



London Health
Sciences Centre



Children's Hospital
London Health Sciences Centre

MONTHLY CEO

INTERNAL LANDSCAPE REPORT

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MARCH 2024



General news

Visits to the Nazem Kadri Surgical Centre

On Monday, February 12, LHSC hosted representatives from University Health Network (UHN) at the Nazem Kadri Surgical Centre. UHN is Canada’s largest research and teaching hospital network, based in Toronto, encompassing the Toronto General and Toronto Western hospitals, the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, and The Michener Institute of Education. Among our guests from UHN were Dr. Thomas Forbes, serving as Surgeon-In-Chief; Dr. Keyvan Karkouti, holding the position of Anesthesia-In-Chief; Diana Hallett, the Clinical Director of Surgical Services; and Alexandra Boasie, Senior Manager of Transformation and Quality.

Advancing our Strategic Plan

The Surgical Centre is the first-of-its-kind high-efficiency ambulatory surgical centre for lower-risk, lower-complexity surgical procedures. It has enabled LHSC to create efficiencies in surgical care and reduce our surgical backlog while improving the patient experience. Showcasing the Surgical Centre and discussing its innovative role in advancing health care supports LHSC’s goal of improving care through partnership.

Ontario children’s hospitals rename cardiac procedure to honour Vivien Thomas

Children’s Hospital at LHSC is joining its provincial partners in renaming a cardiac procedure to honour the groundbreaking contributions of Black surgical pioneer Vivien Thomas. As of February 26, the cardiac surgery has officially been renamed the Blalock-Thomas-Taussig (BTT) shunt at all five Ontario children’s hospitals. The BTT shunt is a lifesaving surgical procedure performed on babies with heart defects that affect blood flow to the lungs. In 1944, the procedure was named after Dr. Alfred Blalock and Dr. Helen Taussig, but due to racial discrimination Vivien Thomas' contribution to the development of the shunt remained unknown.

Advancing our Strategic Plan

By renaming the procedure, the Ontario hospital system is showing ongoing commitment to fostering an inclusive and diverse health-care environment. This directly supports LHSC’s fundamental commitments to creating an inclusive and safe environment by dismantling systems of oppression, discrimination, racism and bias.

New study aims to improve post-surgical care

A [new study](#) from Lawson Health Research Institute looking at whether digital care and communication can help improve patient outcomes after surgery has received a Compassion and AI Grant from AMS Healthcare. The study aims to leverage technology to monitor patients who have been discharged from hospital following surgery. The goal is to ensure any complications are monitored and flagged to care teams in real-time.



Advancing our Strategic Plan

Funding for research projects like this helps to drive our research mandate and clinical care forward. Digital care may be a way to improve patient recovery, avoid emergency department visits and prevent hospital readmissions. This remote monitoring program can help improve patient-physician communication, potentially reducing hospital readmissions and allowing for personalized care plans.



Awards and recognitions

Dr. Lucas Mendez receives 2024 Terry Fox New Investigator Award

Dr. Lucas Mendez, a radiation oncologist at LHSC and Associate Scientist at Lawson Health Research Institute, has received a Terry Fox Research Institute New Investigator Award to drive radiation therapy forward. Dr. Mendez will receive \$450,000 over three years for a study that aims to create an accessible and cost-effective method of delivering targeted high-dose radiation therapy in patients with prostate cancer. In this project, Dr. Mendez will test the use of micro-ultrasound (microUS), a tool currently designed to perform targeted biopsies of prostate cancers, to first image and then deliver radiation to cancerous lesions in the prostate. MicroUS is a relatively inexpensive and portable technology that produces high-resolution images of the prostate within minutes.

Dr. Mahesh Nagappa receives Compassion and Artificial Intelligence Grant

Dr. Mahesh Nagappa, a Scientist at Lawson Health Research Institute and an Anesthesiologist at LHSC, has received one of eight 2023 Compassion and Artificial Intelligence Grants from AMS Healthcare to improve post-surgical care. In this study, technology will be used to monitor patients who have been discharged from hospital following surgery. The goal is to ensure that any complications are monitored and flagged to care teams in real-time. This study has the potential to redesign post-surgical care by improving patient recovery at home, reducing length of stay in hospital, avoiding ED visits, and preventing hospital readmissions.

Catalyst Grants to help drive cancer research forward

Eleven new cancer research studies through Lawson Health Research Institute are being supported with funding from London Health Sciences Centre's (LHSC) 2023 London Regional Cancer Program (LRCP) Catalyst Grants. The 2023 Catalyst Grants total \$269,780 in funding.