



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

February 2025

Table of Contents

Strategic and Operational Priorities	3
Children's Hospital launches Transitions in Care Team	3
January Community Update Meeting.....	3
Organizational Updates	3
LHSC's First Episode Mood and Anxiety Program recognized as a Leading Practice	3
Record-breaking number of births in 2024	4
Clinical Scholar Program expansion	4
Celebrating 7,000 transplants performed at LHSC	4
Media and Storytelling	4
Media coverage and metrics	4
Social media	5
LHSCRI study shows high-precision radiation therapy is safe for patients with cancer that has spread throughout body.....	7
Students making an impact at LHSC through Western's Black Leaders University Experience program	7
The impact of an outstanding student placement supervisor	7
Awards, Recognitions & Publications	8
Dr. Erkan Demirkaya appointed President of the International Society of Systemic Auto-Inflammatory Disease	8
LHSCRI scientists awarded more than \$2 million in funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research	8
Additional research funding announcements.....	9
External Landscape	9
Agreement to improve pharmaceutical data.....	9
Rising accidental drug and alcohol-related deaths in Ontario	9
New program links London 9-1-1 callers with mental health, addiction workers.....	10
Canadian Nurses Association welcomes modernization of Canada Health Act	10
Ontario building safer communities with 18 additional Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment Hubs ...	10
Government of Canada health research initiatives	11
Research Canada Annual Stakeholder Roundtable	11
Bill 231, More Convenient Care Act, 2024 introduced by Ontario government	12
Brief submitted on EDI considerations in federal research funding criteria	12

Strategic and Operational Priorities

Children's Hospital launches Transitions in Care Team

Children's Hospital has launched the [Transitions in Care Team](#) to support paediatric patients as they prepare to transition to adult care at age 18. Beginning as early as age 12, the program helps guide patients through educational transitions, such as moving between school and hospital environments. The launch event took place on January 21, 2025, and featured insights from individuals with lived experience.

January Community Update Meeting

LHSC hosted its fourth Community Update Meeting on January 22, 2025, offering community members insights into key initiatives and ongoing operational improvements. Topics included progress on the Community Advisory Committee surveys, the expansion of LHSC's Nazem Kadri Surgical Centre, the Great Moments program, and updates from LHSC's Trauma Program, Medical Affairs, and Labour Relations. A [recording](#) of the January meeting and previous meetings can be found on the LHSC website.

Organizational Updates

LHSC's First Episode Mood and Anxiety Program recognized as a Leading Practice

The [First Episode Mood and Anxiety Program \(FEMAP\)](#) has been recognized by the Health Standards Organization as a Leading Practice, highlighting the program's innovative approach to care. FEMAP is an integrated clinical research and treatment program that offers outpatient care to youth aged 16 to 25 with common psychiatric disorders. The program provides a safe space for early intervention and reduces barriers to mental health support, including psychiatry, social work, addiction treatment, family therapy, and individual and group therapy. Serving approximately 650 patients annually, FEMAP utilizes a shared decision-making model that empowers patients to actively participate in their care.

Record-breaking number of births in 2024

2024 set a [new record for the number of births at LHSC](#), surpassing the previous high of 6,139 births in 2022 with a total of 6,452, an increase of five per cent. Additionally, the record for the most births in a single month, previously 561 in July 2021, was broken four times in 2024: May (564), July (577), August (564), and October (563). These volumes place LHSC among Canada's busiest hospitals providing single-site, tertiary-level obstetrical care services.

Clinical Scholar Program expansion

The Clinical Scholar Program, funded by the Ministry of Health (MOH), supports novice nurses by pairing them with experienced nurse mentors. LHSC is funded for four additional clinical scholar nurses, rotating every six months across different departments. From January to March 2025, the MOH temporarily expanded funding to 12 experienced nurses across eight departments, with four continuing from April to June. These scholars started on their respective units on January 24, 2025. Nurses involved in the program have expressed enthusiasm about the mentorship opportunities it provides.

Celebrating 7,000 transplants performed at LHSC

LHSC's Multi-Organ Transplant Program (MOTP) has reached a [significant milestone](#), surpassing 7,000 transplants since its official launch in 1972. Recognized internationally as a leading centre for transplantation, MOTP has transformed thousands of lives through exceptional care, innovation, and research. Each year, approximately 200 transplants are performed at LHSC, including kidney, liver, heart, kidney-pancreas, pancreas, and multi-organ transplants, offering hope to the approximately 1,400 people in Ontario awaiting a lifesaving organ. This achievement reflects the dedication of LHSC's transplant teams and the generosity of organ donors and their families.

