

STAKEHOLDER UPDATE – MARCH 2020

COVID-19

Given the implications of the current COVID-19 pandemic, SWAHN meetings and visits have been postponed and/or moved to virtual gatherings through the first week of May 2020. The SWAHN office is now operating virtually given that Western University's campus has moved to the operation of required services only. Meetings scheduled beyond early May 2020 will be reassessed over the next month. Please contact Catherine Joyes with any questions at catherine.joyes@schulich.uwo.ca

These are extremely challenging times for all the SWAHN partners. It is uncertain how long the significant impact of the pandemic will last. It has underscored the interdependencies in our system and the importance of working together. We look forward to creating the forward vision for SWAHN with you when these current challenges subside.

SWAHN NETWORK CONTRIBUTORS' ROUNDTABLE (NCR) – UPCOMING MEETING AND NEW MEMBERS

The next SWAHN NCR meeting, originally scheduled for May 8, 2020, has been postponed. This meeting will be rescheduled in the coming weeks. We may consider holding this meeting virtually. An update will be provided in May.

Welcome to the following individuals who are now representing their organizations on SWAHN's NCR.

- Mr. Gary Sims, President & CEO, Grey Bruce Health Services
- Mr. Rob Kardas, Vice President, Academic, Lambton College
- Dr. John Yoo, Dean, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University (as of May 1st)

Biographies and pictures of these leaders will be loaded to SWAHN's [website](#) as they become available.

2020 SWAHN CONFERENCE

Our fall conference is currently scheduled for Thursday, October 15, 2020. More details will be provided as they become available.

2019 SWAHN CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS AVAILABLE

Promoting and sustaining psychological wellness in health care clinicians, learners, and educators – Slide-deck presentations from the October 17, 2019 conference have been posted to the resources page of SWAHN's website [here](#). Conference proceedings are also available [here](#).

INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION (IPE) DAY 2020

2020 marks the fifth year that IPE Day has been held for health care learners. This event has included venues in both London, Ontario and Windsor, Ontario. This year's event in London was held at Western University on Monday, March 9. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 containment strategies, the event scheduled for Tuesday, March 24, in Windsor was cancelled.

In London, the event gathered 800 students and 80 facilitators for an afternoon of collaborative learning. An assembly kicked off the afternoon at Alumni Hall, featuring a panel of eight health care providers who are experienced in working with interprofessional teams that serve refugees and newcomers. Panelists representing the London InterCommunity Health Centre and the Kitchener-Waterloo region shared their

perspective on the tenets of providing team-based quality health care to patients, focusing on the six domains of interprofessional competencies (i.e., patient-centred care, roles and responsibilities, interprofessional teams, interprofessional communication, collaborative leadership, and interprofessional conflict) – while also recognizing the importance of addressing the social determinants of health. We are grateful to these eight professionals who graciously shared their expertise with such a large audience. Thank you to Ms. Omobola Owuor, Ms. Susan Abunada, Dr. Mohammed El-Khatib, Ms. Mira Daher, Ms. Amanda Taylor and Ms. Amina Al Rohani from the London InterCommunity Health Centre, and to Dr. Wasem Alsabbagh, Pharmacist, University of Waterloo and Dr. Karla Kaphengst, Adjunct Professor, McMaster University.

Students from the following 10 programs participated:

- Dentistry – Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University
- Medicine – Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University
- Nursing – Arthur Labatt Family School of Nursing, Faculty of Health Sciences, Western University
- Nutrition – Brescia University College, Western University
- Occupational Therapy – School of Occupational Therapy, Faculty of Health Sciences, Western University
- Optometry – School of Optometry & Vision Science, Faculty of Science, University of Waterloo
- Pharmacy – School of Pharmacy, Faculty of Science, University of Waterloo
- Physical Therapy – School of Physical Therapy, Faculty of Health Sciences, Western University
- Social Work – School of Social Work, King's University College, Western University
- Social Work – School of Social Work, Renison University College, University of Waterloo



IPE Day assembly at Alumni Hall, Western University. Photo credit: Max Martin, Communications Coordinator, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University.

Thank you to the 80 facilitators who guided 81 interprofessional student breakout groups in their ice breaker, role clarification, and case analysis exercises. SWAHN appreciates the 25 other individuals who volunteered their time to assist with set-up, registration, and directional assistance at the event. This event could not have functioned without these extraordinary volunteer efforts!



