



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

April 2025

Table of Contents

<i>Supervisor, Corporate Nursing Executive (CNE) and Chair, Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) Report</i>	1
Strategic and Operational Priorities	3
LHSC enhances safety at Emergency Department entrances.....	3
March Community Update Meeting.....	3
Organizational Updates	3
Visitor policy remains in place at Children’s Hospital and Women’s Care program	3
House of Hope receives \$845,560 investment through Health and Homelessness Fund for Change	4
LHSC nurses supported by Ontario Health’s Emergency Department Nursing Workforce Program	4
Virtual Health Care 101 community workshops	4
Media and Storytelling	5
Media coverage and metrics	5
Social media	6
LHSC social workers helping young patients facing mental health crises in the ED.....	7
LHSC patient raises awareness of colorectal cancer.....	7
LHSC patient shares kidney care journey	8
LHSC patient celebrates fifth anniversary of life-saving heart transplant.....	8
LHSCRI scientist advancing our understanding and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder	8
Awards and Recognitions	9
LHSCRI researchers awarded King Charles III Coronation Medals.....	9
Research funding announcement.....	9
External Landscape	10
Premier Doug Ford announces new cabinet and updated parliamentary assistant roles	10
College of Nurses of Ontario implement new registration requirements	10
Emergency Care Research Institute releases Top 10 Patient Safety Concerns for 2025	10
Public Health Agency of Canada releases vision for public health surveillance in Canada.....	11
Middlesex-London Health Unit releases new Community Health Status Resource data series	11
OHA publishes editorial on harnessing hospital-based research	11
CEO and Chief Scientific Officer at Bruyère Health Research Institute and Chair of CAN Health Network publish article in Policy Options.....	12
Canadian Science Policy Centre launches National Conversation on Canada’s Innovation Strategy	12

Strategic and Operational Priorities

LHSC enhances safety at Emergency Department entrances

On April 15, LHSC took an important step toward ensuring a safe and welcoming environment for everyone at LHSC with the launch of its new weapons detection system at the entrance of the University Hospital (UH) Emergency Department (ED). The system will also be installed at the entrance to the Victoria Hospital and Children's Hospital EDs on May 6. Creating safer entry points for patients and families benefits everyone who seeks or provides care in our EDs. The system offers an advanced, non-intrusive screening process, allowing individuals to walk through without stopping or removing personal items. Using artificial intelligence (AI) and powerful sensor technology, the system detects potential weapons while distinguishing them from everyday items. To learn more about the system, visit the LHSC [website](#).

March Community Update Meeting

LHSC hosted its Community Update Meeting on March 19, 2025 where community members received updates on key initiatives and operational priorities. Topics discussed included the installation of the weapons detection system in the Emergency Departments (EDs) and LHSC's response to measles. Other highlights included updates on Facilities Management, Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, and mental health services at Children's Hospital. A recording of the March meeting, along with previous meetings, can be found on the LHSC [website](#).

Organizational Updates

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

LHSC's Care Partner and Visitor Policy remains in effect at Children's Hospital and the Women's Care program as we continue efforts to protect our most vulnerable patients during the

ongoing regional measles outbreak. Measles is a highly contagious disease that 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. LHSC teams continue to work closely with Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC), meeting regularly to assess risk levels and make policy adjustments as needed. For the latest information and full policy details, please visit LHSC's [website](#).

House of Hope receives \$845,560 investment through Health and Homelessness Fund for Change

On April 3, the House of Hope supportive housing program — operated by London Cares in partnership with LHSC — received a significant investment of \$845,560 through the Health and Homelessness Fund for Change. This funding will support the program's wrap-around services that help individuals with complex needs transition from living unsheltered into stable, long-term housing. The model is showing strong results with 87.5 per cent of residents remaining housed after one year. Stable housing and supports also significantly reduced their use of hospital services with 83 per cent fewer visits to our Emergency Departments and 61 per cent fewer days in hospital as an inpatient. These are real, measurable impacts and a sign that the collaborative work happening across our community is making a difference. To learn more, visit the London Community Foundation [website](#).