Media and Storytelling

Media coverage and metrics

The following highlight metrics from LHSC's January media coverage:

Total news media mentions (media exposure): 374

- Negative – 3 (0.8%)

- Neutral – 116 (31%)
- Positive – 255 (68.2%)

Total potential reach (number of people who saw LHSC mentioned in the news): 217 million

Earned media value (how much LHSC would have to spend on ad placement to achieve this type of coverage): \$2.36 million

Top stories by reach:

- 46 million reached:
 - [First patient in Ontario treated with publicly funded Pluvicto™ in a major step forward for advanced prostate cancer care](#) - The Associated Press
- 11 million reached:
 - [Ontario health minister announces surgical centre expansion in London](#) - CTV London
- 11 million reached:
 - [LHSC receives most blood donations in Ontario-wide challenge](#) - CTV London
- 11 million reached:
 - [First baby of 2025 revealed by London Health Sciences Centre](#) - CTV London

Coverage analysis:

The Communications and Public Engagement team facilitated four proactive media stories in January, including two in partnership with Ontario's Ministry of Health. The first was news of LHSC becoming the [first hospital in Canada to treat a prostate cancer patient with the publicly funded Pluvicto therapy](#), which resulted in 177 media hits from local, regional, national, and international news outlets. The other story shared in conjunction with the province was news of the [future expansion of the Nazem Kadri Surgical Centre](#), which received coverage from four local media outlets. The team also shared news of the first baby of 2025 delivered at LHSC and facilitated the fourth Community Update Meeting and media scrum, which were well attended by members of the local media.

Communications and Public Engagement also responded to 10 media requests over the course of the month. We received inquiries related to several subjects including Emergency Department patient volumes over the holiday season, safeguarding cardiac health during snow shoveling, and a request from a documentary film crew to capture b-roll footage of the interior and exterior of Victoria Hospital.

Social media

The Communications and Public Engagement team posted 35 pieces of content across LHSC's social media platforms in January (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): 82,204 (+1,343 new followers, +1.6%)**
**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: 434,587**
**number of times posts across all LHSC social media platforms appeared on someone's screen*
- **Total social media engagements: 33,585**
**number of people who liked, commented, or shared LHSC's content/stories on social media*

Top social media posts by engagement included:

- First baby of 2025 | [Facebook](#)
- Transitions in Care | [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#)
- Nazem Kadri Surgical Centre expansion | [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#)

Social media analysis:

Content on social media this month highlighted stories that celebrated hospital milestones and initiatives, as well as patients and LHSC staff and physicians.

LHSC's first baby of 2025 is an annual post that audiences look forward to each year. This year proved no different as the community celebrated the first baby born at 12:05 a.m. on January 1.

The Nazem Kadri Surgical Centre expansion highlighted our hospital's innovation. We welcomed the Honourable Sylvia Jones, Deputy Premier and Minister of Health, and the Honourable Rob Flack, Minister of Agriculture, Food, and Agribusiness and MPP for Elgin-Middlesex-London, to Victoria Hospital and shared with the community how this expansion will reduce surgical wait times and connect even more people in the London area to the surgeries and procedures they need, faster.

Content on London Health Sciences Centre Research Institute's platforms continue to see positive engagements. We are currently sitting at 2,739 followers across all platforms and have generated over 15,800 impressions and 450 engagements in January.

LHSCRI study shows high-precision radiation therapy is safe for patients with cancer that has spread throughout body

A new study from London Health Sciences Centre Research Institute (LHSCRI) is [offering hope to cancer patients with limited treatment options](#). LHSCRI researchers, Drs. Timothy Nguyen and Glenn Bauman, led the Phase I clinical trial which evaluated the safety and feasibility of using targeted radiation, known as stereotactic ablative radiotherapy (SABR), in patients with cancer that has spread to more than 10 spots across multiple organs. Thirteen patients were treated at LHSC's Verspeeten Family Cancer Centre with five doses of radiation using SABR. The treatment was found to be safe for treating 10 or more lesions of cancer throughout the body. A larger Phase II clinical trial is now underway to examine the potential benefits of this treatment for patients.

Students making an impact at LHSC through Western's Black Leaders University Experience program

Three Western University students, Gabriella Game, Nyechuor Deng, and Forbehn Fossungu, are making a positive impact at LHSC through the [Western Black Leaders University Experience \(B.L.U.E.\) program](#). These students are gaining valuable hands-on experience and mentorship while working to address health challenges faced by Black patients, families, and community members. Their contributions include integrating equity, diversity, and inclusion principles into the Ontario Lung Cancer Screening Program, educating health-care providers on identifying pressure injuries across different skin tones, and organizing programs to address disparities in Black health. Their efforts are vital in improving care experiences and health outcomes.

