

STAKEHOLDER UPDATE – DECEMBER 2020

COVID-19

The SWAHN office continues to operate virtually at this time. All meetings are taking place via telephone and videoconference until further notice. If you have any questions or you would like to share information, please contact catherine.joyes@schulich.uwo.ca

COVID-19: Five Learnings That Could Transform Ontario Healthcare

This past summer, four senior health care leaders and members of SWAHN shared the key lessons they learned during the first wave of the COVID-19 epidemic. Their insights speak to the value of: 1) network relationships for resource-sharing and expertise; 2) implementing Choosing Wisely™ concepts; 3) building a reliable supply chain; 4) micro-credentialing; and 5) caring for health service providers.

Thank you to the following leaders for sharing your insights:

- Dr. David Edwards, Hallman Director, School of Pharmacy, University of Waterloo
- Mike Lapaine, President & CEO, Bluewater Health
- Pam McLaughlin, Dean, Faculty of Health, Community Studies and Public Safety, Fanshawe College
- Gary Sims, President & CEO, Grey Bruce Health Services

The [article](#), released by Longwoods Publishing in October 2020, was supported by [Julia Oosterman](#), Chief, Communications & Public Affairs, Bluewater Health, and writer [Bridget Newson](#).

SWAHN LEADERSHIP



Dr. David Edwards' final term as Hallman Director of the School of Pharmacy at the University of Waterloo, will be ending in December 2020 and he will be starting a sabbatical in January 2021. Dr. Edwards has been a stalwart champion of SWAHN since its inception, supporting the Network through his engagement on the Network Contributors' Roundtable and as a member of the Secretariat. Dr. Edwards has also served as a speaker and facilitator in all five IPE Day events since 2016. Thank you, Dr. Edwards, for your collaborative spirit and focus on system health. We will miss your regular involvement!





SWAHN's leadership would like to thank Dr. Andrea Lum, Vice Dean, Clinical Faculty Affairs, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University for serving as a SWAHN Co-Lead throughout 2020. In her role, Dr. Lum helped to guide SWAHN's Nutrition Research Team. Dr. Christopher Watling, Vice Dean (Acting), Education Scholarship and Strategy, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry has recently transitioned into the Co-Lead role to support SWAHN along with Dr. Bill Sischek. Please see the recent [appointment notice](#) highlighting Dr. Watling's new role as Vice Dean (Acting).



**6th Annual INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION (IPE) DAY – Monday, March 8, 2021
12:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Planning is currently underway to develop a *virtual* IPE Day in 2021 for an anticipated cohort of more than 1,000 students and 100+ facilitators. This 25% increase in participation is the result of merging the Windsor and London groups for the first time since the event began in 2016. Creating a virtual event for more than 1,000 participants has raised many challenges. However, in the absence of constraints related to physical space and travel, we are pleased to coordinate a collaborative learning opportunity for students from 10 health-related programs across faculties at the University of Waterloo, University of Windsor and Western University.

This annual event has served as a key introductory session for students to explore professional roles, build communication skills, and a better understanding of collaborative practice. This year, the Planning Committee has chosen an Indigenous theme for the event. In order to ensure their readiness for leading student groups, facilitators will participate in Indigenous Cultural Safety Training prior to the event in addition to the typical content and logistical training offered each year.

As in previous years, the afternoon will include facilitated case discussions in small interprofessional groups of 9-11 students via Zoom. Each of the breakout groups will be curated to include students from as many different professions as possible based on the numbers of students attending from each of the 10 programs. In addition to the voluntary participation of more than 100 health professionals, this year Master of Public Health students will also be trained to assist facilitators.

More details on the event, including the timing of the facilitator training components, will be released in the coming days via SWAHN's [website](#) and [LinkedIn](#) page. **Facilitator recruitment is now in progress. Interested participants may register through the following [link](#).**

We hope that you will consider joining us again – or for the first time – as a facilitator of the students' discussions!

