



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

February 2026

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Strategic and Operational Priorities

January Community Update Meeting

On January 21, 2026, London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) hosted its monthly Community Update Meeting. The meeting included updates on topics including virtual pre-operative classes, respiratory season, results of our Winter Food and Clothing Drive, clinical trials, and more. A recording of the January meeting, along with previous Community Update Meetings, is available on the LHSC [website](#).

Black Health Navigator, Suishanie Brooks, is transforming care

LHSC's Black Health team is taking crucial steps to address inequities faced by Black patients and families. LHSC has introduced the Black Health Navigator role, a cultural, nursing-based role that acts as a bridge between Black patients, their families, and care teams. In this new role, Suishanie Brooks ensures that patients are supported as true partners in their care. Read more about this role and how to connect with Suishanie [on our website](#). You can also view coverage from [CBC](#) and [The X FM News](#).

Organizational Updates

Adult Eating Disorders Service reduces wait list

LHSC's Adult Eating Disorders Service's team recently introduced a new model of care, which is reducing its wait list significantly. With a focus on flexible outpatient care, the waitlist has dropped significantly from 317 patients in August 2024 to 31 patients in November 2025, and continues to decrease. Learn more about how this model [reduces patients' wait times](#) on our website or through [The X FM News](#).

Children’s Hospital at LHSC expands access to Outpatient Eating Disorders Program

The Outpatient Eating Disorders Team has significantly expanded access to care (over 200 per cent) by refining intake criteria, strengthening community partnerships, and redirecting lower-acuity patients, including those with selective eating concerns and Avoidant/Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (ARFID), to more appropriate community programs. Through a comprehensive waitlist review, clearer referral pathways, improved communication with families, integration with broader Outpatient Mental Health services, and an increase in psychiatric assessment capacity from 10 to 13 monthly assessment spots, the program has transformed this system.

Helping the planet, one inhaler at a time

In January 2026, LHSC and St. Joseph’s Health Care London launched participation in the Go Zero Recycle program to support environmentally responsible disposal of prescription inhalers and aerochambers. In 2024, more than 53,000 inhalers were dispensed across both organizations, with approximately 70 per cent classified as metered-dose inhalers that use greenhouse gas propellants. Drop-off boxes are now available in respirology outpatient clinics, enabling safe recycling and propellant recapture while supporting continued access to essential respiratory treatments. To read more, [visit the LHSC website](#).

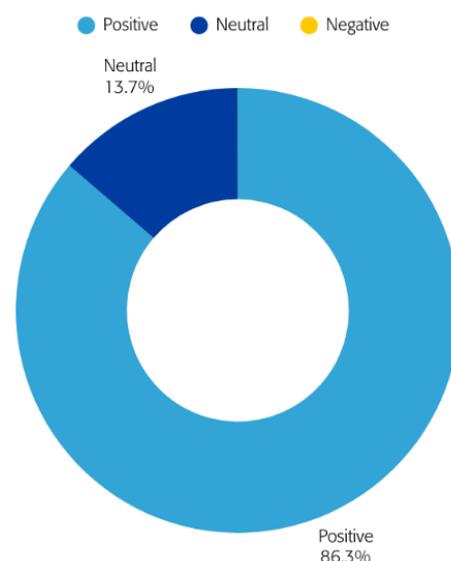
Media and Storytelling

Media coverage and metrics

The following highlight metrics from LHSC’s January media exposure.

Total news media mentions (media exposure): 526

- Negative – 0 (0%)
- Neutral – 72 (13.7%)
- Positive – 454 (86.3%)



Total audience reach (number of people who saw LHSC mentioned in the news): Approximately 435.6 billion

Earned media average (how much LHSC would have to spend on ad placement to achieve this type of coverage): Approximately \$6 million

Top stories by reach:

- 38.8 million reached:
 - [Poop pills a 'game-changer' for treating cancer: study](#) - New York Post
- 23.8 million reached:
 - [POO KNEW? New 'poo pills' could dramatically improve cancer treatment, groundbreaking trial finds](#) - The U.S. Sun
- 15.9 million reached:
 - [Metal detectors coming to emergency rooms in Saskatoon and Regina](#) – CBC Saskatchewan
- 7.8 million reached:
 - [Here are some of the first babies born on Jan. 1 across Canada](#) – CTV National
- 7.6 million reached:
 - ['It's life-changing': London, Ont. hospital makes cardiac history with world-first dual heart surgery](#) – CTV London

Coverage analysis:

Communications and Public Engagement facilitated four proactive stories including sharing news of the [first baby born at LHSC in 2026](#) a [cardiac world-first surgery](#), and exciting results of [fecal microbiota transplant clinical trials](#) by researchers at London Health Sciences Centre Research Institute (LHSCRI), Lawson Research Institute of St. Joseph's Health Care London and Centre de recherche du Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CRCHUM). The team also responded to 26 reactive requests during the month of January, many of them revolving around a University Hospital Code Grey. Additional topics of interest included a Code Red within the Emergency Department (ED) at Victoria and Children's Hospitals, health impacts of the prolonged cold weather in our region, and the ongoing impact of respiratory illness season on our ED wait times.