The impact of an outstanding student placement supervisor

[Hospitals across Ontario](#) collaborate with universities and colleges to provide critical clinical education, bridging the gap between classroom learning and real-world health-care settings. This hands-on experience is essential for training future health-care workers to care for diverse and complex patient populations, including those with high-acuity needs. For Julie Kim, a Master of Occupational Therapy student from Western University, her strong relationship with her preceptor, Meaghan Tangredi, made her placement at LHSC enjoyable and rewarding. Julie appreciated how welcoming and inviting the staff was, which made the transition from classroom to full-time work easier.

Awards, Recognitions & Publications

Dr. Erkan Demirkaya appointed President of the International Society of Systemic Auto-Inflammatory Disease

Dr. Erkan Demirkaya, Scientist at LHSCRI and Paediatric Rheumatologist at Children's Hospital at LHSC, has been [appointed President of the International Society of Systemic Auto-Inflammatory Diseases](#) (ISSAID). This significant appointment highlights Dr. Demirkaya's leadership in the rare disease and autoinflammatory community. Dr. Demirkaya's expertise in pediatric autoinflammatory diseases, particularly in genetics, vasculitis, and the outcomes of paediatric rheumatic diseases, will contribute to advancing innovation within ISSAID.

LHSCRI scientists awarded more than \$2 million in funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research

Two research studies at London Health Sciences Centre Research Institute (LHSCRI) have received [significant funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research](#) (CIHR) to improve care for patients with irregular heartbeats and advanced kidney disease. Dr. Habib Khan, Associate Scientist at LHSCRI and Cardiologist at LHSC, has been awarded \$2,007,055 to lead a national study evaluating whether pacemakers can regulate heartbeats in patients with chronic atrial fibrillation and enhance their quality of life. Dr. Pavel Roshanov, Scientist at LHSCRI and Nephrologist at LHSC, has received \$130,050 to investigate whether administering two medications before surgery can reduce bleeding and lower the need for blood transfusions in patients with advanced kidney disease. In addition, more than \$16 million in new projects are being funded through Western University's Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry. These studies have the potential to drive significant advancements in health research and patient care across Canada and beyond.

Additional research funding announcements

The following researchers at LHSCRI have also recently been awarded funding:

- Dr. Janice Tijssen (Children’s Health Research Institute) has been awarded a Physicians Services Incorporated Clinical Research Grant-in-Aid entitled “Inter-facility Transports of Children in Ontario” – \$143,000 (2 years)
- Dr. Seth Climans (Cancer Program) has been awarded a Physicians Services Incorporated Clinical Research Grant-in-Aid entitled “Characterizing the myelosuppression associated with anti-seizure medications in Ontario, Canada” – \$50,000 (2 years)
- Dr. Fred Dick (Cancer Program) has been awarded a Cancer Research Society (Suzanne and Louis Daubois Fund) Grant-in-Aid entitled “Investigating a HOXA9 dependent transcriptional network in advanced prostate cancer” – \$ 130,000 (2 years)

External Landscape

Agreement to improve pharmaceutical data

On January 7, 2025, the Canadian Institute for Health Information and Canada’s Drug Agency signed a [three-year agreement](#) to expand data holdings and analytics. Through the agreement, it is anticipated that there will be improved drug access, safety, and patient health outcomes by leveraging data insights and strengthening Canada’s health-care analytics foundation. The agreement aligns with the Canadian Institute for Health Information’s Pharmaceutical Roadmap, which includes collaboration with federal, provincial, and territorial governments. It also supports Canada’s Drug Agency, established in December 2023, in its efforts to create a sustainable and forward-looking drug system.

Rising accidental drug and alcohol-related deaths in Ontario

A [new report](#) from Public Health Ontario and the Ontario Drug Policy Research Network shows a 68 per cent increase in accidental drug and alcohol-related deaths from 2018 to 2022. Deaths involving multiple substances, particularly opioids and stimulants, have risen significantly. The report highlights the need for integrated care models addressing both substance use and concurrent health conditions. Experts also note that the increasingly volatile drug supply is contributing to greater harm.

New program links London 9-1-1 callers with mental health, addiction workers

In January 2025, London, Ontario launched a [crisis call diversion program](#) to connect 9-1-1 callers experiencing mental health or addiction crises with professional support. This initiative, a collaboration between London Police Service, CMHA, and Thames Valley Addiction and Mental Health Services, connects callers in crisis with professional support. In its first month, the program managed 94 interventions, with only 37 requiring police involvement, and facilitated 92 community referrals. Experts emphasize its role in de-escalating situations and reducing unnecessary hospital visits or justice system interactions.