PALLIATIVE CARE

SWAHN's palliative care curriculum research study is now complete. A virtual presentation of the study's results has been scheduled for faculty members of nursing and practical nursing programs from participating schools across the SWAHN region on **December 10, 2020 (1:00p.m.)**. If you are a faculty member at Fanshawe College, Lambton College, St. Clair College, Western University, or the University of Windsor and would like to join the videoconference, please contact [Catherine Joyes](#) for details.

Once the results have been shared with the faculty from the participating programs, other virtual presentations will be hosted in the new year to disseminate the research results. A final report will also be posted to SWAHN's website. More details to follow in early 2021.

CHOOSING WISELY

Implementation of a Multi-Faceted Opioid Reduction Strategy for Southwestern Ontario: A Pragmatic Stepped Wedge Cluster Randomized Trial – This project remains on hold as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is anticipated that this study will be initiated in the spring of 2021.

NUTRITION

The Nutrition Research Team is continuing to pursue funding opportunities for its retrospective study focused on perioperative malnutrition and frailty in older adults undergoing elective surgery. In the meantime, two fourth-year undergraduate students in the Department of Epidemiology & Biostatistics from Western University have completed the necessary clearances to begin data analysis under the supervision of Dr. Ava John-Baptiste, Associate Professor and Health Economist, Anaesthesia & Perioperative Medicine; Epidemiology & Biostatistics and Public Health, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University.

When a funding source is identified, results from the retrospective study will assist in the development of a prospective study that will test a model to improve care for patients from a regional Family Health Team who are undergoing elective surgery at LHSC. Identifying patients who are at risk for malnutrition and providing a customized nutrition plan in the perioperative period may contribute to improved post-surgical outcomes. Ultimately, improved perioperative health can lead to the reduced length of hospital stays and readmissions. Also, enhancing linkages between traditional hospital care and community care speaks to improved integration with an eye to advancing seamless transitions for patients as they visit different health care providers.

COVID-19 RESEARCH

SWAHN would like to continue to share information about our region's research pursuits as they relate to COVID-19 on our [website](#). If your colleagues have received grants or have highlights to share about their research, please share the links to be posted with [Catherine Joyes](#).

2020 SWAHN CONFERENCE

SWAHN's annual conference was cancelled for 2020. Plans for the 2021 conference and other events will be shared in the new year.

CANADA'S ACADEMIC HEALTH SCIENCE NETWORKS

This summer, representatives from SWAHN and three of Canada's Academic Health Science Networks ([Saskatchewan Academic Health Sciences Network](#); [Academic Health Sciences Network North](#); [Toronto Academic Health Science Network](#)) met via Zoom to re-establish contact, share updates and discuss current areas of focus. The group discussed ways in which we can share information, ideas, and expertise to support the growth of AHSNs across the country.

FINAL THOUGHTS

www.swahn.ca – Is your organization involved with SWAHN? If so, is the SWAHN logo and website address currently featured on your organization's website? Help us build awareness of our work together!

www.swahn.ca/event – Don't forget to post your organization's events on SWAHN's events page. The Healthline.ca vets all submissions for inclusion on the SWAHN website and posting to its regional Healthline sites across the region. Please contact [Catherine Joyes](#) for more information.



Follow our [LinkedIn page](#) for updates.

CONTACT US – Please contact us for more information, to share ideas, or to learn about how you may participate in SWAHN's work!

Dr. Gillian Kernaghan, Co-Chair, SWAHN Network Contributors' Roundtable – gillian.kernaghan@sjhc.london.on.ca
Dr. Ken Blanchette, Co-Chair, SWAHN Network Contributors' Roundtable – kblanchette@stclaircollege.ca
Dr. William (Bill) Sischek, Co-Lead, SWAHN – william.sischek@lhsc.on.ca
Dr. Christopher (Chris) Watling, Co-Lead, SWAHN – chris.watling@schulich.uwo.ca
Ms. Catherine Joyes, SWAHN Manager – catherine.joyes@schulich.uwo.ca