

**PRESIDENT AND CEO
REPORT TO THE BOARD AND COMMUNITY
SEPTEMBER 2019**

DELIVER EXCELLENT CARE EXPERIENCES AND OUTCOMES

CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL PERFORMED FIRST PAEDIATRIC ROBOT-ASSISTED NEUROSURGERY IN ONTARIO

The first paediatric robot assisted stereoelectroencephalography (SEEG) epilepsy surgery in Ontario was successfully performed by the Paediatric Epilepsy team at Children's LHSC in October 2018. This is a minimally invasive technique that allows a clear delineation of the area of the brain where seizures are generated. This technique allows for a safer subsequent resection of that given area. The child who underwent this technique has been seizure free since then and currently is off almost all anticonvulsant medication. The surgery has dramatically improved the child's quality of life.

CAREchart@home PROGRAM WILL ALLOW ONCOLOGY PATIENTS TO ACCESS AFTER-HOURS SYMPTOM MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

Using evidence-based pan-Canadian Oncology Symptom Triage and Remote Support Practice Guides, Bayshore HealthCare's "CAREchart@home" program provides oncology patients after-hours symptom management support. This support allows patients to self-manage symptoms at home whenever possible reducing unnecessary ED visits. A meeting was held with Bayshore leadership to prepare for the implementation of CAREChart@home at LHSC's London Regional Cancer Program. The CAREChart@home service will provide all adult oncology patients with telephone triage for symptom management afterhours and on weekends and holidays. This service is supported and funded by Cancer Care Ontario. The development of a communication plan, patient education materials, and processes for documentation and reporting between CareChart and the LRCP telephone triage centre are underway. Go-live is planned for later this fall.

FECAL TRANSPLANT RESEARCH TO TREAT SKIN CANCER

In a phase 1 clinical trial, a multidisciplinary team are the first in Canada to study the use of fecal transplants to alter the microbiome of melanoma patients and improve their response to immunotherapy drugs. Eligible research participants will receive a fecal transplant at St. Joseph's Hospital followed by immunotherapy at the London Regional Cancer Program at LHSC. The primary goal of the study is to evaluate safety of the novel treatment combination, but researchers will also evaluate patient outcomes. This research generated extensive coverage around the world, in addition, a [video explaining the research](#) has generated more than 3,000 views across Lawson's digital channels.

PREMIER OF THE CHILDREN'S SURGICAL CARE VIDEO

The Patient Experience team hosted a Children's Surgical Care video premiere this month <https://youtu.be/1Frnfl7WXmA>. The video takes children and youth through the journey of coming in for a surgery, and who and what they may see throughout the surgical process. The red carpet and popcorn were ready as staff, physicians, and patient/family partners celebrated the world wide premiere!

LHSC AMONG THE FIRST IN CANADA TO TRANSPLANT HEPATITIS C-POSITIVE KIDNEYS

Hepatitis C used to be the most common diagnosis of patients on the liver transplant waiting list. However, with advances in direct-acting antiviral treatment, 99% of hepatitis C patients can now be treated and cured within 12 weeks.

This has a positive effect for patients on the organ transplant waiting list. Historically, hepatitis C donor organs were only transplanted into patients who already had hepatitis C or were critically ill (limited predicted survival without transplant). Now that hepatitis C can be cured, these donors are a source of organs for patients on the waiting list.

In early 2018 the London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) was among the first hospital in Canada to transplant hepatitis C-positive kidneys. 'Hepatitis C', was removed as a contraindication for organ donation which expanded potential recipients to include those who did not already have hepatitis C. Strict protocols were put in place to monitor and manage patients who accepted these organs, starting with full disclosure and consent as well as reassurance that declining the hepatitis C organ would not affect their place on the waiting list. LHSC's protocol involves mandatory referral to and follow-up by the Infectious Diseases Specialist, regular testing, and initiation of treatment in a timely fashion.

Since LHSC's new protocol was implemented, 18 patients have received organs -16 kidneys, 1 kidney/pancreas and 1 liver/kidney. As a result of this innovative clinical practice change, the number of organs available for transplantation has increased, thereby reducing waiting times, improving outcomes and saving more patients' lives.