Canadian Nurses Association welcomes modernization of Canada Health Act

On January 10, 2025, the Canadian Nurses Association (CNA) [supported the federal government's interpretation letter on the Canada Health Act](#), which aims to maintain an accessible and sustainable publicly funded health-care system for all Canadians. The CNA underscored the essential role of nurse practitioners (NPs) in providing high-quality care and advocated for the recognition of NP services as insured health services in all settings. Despite this, funding for NP positions remains a challenge. Dr. Kimberly LeBlanc, CNA President, highlighted the need to adapt health-care policies to enhance access to care through NPs. Additionally, the CNA proposed a new Canadian Nurse Practitioner Initiative (CNPI) to address health workforce issues and improve nursing roles, with Dr. Valerie Grdisa, CNA CEO, emphasizing the need for bold policy decisions to ensure equitable care across Canada.

Ontario building safer communities with 18 additional Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment Hubs

The Ontario government has announced the establishment of [18 additional Homelessness and Addiction Recovery Treatment \(HART\) Hubs](#) across the province, bringing the total to 27. Inspired in part by the Health and Homelessness Whole of Community System Response from London, this initiative is part of a \$529 million investment aimed at providing comprehensive support to individuals struggling with addiction and homelessness. The HART Hubs will offer a range of services, including primary care, mental health support, and addiction treatment, to address the complex needs of vulnerable populations.

Government of Canada health research initiatives

Initial meetings with new CIHR President, Dr. Paul Hébert, and HealthCareCAN focused on maintaining strong federal support for health research. The main policy recommendations from the sector associated with the restructuring of federal funding of health research described in Budget 2024 were reiterated. Priorities focus on:

- Maintaining the connection between health research and the Health Ministry;
- Developing a Pan-Canadian Research and Innovation Strategy which would include a vision for health research in Canada;
- Ensuring health researchers are involved in federal reorganization; and
- Balancing investigator-led and mission-driven research.

HealthCareCAN has also released a national vision to guide health research transformation, developed with input from key health research leaders

Clinical Trials Ontario STREAM project to help create an integrated national research ethics board review structure for clinical research study approval

The [Accelerating Clinical Trials \(ACT\) Consortium](#) selected CANReview to develop a pan-Canadian streamlined research ethics board review for multi-centre studies. This aligns Canada with global best practices and leverages Ontario's STREAM platform, already adopted by London Health Sciences Research Institute (LHSCRI).

Research Canada Annual Stakeholder Roundtable

On February 11, 2025, Research Canada hosted a roundtable to align national health research priorities. Research Canada is a multi-sector advocacy group that educates federal parliamentarians on health research policy. It sponsors an all-party caucus to share health research advancements. LHSC, a long-time member through its research institute, participated alongside more than 70 organizations to assess national priorities, strengthen sector cohesion, and shape future policy direction. Dr. David Hill represented the London Health Sciences Centre Research Institute at the event.

Bill 231, More Convenient Care Act, 2024 introduced by Ontario government

In December 2024, the Ontario government introduced [Bill 231](#) to modernize health information management and patient care delivery. Key changes include:

- Amendments to the *Personal Health Information Protection Act (PHIPA)* to allow eligible Ontarians secure online access to their health records;
- Introduction of digital health identifiers and regulations for their management;
- The *Health Care Staffing Agency Reporting Act, 2024*, requiring staffing agencies to report pay and billing details to the Ministry of Health;
- Expanding French-language services across Ontario Health;
- Amendments to the *Health Protection of Promotion Act*, requiring the Chief Medical Officer of Health to approve class health orders issued by medical officers of health;
- Amendments to the *Mandatory Blood Testing Act*, enabling nurse practitioners to perform certain functions currently limited to physicians; and
- A proposal to merge nine Local Public Health Agencies into four new entities.

Brief submitted on EDI considerations in federal research funding criteria

The federal Standing Committee on Science and Research (SRSR) launched a study examining the "Impact of the Criteria for Awarding Federal Funding on Research Excellence in Canada," which evaluated whether the criteria being used to award federal funding for research excellence in Canada were current, allowed for the achievement of program objectives, strengthened knowledge development, and contributed to innovation, research, and science in Canada.

With support from the Ontario Hospital Association's (OHA) Anti-Racism Advisory Group Co-leads, the OHA submitted a written brief to express the need for equity, diversity and inclusion considerations in federal research funding criteria. Recommendations include:

- Promoting diverse population engagement to improve research validity;
- Ensuring diverse research teams for better study design;
- Aligning funding with government priorities to improve Indigenous health; and
- Prioritizing research that enhances end-user safety.