



London Health
Sciences Centre



Children's Hospital
London Health Sciences Centre

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

March 2025

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Strategic and Operational Priorities

Visitor restrictions in place at Children's Hospital and Women's Care program

As communities in southern Ontario continue to report an increase in measles activity, London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) is working to keep its most vulnerable patients safe. On March 7, LHSC implemented changes to its [care partner and visitor policy](#). The policy was updated further on March 13. This highly contagious disease can lead to serious complications for LHSC's paediatric patients, making it essential to limit the number of visitors to reduce the potential risk of exposure. While these changes may be challenging for patients, their care partners, and Team LHSC, they have been implemented to enhance patient and visitor safety. LHSC will continue to monitor the measles situation and adjust our policies as needed.

February Community Update Meeting

LHSC hosted its fifth Community Update Meeting on February 19, 2025, where community members received updates on key initiatives and operational priorities. Topics discussed included the installation of the EVOLV system in the Emergency Departments (EDs), the Great Moments program, the Community Advisory Committee Surveys, and LHSC's Black History Month celebrations. Other highlights included updates on respiratory season, organ transplants and donations, Patient Flow, the South West Regional Cancer Program Patient Education Symposium, and Volunteer Services at LHSC. A recording of the February meeting, along with previous meetings, can be found on the LHSC [website](#).

Organizational Updates

Shannon Maier joins Team LHSC as Vice President, Children's Hospital and Women's Program

On February 12, 2025, LHSC welcomed Shannon Maier as Vice President of Children's Hospital and Women's Program. Shannon brings 23 years of health-care experience and progressive leadership, having recently served as Vice President of Quality and Practice at Trillium Health Partners. She is an accomplished leader with a diverse background in both clinical and leadership roles, including Clinical Educator (Maternal-Child Program) and Director of Maternal Newborn and Paediatric Services at Guelph General Hospital. She is also very familiar with southwestern Ontario and our system of care through past roles as Vice President, Clinical Services and Chief Nursing Executive at Listowel Wingham Hospital Alliance.

LHSC completes annual verification for all nurses

LHSC recently completed its annual renewal verification for all 4,698 nurses working in the organization. Through this process, LHSC verified that all nurses providing care to patients comply with the profession's regulatory body, the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO). Nurses are one of 27 self-regulating professions in Ontario. The CNO is the governing body for registered nurses (RNs), registered practical nurses (RPNs), and nurse practitioners under the Regulated Health Professions Act (1991) and the Nursing Act (1991). Registration verification was completed in collaboration with the CNO and LHSC's Human Resources Department, which supports the verification process for new staff, nurses returning from leave, and the yearly [renewal check](#) in February.

LHSC launches sickle cell disease quality standards implementation project

LHSC has been granted dedicated funds by Ontario Health to support the implementation of Health Quality Ontario's (HQO) Sickle Cell Quality Standards. The goal at LHSC is to enhance care experiences and health outcomes for patients with sickle cell disease, focusing on emergency department (ED) visits. The initiative also aims to improve communication and knowledge among the ED, Hemoglobinopathy Clinic (Sickle Cell Clinic), patients and families, and primary care providers.

LHSC Women’s Program receives books from London Public Library’s Books for Every Child initiative

The Women’s Program at LHSC received 89 books from London Public Library’s [Books for Every Child](#) initiative, an annual fundraising campaign held during the holiday season to collect books and donations for children who may not otherwise own a book. These books, intended for children aged 0-2 years, will be made available to families experiencing financial hardship.

Media and Storytelling

Media coverage and metrics

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

Total news media mentions (media exposure): 258

- Negative – 15 (5.8%)
- Neutral – 15 (5.8%)
- Positive – 228 (88.4%)

Total potential reach (number of people who saw LHSC mentioned in the news): 470 million

Earned media value (how much LHSC would have to spend on ad placement to achieve this type of coverage): \$4.27 million

Top stories by reach:

