

**PRESIDENT AND CEO  
REPORT TO THE BOARD AND COMMUNITY  
JANUARY 2020**

**DELIVER EXCELLENT CARE EXPERIENCES AND OUTCOMES**

**ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

The proposed Strategy for a Waste-Free Ontario will legislate the province's waste management practices, and includes disposal bans starting in 2021. This will require a more proactive approach to waste management, as the organization will no longer be able to send Blue Box materials or food waste to landfill (without penalty). Furthermore, there is widely-reported data surrounding the health effects of climate change and the impact hospitals have on the environment. The just-released 2019 Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change reports that Canada has the third-highest per capita greenhouse gas emissions from healthcare in the world. Hospital environmental performance is quickly becoming a pressing issue, and LHSC has the opportunity to be a leader in our field by formally managing our environmental performance.

**CRITICAL CARE**

Dr. Karen Bosma and several of her colleagues published a case report on a novel vaping associated lung injury in Canadian Medical Association Journal (CMAJ). "Life-threatening bronchiolitis related to electronic cigarette use in a Canadian youth". The report can be found at the following link: <https://www.cmaj.ca/content/early/2019/11/20/cmaj.191402>

**TRANSITIONAL MODELS OF CARE**

In July 2019, London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) and Saint Elizabeth Health Care (SE Health) collaborated to develop submissions to the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care for two innovative solutions for transitional care models. The "Medicine Transitional Restorative Program (Reactivation in a Retirement Home)" and the "Emergency Services Diversion" model were officially launched on December 4, 2019. In December, there were eleven (11) patients transferred to Kensington Village through the "Medicine Transitional Restorative Program", and a total of 50 patients who would normally have been admitted to an inpatient hospital bed were discharged home with extra support from the Emergency Departments (EDs) as a result of the "Emergency Services Diversion" model.

**CRITICAL CARE TRAUMA CENTRE (CCTC) THERAPY DOG PROGRAM**

The Critical Care Trauma Centre at Victoria Hospital and London Health Sciences Centre Volunteer Services have partnered with St. John Ambulance to implement a Therapy Dog Program, which is set to launch in January of 2020. CCTC recognizes the physical, psychological and emotional benefits of a therapy dog program for some patients. A therapy dog will visit pre-selected critically ill patients based on strict criteria, on a scheduled weekly basis. Patients will receive therapy in their room that is intended to improve the patient's sense of wellbeing. Therapy benefits may include, but are not limited to socialization, reducing loneliness, reduction

in the need for medication, improving cognitive or physical functioning and enhancement of the quality of life while decreasing the patient's stress and anxiety .

## WORKING TOGETHER TO SERVE OTHERS

### **BUNDLED CARE- HIP AND KNEE ARTHROPLASTY**

In fiscal 2020, the Ministry of Health introduced bundled funding for unilateral hip and knee arthroplasty. Surgical hospitals have become the paymaster across the care continuum from 'consent to surgery' through post-discharge, including inpatient rehabilitation, home care and outpatients. The goal of bundled funding is to improve care continuity and drive efficiencies. At London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC), a steering committee was established to guide the bundled care implementation. Across the Local Health Integrated Network (1-4) region, LHSC established formal partnerships with Home Care, inpatient rehabilitation hospitals as well as 200 Community Physiotherapy Clinics. Clinical pathways and referral/discharge criteria have been developed. An invoicing system has been implemented. An electronic interface has been developed to report outpatient therapy data. The Orthopedic Research Technology (Ortech) platform will be used to monitor patient reported outcomes. A bundled care sub-committee has updated clinical pathways and educational material in order to increase the number of 'One Day Care' arthroplasties (joint replacements) from 80 per year to more than 400 per year. This initiative will reduce the cost per case and increase bed capacity. The efficiencies may be applied to completing additional cases in order to reduce the extensive surgical wait list.

## HEALTHCARE SYSTEM REGIONAL UPDATES

### **SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO STROKE NETWORK (SWOSN)**

The Southwestern Ontario Stroke Network (SWOSN) is 1 of 11 stroke networks in Ontario providing leadership and planning to implement best practice stroke care across the continuum of care.

As part of the Ontario Stroke System, their *vision* is fewer strokes. Better outcomes.

Their *mission* is to continuously improve stroke prevention, care, recovery and re-integration. This is achieved by collaborating with partners to re-organize stroke care delivery to ensure that all Ontarians have access to appropriate, quality stroke care in a timely manner.

Recently, SWOSN launched a "Call 911 Don't Drive" Stroke Awareness campaign at 159 Tim Horton locations in southwestern Ontario (x 8 weeks) and 8 Cineplex movie theatre's (x 1 week).

### **DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES – PATHOLOGY AND LABORATORY MEDICINE**

Woodstock General Hospital (WGH) has requested Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (PaLM) to partner in providing microbiology clinical services. This pending agreement will follow the same model that has been established with other partner hospitals, with PaLM consolidating all testing within Victoria Hospital and providing comprehensive professional, scientific and technical engagement with the WGH physicians, staff and administration. WGH patients and clinical teams will receive faster more comprehensive results even accounting for the logistics of

moving specimens between cities, allowing for improved care for managing infection and utilizing antibiotics. The transition project commences in January 2020 with an implementation date of March 30, 2020. Upon completion PaLM will have successfully consolidated microbiology for all hospitals in Thames Valley and Chatham Kent, and transformed the service model to a single integrated division engaged across all centres.

## LHSC IN THE NEWS

### MEDIA MONITORING REPORT: DECEMBER 11, 2019 – JANUARY 10, 2020

#### SUMMARY

- 9 stories were posted on the public website
- 157 media stories referenced LHSC and our partners (35 positive, 8 negative and 114 neutral)
- 6 media inquiries were managed

#### HIGHLIGHTS

**1. Lawson Health Research Institute clinician researchers first in world to use new method for inserting feeding tubes**

Researchers partnered with medical device company CoapTech LLC to use a new method of inserting a feeding tube using a new device, called the PUMA-G System, allowing the insertion to take place at the patient's bedside. Reported locally in [The London Free Press](#), [Blackburn News](#), and [Global News 980 CFPL](#).

**2. Study from Lawson Health Research Institute shows pregnant teens are more prone to poverty, poor mental health, and substance use**

Researchers' data showed higher figures in substance use in pregnant teens compared to pregnant adult women. The study was limited to residents of Southwestern Ontario, and their focus is on targeting teenage mental illness and their high substance use during pregnancy to minimize negative impact on their health and wellbeing. [CTV News](#), [Blackburn News](#), and [Global News 980 CFPL](#) reported on the story.

**3. LHSC receiving \$6.68 million in Health Infrastructure Renewal Fund (HIRF) grants from the provincial government**

LHSC is one of many Southwestern Ontario hospital systems to receive new infrastructure money from the province for help with maintenance and repair costs. Those in the article quoted note the importance of patient and staff safety and comfort as a reason to continue investing in infrastructure. Reported in [two different Blackburn News](#) articles, [The London Free Press](#), and the [St. Thomas Times-Journal](#).

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul Woods  
President and CEO

***Our Mission***

LHSC is a leading academic health organization committed to collaborating with patients, families and system partners to:

- Deliver excellent care experiences and outcomes;
- Educate the health-care providers of tomorrow; and
- Advance new discoveries and innovations that optimize the health and wellbeing of those we serve