maturity framework for integrated care and engaged 100,000 health workers through the Global Workforce Survey.

- Enhancing health equity and cultural safety: HSO launched The Winds of Change initiative, supported new ferritin reporting guidelines, and developed a national standard for correctional health services.
- Driving innovation in health systems: Accreditation Canada was selected by Ontario's Minister of Health to oversee quality in surgical and diagnostic centres, partnered with Dubai Health Authority to enhance emergency care, and hosted two global events: World Accreditation Day and World Patient Safety Day.

Ontario pre-budget consultation hearings schedule released

The Government of Ontario has announced the scheduled dates for its 2025 [pre-budget consultation hearings and registration deadlines](#). These hearings provide an opportunity for organizations to make oral presentations or submit written materials to The Standing Committee on Finance and Economic Affairs regarding the government's upcoming Budget, which is expected to be announced before the spring. The Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) has finalized and submitted its pre-budget recommendations to the Government of Ontario for the 2025/26 Budget.

Government introduces labour legislation: Bill 229, Working for Workers Six Act, 2024

On November 27, 2024, the [Ontario government introduced Bill 229, Working for Workers Six Act, 2024](#), which proposes amendments to several labour-related statutes, including the *Employment Standards Act (ESA)*, 2000 and the *Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA)*, 1990. With respect to the ESA, the bill proposes two new unpaid leaves; new child placement leave and long-term illness leave. For the OHSA, the bill includes several changes, such as granting the Chief Prevention Officer authority to approve out-of-province training programs, requiring employers to ensure proper fitting protective gear, introducing a \$500,000 minimum fine for repeat offences resulting in serious worker injury or death, and empowering the Minister of Labour to mandate trades committees for specific projects.

Implementation of the Universal Agreement for Clinical Trials (UACT) by Clinical Trials Ontario.

The Universal Agreement for Clinical Trials template contract was recently introduced at LHSCRI. LHSCRI and Lawson Research Institute of St. Joseph's Health Care London are among the first hospital research Institutes to implement the initiative. This was made possible with the support of the six Canadian pharmaceutical companies responsible for funding the majority

of clinical trials in Ontario. The Universal Agreement for Clinical Trials aims to reduce the contract negotiation times between sponsors and institutions to an internationally competitive 45 days, helping clinical trials to start faster.