- 127 million reached:
 - [‘Poop pills’ tested in pancreatic cancer patients](#) - MSN.com
- 123 million reached:
 - [High-precision radiation therapy safe for patients with cancer that has spread throughout body, says study](#) - MSN.com
- 11 million reached:
 - [From care to cuisine: Black History Month celebrated at London hospital](#) - CBC London
- 10 million reached:
 - [Record-breaking number of babies born at LHSC in 2024](#) - CTV London
- 9 million reached:
 - [This young mom gave birth to a healthy baby boy. 2 days later, she was dead from an infection](#) - CBC London

Coverage analysis:

The Communications and Public Engagement team facilitated seven proactive media stories in February. Stories included a [world first clinical trial](#) involving fecal transplants for pancreatic cancer patients and a study of [stereotactic ablative radiotherapy \(SABR\)](#). Each had a reach of more than 120 million people thanks to international coverage. LHSC's proactive media for its record-breaking year of births in 2024 was also very successful with all local media outlets choosing to cover the story. The team also facilitated LHSC's fifth Community Update Meeting, including a media scrum following the meeting. By continuing to offer an opportunity for journalists to regularly ask questions of our leadership team, LHSC underscores its commitment to transparency and relationship building.

February also proved to be an exceedingly busy month for reactive media with the Communications and Public Engagement team responding to 21 requests. Inquiries were related to maternal mortality rates, updated information on LHSC's plans to install Evolv weapon detection machines in its Emergency Departments, an MRSA outbreak at Victoria Hospital and measles outbreaks across the region.

Social media

The Communications and Public Engagement team posted 29 pieces of content across LHSC's social media platforms in February (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):** 82,845 (+641 new followers, +.77%)
**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:** 292,416
**number of times posts across all LHSC social media platforms appeared on someone's screen*
- **Total social media engagements:** 17,950
**number of people who liked, commented, or shared LHSC's content/stories on social media*

Top social media posts by engagement included:

- 6,452 babies born in 2024 | [All platforms](#)
- Multi-Organ Transplant Program (MOTP) transplant milestone | [All platforms](#)

Social media analysis:

Social media content in February highlighted stories that celebrated significant hospital milestones.

The 6,452 births at LHSC in 2024 video brought in record numbers of engagements across our platforms, highlighting how eager audiences were to engage with and celebrate this positive achievement. The social media video utilized photos and videos submitted by patients, which helped boost overall content engagement as users enjoyed seeing themselves and their loved ones featured. Audiences also praised the health-care workers who supported this record-breaking number of births.

Similarly, users positively engaged with the MOTP milestone. We noted an increase in engagement from those who have either undergone a transplant or knew someone who had and took the time to praise the health-care workers who supported this achievement.

Content on London Health Sciences Centre Research Institute's platforms continues to see positive engagements as we trial new content campaigns including photo essays and a 'Research Minute'. There are 3,058 followers across all platforms that have generated over 29,500 impressions and more than 660 engagements in February.

World first trial studying 'poop pills' to improve treatment of pancreatic cancer

In a [world first study](#), scientists at Lawson Research Institute of St. Joseph's Health Care London and London Health Sciences Centre Research Institute (LHSCRI) are studying fecal transplants to improve the response of patients with advanced pancreatic cancer to chemotherapy. Early preclinical studies suggest that fecal transplants could change the microbes (healthy or unhealthy bacteria) found in tumours, making them more receptive to treatments like chemotherapy. In this Phase I safety trial, the research team will assess the treatment with a small group of cancer patients from the Verspeeten Family Cancer Centre at LHSC. The goal is to enhance the patient's microbiome (the collection of healthy microorganisms in the body), boost the body's immune response, and potentially make chemotherapy more effective.

Londoner shares story of unexpected health journey and rare epilepsy treatment at LHSC

Twenty-six-year-old Londoner Christine Kauzen, [shared her story](#) about the unexpected health journey she experienced and the rare epilepsy treatment she received at LHSC. In 2020, Christine was diagnosed with epilepsy affecting both of her temporal lobes. She suffered from

frequent seizures and memory loss, which forced her to stop working, attending school, and driving. With limited treatment options available, the LHSC epilepsy program recommended implanting a responsive neurostimulation (RNS) device into her skull — a therapeutic option for drug-resistant epilepsy, approved only in the United States. The surgeon, Dr. David Steven, and his team advocated for the treatment and applied through Health Canada's Special Access Program. The outcome was life-changing for Christine. After receiving the RNS procedure in 2024, she has had no full seizures, regained her memory, and is once again enjoying life.

