

For Immediate Release:**October 5, 2022****New imaging machine detects cancer in its earliest stages**

(LONDON, Ontario) – London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) has acquired the highest-resolution digital Positron Emission Tomography – Computed Tomography (PET/CT) scan, a leading-edge diagnostic tool so advanced it has the ability to detect the presence of cancer in its earliest stages and has the capacity to perform more than 6,000 scans per year.

Funded in part by the London Health Sciences Foundation and Ontario Health/Cancer Care Ontario, this tool can detect and diagnose many forms of cancer as well as cardiovascular and neurologic diseases in adults and children. The machine will be operational in late October and has the capacity to scan up to 25 patients a day improving access for patients within our region.

“As a regional cancer centre, this invaluable resource will make a significant difference to patients in so many ways and help promote important research,” said Dr. Jonathan Romsa, Chief, Division of Nuclear Medicine at LHSC. “This will greatly expand imaging capacity within London and our broader region, improving wait times, and enabling care closer to home for many patients who previously had to travel greater distances. This will be helpful especially for paediatric patients who have up until now, would often be referred for scans outside the region.”

The machine is able to detect disease at a molecular level, can monitor response to treatments, and increase the effectiveness of radiation therapy. The unit combines both a PET and CT scan, which maps out tracers in the body that show which cells are overactive, while combining data from x-rays to produce a detailed three-dimensional image of structures inside the body.

This is the first PET/CT machine at LHSC and while improved access to patient care will be the primary focus, it will also support a robust academic program that includes clinical practice, education and research to fuel future advancements.

“Along with advancements to our imaging capabilities this system will enhance collaboration across medical disciplines to promote academic and clinical research activities that will lead to improved health outcomes for our patients,” said Stephen Nelli, Coordinator of Nuclear Medicine at LHSC. “This state-of-the-art technology will help physicians locate disease early while decreasing imaging time and radiation dose.”

About London Health Sciences Centre

With roots going back a century and a half, London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC), is an award-winning, research-intensive acute tertiary and quaternary teaching hospital, one of only 14 such hospitals in Ontario. LHSC is also home to Children’s Hospital, one of just four acute tertiary care paediatric hospitals in the province. Our unique place in the health system positions us well to inform and advise on provincial, national and international health policy. We are the cornerstone of care for many specialized programs and services in Western Ontario. And, as a major provider of emergency care and through our community hospital mission, we also care for the more than 400,000 people who call London home as well as many in surrounding communities. With Ontario’s health system continuing its transformation, LHSC has an opportunity to inform it and to place itself at the locus of the regionalized health system by virtue of its size, specialized capabilities, research and education capacity and its current regional footprint. LHSC’s formal relationship and strong bond with Western University provide a mechanism for collaboration to enable the delivery of high-quality care through a process of continuous learning and research. At its core, the affiliation is a reciprocal relationship that leverages the learning, teaching and care environments of both Western University and LHSC. LHSC is a 15,000 person strong team of physicians, staff and volunteers – collaborators, innovators and pioneers, meeting the care needs of those we serve and charting a course for the future.

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The attached photo shows Dr. Jonathan Romsa on the left and Stephen Nelli on the right looking at the Pet/CT.

For more information contact:

Steve Young

Media Relations

London Health Sciences Centre
(519) 685.8500 x 77767
Steve.young@lhsc.on.ca

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