

**STAKEHOLDER UPDATE – MARCH 2021**

**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](mailto:catherine.joyes@schulich.uwo.ca)

**SWAHN LEADERSHIP**

Several organizations that contribute to SWAHN have had leadership changes in the past few months. The following individuals now represent their respective organizations as members of SWAHN's Network Contributors' Roundtable:

Dr. Andrea Edginton, Hallman Director, School of Pharmacy, University of Waterloo  
Dr. Silvana Macdonald, Dean, School of Health, Community Services & Creative Design, Lambton College  
Dr. Jackie Schleifer Taylor, Acting CEO, London Health Sciences Centre  
Dr. Debbie Sheppard-LeMoine, Dean, Faculty of Nursing, University of Windsor

We welcome these four new leaders to SWAHN!



**6<sup>th</sup> Annual INTERPROFESSIONAL EDUCATION (IPE) DAY**

2021 was an extraordinary year for IPE Day. Not only did the pandemic require the event's shift from its traditional in-person gathering to a virtual offering, the Planning Committee was tasked with organizing an event for more than 1,000 students from three universities – the largest cohort ever!

This year, the event's curriculum focused on Indigenous health care and health equity. In order to ensure their readiness for leading groups of health care learners, facilitators received an Indigenous Cultural Safety Training package prepared by Ms. Amanda Kennedy, an Indigenous social entrepreneur. Fifty-nine Master of Public Health students from Western University also received this ICS training directly via videoconference. Trained in managing group facilitation, these graduate students were deployed to support the facilitation of the 102 student groups with over 85 other facilitators who were recruited from a variety of health care disciplines.



An IPE Day panel presentation kicked off the event featuring Dr. Anna Gunz, a pediatric intensive care physician from London Health Sciences Centre, and Ms. Samantha Dokis, a PhD candidate in socio-cultural anthropology and an Anishinaabe Kwe Scholar. The discussion focused on both environmental health and the impacts of environmental racism on Indigenous communities.

Following the assembly, learners moved into one of 102 Zoom breakout rooms where they spent the afternoon building their

knowledge through role clarification and case analysis activities. This year's case was written by Ms. Dokis and Mr. M. Sam Cronk, a Digital Humanities Consultant and Cultural Scholar with over two decades of experience working in consultation with Indigenous communities on collaborative initiatives. The case, centred on the Asupeescheseewagong First Nation in northwestern Ontario, allowed learners to explore their own disciplines and those of their teammates, learning how health care professionals can best collaborate to provide quality care to Indigenous patients and their families.

Special thanks Dr. Danielle Alcock, Indigenous Leader, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, for her efforts in recruiting content experts to participate in the event. Similarly, Dr. Alcock was instrumental in preparing and encouraging her Indigenous Health Master of Public Health students to participate as co-facilitators – a vital component of this year's event!

Learners from 10 programs across the University of Waterloo, the University of Windsor, and Western University participated representing dentistry, medicine, nursing, nutrition, optometry, pharmacy, and social work in this key introductory session to explore professional roles, build communication skills, and a better understanding of collaborative practice. Please visit SWAHN's [website](#) for student testimonials and additional information about IPE Day 2021.

## PALLIATIVE CARE

The results of the Project Team's "**Study of curriculum related to the entry-to-practice level across the SouthWestern Academic Health Network (SWAHN) region's educational institutions**" are now available on SWAHN's website including a [project overview](#) and accompanying [slide deck](#). Thank you to Dr. Marie Savundranayagam, Associate Professor, School of Health Studies, Faculty of Health Sciences, Western University, Dr. Kathryn Pfaff, Associate Professor, Faculty of Nursing, University of Windsor, and SWAHN Palliative Care Project Team Co-Chairs, Lisa Malbrecht, Director, Complex Care & Palliative Care, Parkwood Institute, St. Joseph's Health Care London, and Maura Purdon, Director, Palliative Care, Erie St. Clair LHIN, for their commitment and leadership throughout the project.

## CHOOSING WISELY

**Implementation of a Multi-Faceted Opioid Reduction Strategy for Southwestern Ontario: A Pragmatic Stepped Wedge Cluster Randomized Trial** – Dr. Mahesh Nagappa, Assistant Professor, Department of Anesthesia and Perioperative Medicine, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry / London Health Sciences Centre, is the project's Principal Investigator. Dr. Nagappa anticipates that the project,

which has been on hold throughout the pandemic, will begin later this spring.

## 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.

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## FINAL THOUGHTS

[www.swahn.ca](http://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](http://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!**

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