LHSC nurses supported by Ontario Health's Emergency Department Nursing Workforce Program

LHSC nurses in both the adult and children's Emergency Departments have been supported by Ontario Health's [Emergency Department Nursing Workforce Program](#), which is an initiative aimed at supporting and strengthening the nursing workforce across emergency departments in Ontario. The program provides targeted funding and resources to help hospitals recruit, retain, and support emergency department nurses, ensuring they have the tools, training, and environment needed to continue delivering exceptional care. With this support, LHSC has invested in additional staffing, mentorship, and professional development opportunities — helping to improve work-life balance, reduce burnout, and foster a safer, more sustainable care environment for our patients, families, and care teams.

Virtual Health Care 101 community workshops

LHSC and St. Joseph's Health Care London's Virtual Care Program is offering free Virtual Health Care 101 workshops for community members throughout May and June at London Public Library and Middlesex County Library locations. These 90-minute sessions will provide participants with valuable information on the benefits of virtual care, available supports and

resources, hands-on demonstrations and training, and the opportunity to practice video appointments in a supportive environment. To learn more and register for an upcoming workshop, community members can visit the LHSC [website](#).

Media and Storytelling

Media coverage and metrics

The following highlight metrics from LHSC's March media exposure:

Total news media mentions (media exposure): 419

- Negative – 3 (0.7%)
- Neutral – 162 (38.7%)
- Positive – 254 (60.6%)

Total potential reach (number of people who saw LHSC mentioned in the news): 320 million

Earned media average (how much LHSC would have to spend on ad placement to achieve this type of coverage): \$3.22 million

Top Stories by Reach:

- 48 million reached:
 - [This 'poop pill' could be a breakthrough for cancer that only has a 10% survival rate](#) - New York Post
- 12 million reached:
 - [As local measles cases surge, LHSC tightens rules for hospital entry](#) - CBC London
- 11 million reached:
 - [Weapons detection system at LHSC set to go online in the coming weeks](#) - CTV London
- 11 million reached:
 - [London man advocates for early screening after remarkable colon cancer experience](#) - CTV London
- 11 million reached:
 - [Kidney Health Month shines light on donor needs and home dialysis impact on quality of life](#) - CTV London

Coverage analysis:

It was another active month for the Communications and Public Engagement team as it facilitated seven proactive media stories in March. Stories included [a rare epilepsy surgery](#) that had a life-changing impact on a patient, an awareness feature about [home hemodialysis](#) to highlight Kidney Health Month, a [patient experience story](#) in support of National Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, and LHSC's annual safety messaging ahead of St. Patrick's Day. A proactive LHSCRI story from February about a [world first clinical trial](#) involving fecal transplants for pancreatic cancer patients also continued to capture interest as the New York Post picked up the story. That piece had an estimated reach of 48 million. The team also facilitated LHSC's sixth Community Update Meeting, including a media scrum following the meeting. CBC London and CTV London each ran stories based on information presented during the meeting, once again demonstrating the usefulness of the sessions in sharing important information with our media partners.

The Communications and Public Engagement team fielded 19 reactive media requests in March. Inquiries were related to changes to the visitor policies at Children's Hospital and the Women's Care program at LHSC in light of a regional surge in measles cases, the impact of US tariffs on LHSC's purchasing, organ donation, St. Patrick's Day patient volumes, a lawsuit, and a request for an interview with two LHSC social workers who specialize in youth mental health.

Social media

The Communications and Public Engagement team posted 41 pieces of content across LHSC's social media platforms in March (Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, X). The content highlighted patient and staff stories, hospital and partner initiatives, and community updates.