WORKING TOGETHER TO SERVE OTHERS**TACKLING THE ISSUE OF HOMELESSNESS WITHIN HOSPITAL WALLS**

At a community symposium on health care and homelessness attended by over 250 Londoners, a Lawson research team led by Dr. Cheryl Forchuk (Mental Health) announced the results of a nine-month, federally-funded project tackling the issue of homelessness from within hospital walls. The [No Fixed Address \(NFA\) strategy](#) reaches and supports patients during the crucial transitional period when they are being discharged from the hospital and re-integrated into the community. The approach was initially tested with strong success for mental health patients at LHSC and St. Joseph's, and the second version of the project was extended to medical units at LHSC's University Hospital and Victoria Hospital. It was successful in housing half of the 74 patients who accessed the program.

HEALTHCARE SYSTEM REGIONAL UPDATES

SECOND ANNUAL GOLFING FORE WELLNESS TOURNAMENT

The South West Regional Cancer Program in partnership with the Association of Iroquois & Allied Indians hosted the second annual Golfing Fore Wellness tournament at Echo Valley Golf Club on August 30. The purpose of the day was to share health and wellness information in a fun and relaxed environment. A total of five wellness organizations and 80 golfers participated in this year's event.

EDUCATE THE HEALTH-CARE PROVIDERS OF TOMORROW

SMUDGING IN A HEALTH-CARE SETTING

On August 20, Dr. Samantha Boshart, Regional Indigenous Lead for the South West Regional Cancer Program led teaching on the spiritual practice of smudging and the duty to accommodate this practice within health care under the Ontario Human Rights Code. Smudging is a practice common to many First Nations, and can be an important part of the healing journey for some patients and families. Smudging involves the burning of one or more medicines gathered from the earth, most often tobacco, sage, cedar, and sweetgrass. The Ontario Human Rights Code now includes legal protections to ensure Indigenous peoples may freely practice their religious and spiritual traditions (<http://www.ohrc.on.ca/en/policy-preventing-discrimination-based-creed/11-indigenous-spiritual-practices>). In total, forty-seven staff members attended this teaching held in the Sanctuary at Victoria Hospital.

PERSONAL SUPPORT WORKERS SIMULATION-BASED SKILLS FAIR

Personal Support Workers (PSWs) at LHSC work under the direction of nurses to support basic patient care. From April to July a series of simulation-based skills fair sessions were held for all PSWs. More than 300 PSWs completed the skills fair that provided them with the opportunity to practice basic skills that are important at the bedside, as well as learning new skills that will help them to work towards full scope of their role. The uniformity of training creates a better standardization of practice, which in turn improves patient safety and quality of care for all patients.

LHSC IN THE NEWS

Media Monitoring Report: August 11 – September 10, 2019

SUMMARY

- 8 stories were posted on the public website
- 82 media stories referenced LHSC and our partners (77 positive, 1 negative and 4 neutral)

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Hospitals hope provincial shakeup improves ailing mental health care

This story highlighted the complexity and challenges of the mental health care system in London and throughout Ontario, and provided an optimistic perspective from LHSC and St. Joseph's on how Ontario Health Teams can help alleviate the overburdened system. This story received positive coverage and appeared on the front page of the print-edition only of London Free Press.

2. LHSC, paramedics plan pilot to offload some patients to chairs, not beds

A new pilot project by LHSC and the Middlesex-London Paramedic Service will use clinical criteria to assess whether adult patients arriving to the emergency department by ambulance can be safely transferred to a chair in the waiting room instead of remaining on a stretcher in the care of a paramedic. This story received positive coverage in [The London Free Press](#), noting that the project aims to improve ambulance availability and reduce overcrowding in the ED.

3. Could microorganisms in poop help treat the deadliest form of skin cancer?

A phase 1 clinical trial involving 20 research participants with melanoma from LHSC's London Regional Cancer Program will evaluate if a combination of fecal transplants and immunotherapy can improve patient outcomes. This story garnered positive coverage from local, national and international media including [CBC London](#), [CTV National News](#), and [Forbes](#).

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