

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**APRIL 8, 2015**

## **Breaking Bread with SWAHN A Nutrition Research and Innovation Symposium**

**London, Ont.** – Media are invited to attend the SouthWestern Academic Health Network's (SWAHN's) first nutrition symposium engaging academic and community representatives.

One of the primary objectives of this event is to increase knowledge and awareness about nutrition-related initiatives in Southwestern Ontario. The symposium will encourage cross-sector collaboration and networking between attendees from both community and academic institutions. Six different nutrition-related research projects will be presented by their authors who represent community and/or academic institutions as well as different cities across Southwestern Ontario. Seven poster presentations from across the region will also be available for viewing.

Dr. Jason Gilliland, Director, Urban Development Program, Department of Geography, Western University, will provide the keynote address entitled: *Lessons of a Community Geographer: Building Effective Cross-Sector Collaborations around Food and Nutrition*.

“By networking and collaborating with community partners, academics can conduct meaningful research that often has immediate impact on community health and well-being,” says Dr. Gilliland. “To effectively tackle big issues such as childhood obesity, food insecurity, and sustainability of our local food systems, we need stronger cross-sector collaborations; these problems are too complex to be solved by a single researcher, discipline, or organization.”

SWAHN's vision is to transform health in Southwestern Ontario through integrated excellence in research, education and clinical practice. Dr. Margaret Steele, Co-Chair of the Nutrition Symposium Planning Committee with Dr. Jack Scott, Assistant Professor, School of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Western University, notes that *Breaking Bread with SWAHN* is a, “wonderful example of bringing together community with academia in order to improve the health of the population in Southwestern Ontario.”

The overall goal of the symposium is to establish two health-outcome working groups consisting of community and academic collaborations.

### **What: Breaking Bread with SWAHN: Nutrition Research and Innovation Symposium**

**When:** 8:00a.m. – 4:30p.m., Friday, April 10, 2015

**Where:** St. James Building at Brescia University College, 1285 Western Road, Rm.136, London, ON

**Parking:** Parking for the symposium is available to attendees **free-of-charge** at the Brescia University College lot, **located at the bottom of the hill to the left** just below the main buildings. (Additional parking is available at the top of the hill closer to the buildings. Please note that the metered parking in this area is not free-of-charge.)

**For more information, contact:**

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**About the SouthWestern Academic Health Network:**

The SouthWestern Academic Health Network (SWAHN) is a network of hospitals, universities and colleges, community and research organizations, and Local Health Integration Networks (LHINS) predominantly in the South West and Erie St Clair regions that are committed to improving population health in Southwestern Ontario through integrated excellence in research, education and clinical practice.

SWAHN is guided by a steering committee of leaders from its member organizations and is chaired by Dr. Gillian Kernaghan, President and CEO of St. Joseph's Health Care London. Member organizations include: hospitals in London, Windsor, Sarnia, Chatham, Stratford, Strathroy, Exeter, and Owen Sound; universities and colleges (including Western University, University of Windsor, University of Waterloo, Fanshawe College, St. Clair College, and Lambton College); community and research organizations (Erie St. Clair Palliative Care Network and Lawson Health Research Institute); and LHINS in the South West and Erie St. Clair regions.

SWAHN is engaged in projects that address priorities for the region, including palliative care, simulation, inter-professional education, research ethics and nutrition.