- **Total social media followers (across all platforms):** 84,198 (+ 1,353 new followers, +1.6%)
**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:** 781,024
**number of times posts across all LHSC social media platforms appeared on someone's screen*
- **Total social media engagements:** 75,174
**number of people who liked, commented, or shared LHSC's content/stories on social media*

Top social media posts by engagement included:

- HPV test as the new standard for cervical cancer screening | [All platforms](#)
- Social workers in the Emergency Department | [All platforms](#)

- Behind the scenes to prepare a Total Parenteral Nutrition (TPN) bag | [All platforms](#)
- The Path to LHSC: Marilyn Appleman, Locksmith | [All platforms](#)

Social media analysis:

The community was actively engaged in the announcement that Ontario was introducing the HPV test as the new standard for cervical cancer screening. Many users found this news relevant to their own lives and were eager to share the content and learn more from Dr. Robert Di Cecco, Regional Lead for Cervical Screening for the South West Regional Cancer Program.

Some of the most positively engaged social media content this month featured stories celebrating LHSC's dedicated staff. These included highlights of social workers in the Emergency Department, a behind-the-scenes look at the compounding room, and a personal story from Marilyn Appleman, Locksmith. It's clear that audiences enjoy learning about the services that LHSC provides and the people who make them successful.

Content on London Health Sciences Centre Research Institute's platforms continues to see meaningful engagements as we highlight research stories that are positively impacting patient care in our city and beyond. We are currently sitting at 3,227 followers across all platforms and have generated over 9,500 impressions and 200+ engagements in March.

LHSC social workers helping young patients facing mental health crises in the ED

On Monday, March 20, [CBC Radio](#) spoke with LHSC social workers Hailey Richardson and Hunter Kameka, who work in the Children's Hospital Emergency Department at LHSC. During the interview, Hailey and Hunter shared insights into their roles supporting children experiencing mental health crises. As part of a specialized team providing 24/7 wraparound care, they play a critical role in de-escalating situations and offering compassionate support to patients in distress. They create a safe, private space to listen to each patient's story, help them process their emotions, and teach effective coping strategies. This additional layer of emotional support is making a difference. Since social workers were permanently integrated into the ED on a 24/7 basis about a year ago, repeat visits, hospitalizations, and the number of patients leaving without seeing a physician have all gone down. To learn more, visit our [website](#).

LHSC patient raises awareness of colorectal cancer

LHSC patient Jason Devison bravely shared his journey with colorectal cancer to help raise awareness about the importance of cancer screening. At age 39, Jason visited the Emergency Department after experiencing lower abdominal pain and intermittent rectal bleeding for about

five years. He was referred to a specialist at LHSC's Verspeeten Family Cancer Centre where he was diagnosed with colorectal cancer. A colonoscopy revealed a large tumour, but thankfully, it had not spread. Jason then underwent a resection – the surgical removal of a portion of his large intestine where the tumour was located. Now, he's a champion for colorectal cancer awareness, volunteering with Colorectal Cancer Canada and encouraging others to get screened. To learn more about Jason's experience, visit the LHSC [website](#) or watch the coverage by CTV [London](#).

LHSC patient shares kidney care journey

LHSC patient Bonnie Field shared her inspiring journey of managing kidney disease and the care she received from LHSC's team at the Regional Renal Program. For more than two decades, the program's dedicated team has played a vital role in Bonnie's life — supporting her through diagnosis, two kidney transplants, in-centre dialysis, and eventually home dialysis. In 2010, after experiencing complications with her first transplant, Bonnie began in-centre dialysis three nights a week. When home dialysis became an option, LHSC's team supported Bonnie and her husband, helping them feel confident using the home dialysis machine and providing 24/7 support, even during the night. To learn more, visit the LHSC [website](#), watch the coverage by [CTV London](#), or listen to on-air coverage from [980 CFPL Global News Radio](#).

LHSC patient celebrates fifth anniversary of life-saving heart transplant

LHSC's Multi-Organ Transplant Program has transformed the lives of patients like Jessie Salter, who recently celebrated the fifth anniversary of her life-saving heart transplant. Jessie spent a decade battling health issues related to a very rare heart condition, which worsened while she was in graduate school. As her health declined, she was forced to stop working and faced living below the poverty line. After a health emergency, she was placed on the transplant list and waited six months before receiving the gift of a new heart. Thanks to the donor, their family, and the successful heart transplant performed by LHSC's team, Jessie is now working in her field, married, and embracing the joys of early motherhood. To learn more, visit the LHSC [website](#).