Supervisor David Musyj also took part in an [interview with CBC Saskatoon](#) regarding LHSC's weapons detection system as the government of Saskatchewan looks to introduce similar technology in its hospitals in the wake of several violent incidents.

Social media

The Communications and Public Engagement team posted 19 pieces of content across LHSC's social media platforms in January. The content featured staff, patient and volunteer stories as well as hospital initiatives.

Total social media followers (across all platforms): 94,395 (+1,249 new followers, +1.34%)

**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: 1,354,122

**number of times posts across all LHSC social media platforms appeared on someone's screen*

Total social media engagements: 79,697

**number of people who liked, commented, or shared LHSC's content/stories on social media*

Top social media posts by engagement included:

1. Celebrating the first baby born at LHSC in 2026 | [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)
2. A story highlighting a world-first cardiac surgery at LHSC | [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#)
3. A callout asking parents to share baby photos and videos | [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#)
4. A feature story about hand-sewn sensory stimulation clothing items for patients | [Facebook](#)

Social media analysis:

In January, social media engagement reflected strong audience connection to giving birth at LHSC, cardiac care services, and the compassion LHSC volunteers and team members share with patients to enhance care experiences.

LHSC's top-performing post celebrated the first baby born in 2026 on New Year's Day and became one of our most popular social media posts of all time, generating more than 600 celebratory comments, with many people expressing excitement, warmth, and heartfelt well-wishes for the newborn and family. Top stories included the aforementioned world-first cardiac surgery led by Dr. Michael Chu and LHSC's cardiac surgery team, reaching more than 60,000 people across all platforms. Users shared messages of thanks, describing how Dr. Chu saved their lives or the lives of family members.

Content on London Health Sciences Centre Research Institute continues to see positive engagement and growth. We are currently sitting at 4,489 followers across all platforms and have generated over 9,500 impressions in January.

LHSC performs world first with complex cardiac surgery

A team at LHSC is the first in the world to use two new devices to complete two complex cardiac procedures within a single surgery. Taking place in August 2024, LHSC Cardiac Surgeon, Dr. Michael Chu, and team performed both a protected Ross operation, where the patient's own pulmonary valve is transplanted to replace their diseased aortic valve, and an advanced surgical technique called a hybrid arch frozen elephant trunk procedure, which enables a very extensive aortic replacement in a much less invasive way. By combining the procedures, the team was able to rebuild most of the patient's aorta within their chest during a single procedure, while also using two new specialized devices. This world first cements LHSC's position as a leader in integrating a patient-centered approach with innovation in the field of cardiac care. [Read more on our website](#) or in the news coverage from [Global News](#).

'Poop pills' advancing cancer care

On January 28, results from two groundbreaking clinical trials about fecal microbiota transplants (FMT) were published in *Nature Medicine* by London Health Sciences Centre Research Institute (LHSCRI), Lawson, and Centre de recherche du Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CRCHUM). The [first study](#) shows that the toxic side effects of drugs to treat kidney cancer could be eliminated with FMT. The [second study](#) suggests FMT is effective in improving the response to immunotherapy in patients with lung cancer and melanoma. To learn more about how these studies improve cancer treatment for patients, [read more on our website](#) and in the media coverage from [CTV National](#), [Global National](#), [Toronto Star](#) and the [New York Post](#).

'Head to toe' research powered by donations

Four new research chairs have been established through a partnership between London Health Sciences Foundation and Western University worth \$16.5 million to transform health care in four targeted areas. The chairs comprise the Charles G. Drake Chair in Neurosurgery Research, the Chair in Cardiovascular Clinical and Translational Research, the Kay Family Chair in Transformational Kidney Care, and the Chair in Orthopaedic Research and Innovation. Read how providing stable, long-term funding can [pave the way for major breakthroughs](#).

Advancing cervical cancer screening through trust and collaboration

LHSC is partnering to improve cervical cancer screening in Indigenous communities. While cervical cancer is one of the most preventable cancers, Indigenous women often experience barriers to screening due to historical inequities, including limited access, transportation

challenges, or past trauma. Now, LHSC and the South West Regional Cancer Program's (SWRCP) growing partnerships with Indigenous health partners and community organizations like the Southwest Ontario Aboriginal Health Access Centre (SOAHAC) are making cervical cancer screening more accessible, culturally informed, and grounded in trust. With increased screening clinics hosted in community spaces and paired with education sessions, more patients are getting clear, respectful information to make informed decisions about their care. [Read more on our website](#) about how these clinics protect and improve the health of community members.