Awards, Recognitions & Publications

LHSC celebrates Shriners Hospitals for Children Canada 100th anniversary

On February 18, 2025, LHSC celebrated a remarkable milestone by attending the 100th Anniversary Event of our esteemed partner, Shriners Hospitals for Children Canada. This momentous occasion marked a century of compassionate care and unwavering commitment to the health and wellbeing of children. LHSC was honoured to be part of this celebration, reflecting on the incredible journey and achievements of Shriners Hospitals for Children Canada. We look forward to a future filled with continued collaboration.

LHSC celebrates International Women's Day

On Saturday, March 8, LHSC celebrated the many women physicians, researchers, and health-care professionals advancing patient care and inspiring future generations on International Women's Day. LHSC spotlighted the incredible work of the [all-female leadership team](#) behind the congenital cytomegalovirus (cCMV) program at Children's Hospital. Dr. Michelle Barton-Forbes, Division Head of Paediatric Infectious Diseases (ID), Leah Ethier, ID Nurse Practitioner, and Debbie Zazvorka, Program Coordinator, have significantly improved the diagnosis and care of cCMV, a viral infection that can lead to hearing loss in infants. LHSC also celebrated the work of [Dr. Ruth Lanius](#), Scientist at London Health Sciences Centre Research Institute (LHSCRI) and Psychiatrist at LHSC, who is advancing our understanding and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) through research, and [Marilyn Appleman](#), a Locksmith at LHSC, who was the first female hired in Facility Management Services.

Research funding announcements

The following researchers at LHSCRI have been awarded funding through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Fall 2024 Competition.

- Dr. Trevor Shepherd, Grey Al-Awar, RS, Petrik, JJ, Zeqiraj, E. (Cancer Program), “Evaluation of pharmacologic LKB1 inhibition as a new therapeutic strategy against ovarian cancer metastasis” - \$879,750
- Dr. Habib Khan (Cardiology), “Resynchronization for Ambulatory Heart Failure Trial in patients with Chronic Atrial Fibrillation - Pharmacological rate control vs. Pace and Ablate with Conduction System Pacing” - \$2,007,055
- Dr. Pavel Roshanov (Surgery), “Bleeding Reduction in Acute and Chronic Kidney Patients having Surgery - Vanguard Phase” - \$130,050

The following researchers at LHSCRI have been awarded funding from the Academic Medical Organization of Southwestern Ontario (AMOSO)

- Dr. Habib Khan (Medicine) was awarded an Innovation Fund grant from AMOSO under the Cardiac and Vascular Care award category for the study entitled “Reduction or Elimination of Radiation During Implantation of Cardiac Devices Using Ultrasound”
- Dr. Alp Sener (Surgery) was awarded an Innovation Fund grant from AMOSO under the Improving Quality of Patient Care award category for the study entitled “The Effect of Sodium Thiosulfate Organ Preservation in Human Donation after Cardiac Death Renal Transplantation”

The following researchers at LHSCRI have been awarded funding from the Lawson and LHSCRI Fall 2024 Internal Research Fund competition:

- John Wang (Supervisor: Dr. Lakshman Gunaratnam, Medicine), Studentship, “Role of KIM-1 ectodomain shedding in acute kidney injury” - \$20,000 (1 year)
- Xuan Wang (Supervisor: Dr. Qi Zhang, PALM), Studentship, “Unravelling Molecular Alterations in Temporal Lobe Epilepsy: What is Missed Under the Microscope” - \$20,000 (1 year)
- Dr. Tianqing Peng (Medicine), “HDAC3 prevents doxorubicin-induced cardiotoxicity: molecular insights and therapeutical potential applications” - \$20,000 (2 years)
- Dr. Salimah Shariff (Nursing), “In-hospital management of glycemic emergencies and 30-day outcomes among patients experiencing homelessness” - \$20,000 (2 years)
- Dr. Eva Turley (Oncology), “Targeting RHAMM to manage lung toxicity and increase NSCLC tumor sensitivity to radiotherapy” - \$20,000 (1 year)
- Dr. Aze Wilson (Medicine), “Promoting precision: Creating a clinically-actionable genetic phenotype to better define IL23-targeted drug response in Crohn’s disease” - \$19,375 (1 year)