LHSCRI scientist advancing our understanding and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder

Dr. Ruth Lanius, Scientist at LHSCRI and Psychiatrist at LHSC, has discovered that not all individuals who experience trauma respond with the typical "fight-or-flight" reaction. Her research, using brain scans, shows that some people instead freeze or shut down completely — an important finding in understanding post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and advancing new

therapies. As part of her groundbreaking work, Dr. Lanius and her team are studying a new treatment called deep brain reorienting (DBR), developed by Scottish psychiatrist Dr. Frank Corrigan. DBR is a form of therapy that helps individuals who are dealing with trauma, shock, and stress by teaching their brains to react differently to negative feelings. The goal is to help the brain process trauma and shock in a healthier way, so that individuals can regain control over their emotions and mental state. To learn more about this research, visit the [LHSCRI website](#).

Awards and Recognitions

LHSCRI researchers awarded King Charles III Coronation Medals

London Health Sciences Centre Research Institute (LHSCRI) researchers Dr. Amit Garg (Nephrologist at LHSC), Dr. Michael Strong (Neurologist at LHSC), and Dr. Christen Shoesmith (Neurologist at LHSC), have been awarded the prestigious [King Charles III Coronation Medal](#) for their outstanding contributions to health care and research. The Medal recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to Canada, their province or territory, region, or achievements abroad that bring benefit or honour to the country.

Research funding announcement

A generous \$1.35 million donation from the H₂HCo (Here to Help, Co.) Foundation to Western University is supporting groundbreaking cardiac research led by Dr. Anthony Tang — Cardiologist at LHSC, Scientist at LHSCRI, and Professor at Western's Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry. With this funding, Dr. Tang has assembled a team of world-leading experts to study the safety and effectiveness of stereotactic arrhythmia radioablation (STAR) as a treatment for ventricular tachycardia (VT), a type of abnormal heart rhythm that can cause heart palpitations, dizziness, and potentially fatal sudden cardiac arrest. To learn more, visit the [LHSCRI website](#).

External Landscape

Premier Doug Ford announces new cabinet and updated parliamentary assistant roles

Following the results of the 2025 Ontario general election, Premier Doug Ford introduced his new cabinet on March 19, 2025. The Honourable Sylvia Jones will continue to serve as Deputy Premier and Minister of Health. The Ministry of Health is a crucial partner to LHSC in our ongoing work to deliver great care to the communities we serve. We look forward to continuing our collaboration with Minister Jones and the Ministry of Health. To view the full list of the new Ontario Executive Council, please visit the Government of Ontario's [website](#). You can also find information on Premier Ford's team of [parliamentary assistants](#) who will play key roles in supporting their respective ministries. The Legislative Assembly of Ontario reconvened on Monday, April 14, 2025 to begin the 44th Parliament.

College of Nurses of Ontario implement new registration requirements

Effective April 1, 2025, the College of Nurses of Ontario (CNO) implemented [new registration requirements](#) for applicants. These changes update the education requirements for registered nurse (RN) and registered practical nurse (RPN) registration and introduce a new requirement called [Transition to Practice](#). The updated requirements are designed to enhance the registration process for internationally educated applicants, support a smoother transition into nursing practice in Ontario, and enable more qualified nurses to enter the workforce in the province. CNO now accepts nursing education that is recognized or approved in any jurisdiction, provided it was designed to prepare the applicant for the nursing category they are applying to. Applicants must still meet the necessary credential requirements: a baccalaureate degree in nursing for RN applicants and a nursing diploma for RPN applicants. Once an applicant meets this [updated education requirement](#), applicants become eligible to write the NCLEX-RN or REx-PN examination. To learn more about these changes, please visit the CNO [website](#).