Hand-sewn donations deliver big impact for patients

Over the last three years, LHSC has been fortunate to receive over 250 donated hand-sewn fidget aprons and twiddle muffs from the Huron Fidget Makers – expanding on our commitment to delivering whole person care to patients who are at-risk of physical or mental decline while they are in our care. For more than a decade now, the Huron Fidget Makers, a dedicated team of volunteers led by Janet Clarke, have been sewing and donating specially designed items. These fidget aprons and twiddle muffs provide sensory stimulation and engage patients in a safe way that allows them to keep their hands and minds busy while offering coziness. [Read the full story on our website.](#)

LHSC partners with Oneida Nation of the Thames for first Indigenous renal screening event

The LHSC Renal Program joined Oneida Nation of the Thames to hold its first Southwest Ontario community renal screening event on November 15, 2025. This community-based initiative allowed individuals to receive timely screening, education, and connections to care by breaking down barriers like limited transportation. Thank you to the members of Team LHSC who participated and to our partners at Oneida Nation of the Thames. [Read more about this event](#), which is just the beginning of LHSC's ongoing relationship to support long-term wellness for First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and Urban Indigenous (FNMIU) communities.

Volunteers bring connection and companionship

Volunteers make a tremendous difference for patients at LHSC, like retired Western University Kinesiology professor, Alan Salmoni. From helping patients pass the time during recovery to providing a sense of hope, volunteers like Alan are a vital point of connection as they visit patients on unit. Across LHSC, there are more than 30 patient visiting volunteers who are busy creating meaningful relationships and reducing isolation for patients. [Read more about Alan's story](#) and the patient visiting volunteer role on our website.

Awards, Recognitions & Publications

LHSCRI scientists awarded over \$3 million in federal funding

In recognition of the incredible research being done at LHSCRI, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) is providing over \$3 million in federal funding to some of our scientists for vital projects focused on kidney failure, stroke, orthopaedics, and improved pain management for children. The power of collaboration within our health-care landscape is incredible, with our scientists receiving funding that could transform care around the world. [Read more about this funding](#) and the life-saving research it will enable.

Dr Dianne Bryant was awarded funding through the Fall 2025 CIHR Project Grant competition for the study entitled “Anterior Cruciate Ligament Reconstruction using Bone Patellar Bone or Quad Tendon Autograft with or without Lateral Extra Articular Tenodesis in Individuals who are at High Risk of Graft Failure (STABILITY 2)”, \$508,724, 3 years

Dr Naveen Poonai was awarded funding through the Fall 2025 CIHR Project Grant competition for the study entitled “Anxiolysis for Laceration Repair in Children: Open-Label Multicentre Adaptive Trial”, \$573,750, 3 years

Dr Pavel Roshanov was awarded funding through the Fall 2025 CIHR Project Grant competition for the study entitled “DIALysis with EXpanded solute removal (DIALEX): A large, simple randomized controlled trial to evaluate the major health effects of expanded versus conventional hemodialysis”, \$1,143,675, 6 years

Dr Luciano Sposato was awarded funding through the Fall 2025 CIHR Project Grant competition for the study entitled “EAST-STROKE: A Randomized Controlled Trial of Rhythm Control vs. Standard of Care for Atrial Fibrillation in Acute Ischemic Stroke”, \$971,550, 5 years

Other research funding announcements

Saman Maleki was awarded funding for the study entitled “LUNA-2: LND101 in Unresectable Non-small cell lung Cancer: A randomized phase 2 clinical trial” through the Transformational Research competition from the Weston Family Foundation and the Canadian Cancer Society, 2 years, \$4.1 M

Ana Suller was awarded funding for the study entitled “Western Epilepsy Research Registry (WERR)” through the Accelerate program from Mitacs, \$63,900, 1 year

External Landscape

Federal government invests in Canadian research talent

The [Canada Global Impact+ Research Talent Initiative](#) from the federal government is designed to attract globally recognized researchers and strengthen Canada’s innovation competitiveness on the world stage. LHSCRI advocated strongly with the Federal Government through HealthCareCAN and Research Canada for the creation of the Canada Global Impact and Research Talent Initiative. This creates an excellent opportunity to build on donations through London Health Sciences Foundation and Children’s Health Foundation to attract new clinician or basic scientists to LHSCRI and Western University. The process for the initial allocation of funds was announced in December 2025 with a rapid submission and evaluation timeline. Registration for the first allocation will occur by March 10, and for the second by June 15. The application deadlines will be March 24 and June 29 respectively. Submissions from hospital research institutes must occur through [the associated university](#).

One year into Ontario’s Primary Care Action Plan

Over the past year, more than 275,000 people have been connected to primary care. Ontario is making strong progress in helping more people get a family doctor, nurse practitioner, or care team. New investments support more team-based clinics, faster licensing for nurses and doctors, and expanded roles for health professionals like pharmacists. These changes help reduce waitlists and bring care closer to home. For nursing teams, this means stronger partnerships with community providers, more support for patient transitions, and improved access for people arriving in our Emergency Department and Medicine units. [Review the full update here](#).

Navigating AI use and clinical documentation

Effective February 1, the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) has updated its Documentation Practice Standard to introduce [guidance for technology and AI use](#) — nurses must review AI-generated documentation for accuracy and obtain informed consent. The standard reinforces privacy obligations under PHIPA and requires documentation to respect client self-identification and avoid discriminatory language. LHSC is updating documentation policies and training materials, ensuring secure handling of health records, embedding equity and respectful language in templates, and verifying unit procedures reflect these changes.