IPE Day student breakout groups at the Great Hall (top), International & Graduate Affairs Building Atrium (middle), and Somerville House Garden Room (bottom) at Western University. Photo credit: Amber Cronin, Administrative Coordinator, Assessment, School of Pharmacy, Faculty of Science, University of Waterloo.



IPE Day student breakout groups at Alumni Hall at Western University. Photo credit: Amber Cronin, Administrative Coordinator, Assessment, School of Pharmacy, Faculty of Science, University of Waterloo.

An online Qualtrics survey for students was administered at the end of IPE Day to measure the effectiveness of the half-day program. Dr. Josee Paradis (Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery, London Health Sciences Centre) and Dr. Lisa Christian (School of Optometry & Vision Science, University of Waterloo) will evaluate the results and administer follow up surveys with consenting students at the one month and six month periods post-event.

For additional IPE Day photos, please see the [article](#) written by the Communications team at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University.

PALLIATIVE CARE

SWAHN palliative care curriculum research – SWAHN's Palliative Care Project Team continues its focus on exploring gaps associated with palliative care education and training at the entry-to-practice level for nursing and practical nursing programs. Analysis of the project's survey of graduates from the region's institutions is currently underway. The last focus group with practical nursing faculty from St. Clair College is scheduled for March 23, 2020. This meeting will be held by teleconference given the current restrictions on face-to-face meetings. Once completed, the data gathered from this focus group and those held at Fanshawe College, Lambton College, Western University and the University of Windsor will be analyzed. The Project Team expects to reconvene in June 2020. At that time, the group will determine next steps to share the research findings.

CHOOSING WISELY

Implementation of a Multi-Faceted Opioid Reduction Strategy for Southwestern Ontario: A Pragmatic Stepped Wedge Cluster Randomized Trial – The research team, assembled last summer, received news in December 2019 that it was successful in securing a \$150,000 grant over two years from the Academic Medical Organization of Southwestern Ontario (AMOSO) to build on the work of the Opioid Stewardship Council (London). The primary purpose of the study is to find a practical way to reduce unnecessary opioid prescriptions (and their harms) after surgery. Using an innovative randomized stepped-wedge approach, this study will investigate the impact of a multi-faceted opioid reduction strategy (composed of patient educational tools, prescriber educational tools, evidence-based prescribing recommendations, prescriber benchmarking and feedback) to see if it reduces the amount of opioids released into the community while also improving patient outcomes. This project, like others, will be paused as a result of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

NUTRITION



The Nutrition Research Project Team is continuing its work to refine a retrospective study entitled, *Perioperative Malnutrition and Frailty in Older Adults Undergoing Elective Surgery*. The group, led by Dr. Janet Madill (Brescia University College, Western University) and Dr. Ava John-Baptiste (Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University), has recently applied for funding to continue its efforts. Once completed, the retrospective study results will inform a prospective interventional study, which is also under development.

Hip fracture study: *Evaluating the Impact of a Dedicated Geriatric Hip Unit at London Health Sciences Centre* – Given the constraints that have been imposed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, research projects like this one are suspending new enrolment temporarily in accordance with institutional guidelines. An update on this project will be provided in the next newsletter.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS



On March 9, 2020, the WE-SPARK Health Institute was launched in Windsor, Ontario. Four SWAHN region partners have collaborated to establish the Institute which is devoted to innovation and research: The University of Windsor, Hotel-Dieu Grace Healthcare, St. Clair College, and Windsor Regional Hospital. The Institute's mission is to enhance the health, well-being, and care of people through transformative research and knowledge translation. Its vision is to establish a thriving and engaged research community in Windsor, Ontario, driving enhancements in health. Read more about WE SPARK on the Institute's [website](#).



Living up to the school's mission to develop socially responsible health care leaders of the future, medical students at the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry at Western University have developed an initiative to ease the burden of health care providers during the two weeks that elementary and secondary schools are closed following March break. Students during this time will offer their time to help assist with childcare and other tasks – relieving some of the stress for these health care providers. For more details, please see the CBC article [here](#) in addition to the article written by Schulich's Communications Department [here](#).

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 as well as for 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!

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