Emergency Care Research Institute releases Top 10 Patient Safety Concerns for 2025

On March 10, 2025, the Emergency Care Research Institute (ECRI) released its annual list of the [Top 10 Patient Safety Concerns](#) for 2025. This list highlights key areas that health-care organizations should monitor to reduce preventable harm and improve patient outcomes.

Focused on risks with the potential for significant impact, the report serves as a guide for prioritizing safety initiatives and enhancing awareness of emerging challenges. While not all the identified concerns are directly applicable to LHSC, each one carries implications for the patients we serve. In response, LHSC's Quality, Patient Safety and Performance team will be reviewing the report to better understand and anticipate these risks, and to support our teams through education.

Public Health Agency of Canada releases vision for public health surveillance in Canada

The Public Health Agency of Canada has released [Vision 2030: Moving Data to Public Health Action](#), outlining its vision for public health surveillance in Canada by 2030. This vision incorporates input from approximately 1,800 participants across the country, guidance from an expert roundtable, and contributions from professionals within the Public Health Agency of Canada and partner organizations. Vision 2030 emphasizes the collection and integration of health surveillance and health delivery data under shared governance frameworks. These changes will be important for LHSC to anticipate and adapt appropriately to meet future national health emergencies.

Middlesex-London Health Unit releases new Community Health Status Resource data series

On February 21, 2025, the Middlesex-London Health Unit announced the launch of a new [Community Health Status Resource](#) data series, set to roll out throughout the year. This resource will present regional and provincial data, along with infographic summaries highlighting key health indicators. Its primary goal is to provide meaningful insights into the health of the community and serve as a tool to support evidence-based decision-making at both individual and organizational levels. The data series will be a valuable asset in understanding the health risks and challenges facing London and the surrounding areas.

OHA publishes editorial on harnessing hospital-based research

Dr. Allison Sekuler, President and Chief Scientist at Baycrest Academy for Research and Education, and Dr. Lehana Thabane, Vice-President of Research at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton — Co-Chairs of the Ontario Hospital Association's (OHA) Research and Innovation Committee — have published an editorial on the OHA website titled [Research Is Care: Harnessing Hospital-Based Research](#). In the article, they emphasize that hospital-based research is the only component of the health research sector that directly bridges discovery and

patient care. They also note that, for some patients, participation in research trials may be the only available care option.

CEO and Chief Scientific Officer at Bruyère Health Research Institute and Chair of CAN Health Network publish article in Policy Options

Dr. Kumanan Wilson, CEO and Chief Scientific Officer at the Bruyère Research Institute, and Dr. Dante Morra, Founder and Chair of the CAN Health Network, have published an article in Policy Options, the digital magazine of the Institute for Research on Public Policy, titled [How to Create a Health-Care Superpower](#). In the article, they outline a number of steps the government could take to foster and translate Canadian health-care innovation. Their recommendations include investing in existing initiatives that attract and expand domestic health-care companies, setting aside 10 per cent of public health-care funding to support Canadian-controlled companies, and considering capital gains exemptions for health-care technology firms. They also advocate for collaboration across all levels of government to ensure the control and protection of Canadian health data, while allowing domestic health technology companies to leverage that data to gain a competitive advantage. Additionally, they recommend measuring the commercial output of academically affiliated hospitals and universities with medical schools.

Canadian Science Policy Centre launches National Conversation on Canada's Innovation Strategy

The Canadian Science Policy Centre (CSPC) launched the [National Conversation on Canada's Innovation Strategy](#) in July 2024. This pilot project aimed to gather input and feedback from experts, thought leaders, and stakeholders across Canadian businesses, industry associations, innovation networks, and academia. Consultations were led by industry associations representing a range of sectors. The initiative featured a call for editorials, virtual consultations with industry groups, and an in-person Innovation Strategy Symposium held in November 2024 at the 16th Canadian Science Policy Conference. Three [consultation reports](#) have been published, along with 33 opinion pieces.