External Landscape

Ontario Hospital Association releases Research Data and Impact Report for 2023-2024

The Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) released its Ontario hospital research institute financial metrics for the past year. An increase in total research funding was reported at \$2.21 billion. This includes a 15 per cent annual increase in funding from federal sources, a 15 per cent increase in provincial investment, a 17 per cent rise in industry funding, and a 14 per cent increase in hospital foundation support. Ontario's share of all CIHR funding is now 46 per cent. Provincial funding is 0.01 per cent of Ontario's Gross Domestic Product. Commercialization revenues from research are 40 per cent lower than in 2020. The indirect costs of hosting hospital-based research last year averaged 45 per cent of direct funding. In the 2023-2024 period, LHSCRI and Lawson attracted over \$160 million in research funding, marking a 10 per cent increase from the previous year and ranking as the fifth largest in Ontario.

Institute for Healthcare Improvement celebrates Patient Safety Awareness Week

From March 9 to March 16, the Institute for Healthcare Improvement marked the 23rd annual Patient Safety Awareness Week. This week highlights the impact and significance of health-care organizations' efforts to prioritize patient safety. In 2025, one of the key campaigns for Patient Safety Awareness Week is the "Power of 'A'." This initiative emphasizes three core concepts aimed at fostering consistent safety practices. The three A's of the "Power of A" campaign are:

- **Awareness:** The importance of raising awareness about patient safety at individual, organizational, and community levels.
- **Assessment:** The need to conduct organizational evaluations to identify strengths and opportunities for improvement in patient safety.
- **Action:** Using the results of the self-assessment to create plans and take actionable steps toward advancing safety, including measurement and evaluation.

Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario releases new best practice guideline for pain prevention, assessment and management

The Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO) has released the fourth edition of its best practice [guideline](#) for nurses and health professionals on the prevention, assessment, and treatment of pain, titled "Pain: Prevention, Assessment, and Management (Fourth Edition)." The guideline was updated by a panel of 18 experts from across Canada and includes best practice recommendations for:

- Screening and assessment for pain;
- An integrative approach to the prevention, assessment, and management of pain;
- Specialized interprofessional pain care teams; and
- Educational best practices for health professionals and students.

Ontario Government announces \$1.8 billion plan to improve access to family doctors and primary care teams

On January 27, 2025, the Ontario government [announced](#) billion plan to connect two million people in the province with family doctors and primary care teams. This investment will support the implementation of the Ontario Primary Care Action Team's plan to build and improve the primary care system in Ontario. A key element of this plan is the use of primary care teams, which adopt an interprofessional approach to care. These teams include family physicians or nurse practitioners and include other regulated health-care professionals. By 2029, the plan aims to connect Ontarians to a primary care team, improve the accessibility and convenience of primary care, and provide greater support to primary care providers.

Anishinabek Nation and Ontario Health sign relationship protocol to enhance health and wellness

On January 16, 2025, the leadership of the Anishinabek Nation and Ontario Health signed a [relationship protocol](#) aimed at improving health and wellness for the 39 Anishinabek Nation member First Nations across Ontario. By formalizing this partnership, the Anishinabek Nation and Ontario Health are committed to working together to address health disparities, promote cultural safety, and enhance access to quality health-care services. Among the 39 Anishinabek

Nation members are four First Nations from southwestern Ontario, including Chippewas of the Thames and Munsee Delaware Nation.

New president of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research outlines strategic direction

Dr. Paul Hébert, appointed President of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) in January 2025, has shared his vision for the future of the federal granting council. He views health research as a key driver of change that can enhance patient care, transform health-care systems, and shape public policy. Dr. Hébert outlined the following strategic elements on the University of Ottawa [website](#):

- Research based on current needs: Addressing challenges from the pandemic to aging.
- National and international collaboration: Joining forces for maximum impact.
- Supporting scientific excellence: Fostering innovation while responding to current needs.
- Making CIHR a catalyst for change: An action- and impact-focused organization.