

GWPA Update – October 2023

Guelph Wellington Physician Association

www.gwpa.ca



Message: GWPA Physician Lead

Greetings to all Guelph and Wellington Physicians! GWPA is working to represent your physician voice in the Guelph Wellington Ontario Health Team (GW OHT). We've had a successful year in 2023 with valuable GWPA Webinars and in-person events, and initiation of a Physician Recruitment Strategy. See below for more information.



We wish you a very healthy and happy start of winter and seasonal celebrations!

Dr. Ian Digby, GWPA Physician Lead,
gwphysicianassociation@gmail.com

AI is Coming to Healthcare - Are You Ready?

Join Guelph Wellington Physician Association and an expert panel from OntarioMD for an interactive webinar on Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare:

- ⇒ What is AI and how is it being used in healthcare?
- ⇒ What are practical examples of AI clinical use?
- ⇒ How do we maximize benefits and minimize risks?
- ⇒ What are legal and privacy considerations?

Speakers: OntarioMD Expert Panel

- ⇒ Abbas Zafar: Digital Health Research Lead
- ⇒ Simon Ling: Executive Director of Products & Services
- ⇒ Ariane Siegel: General Counsel & Chief Privacy Officer
- ⇒ Moderated by Dr. Kevin Samson



Join the GWPA Webinar to learn more!

Tuesday January 16, 7:00-8:00pm

[Click Here to Register \(or scan QR Code\)](#)

Regional Physician Recruitment

GWPA is pleased to work with GW OHT partners to develop a **Regional Recruitment Strategy**. With support from the City of Guelph, County of Wellington and Guelph Chamber of Commerce, this two-year project aims to improve coordination of recruitment efforts among partners and improve marketing of the great work and living opportunities in our region. More details to come in the new year!

GWPA Advocacy Activities

GWPA members continue to engage with Guelph Wellington community to ensure the physician voice is included at all discussion and decision tables.

- GW OHT Steering Committee (Peterkin/Ruddock) – monthly GWPA attends with the Executive Directors and CEOs from Guelph Wellington health care agencies.
- GW OHT Governance Council (Digby) - monthly GWPA attends with the Governors from Guelph Wellington health care agencies
- Physician Recruitment (Digby)
- Privacy & Security and Digital Health (Samson)
- Mental Health & Addictions (Schieck)
- Home & Community Care (Pavanel)

Mental Health & Addictions Collaboration

Guelph and Wellington MH&A Providers held a webinar on Dec 6 to update on MH&A collaboration and service improvements. Here are some key take-aways:

- MH&A Providers are collaborating to make access to services more streamlined and efficient
- **Compass Community Services** is offering increased access to Mental Health Walk-In Clinics. [Click Here for Clinic Hours and Locations](#)
- **Ontario Structured Psychotherapy (OSP) West Region** is offering publicly-funded CBT for adults with mild to moderate depression and anxiety. [Click here for Adult Referral Form](#)
- **Homewood and CMHA** are working to improve coordination of regional FACTT (Flexible Assertive Community Treatment Team) and ACTT (Assertive Community Treatment Team) services. While similar, the programs have different clinical purposes and populations. These documents provide more details:

- [Click Here for FACTT/ACTT Comparison](#)
- [Click Here for FACTT/ACTT Eligibility](#)

To see the full webinar recording [Click here](#)

9-8-8 – Suicide Crisis Help Line. A new national helpline for anyone who is thinking about suicide or worried about someone they know. People can call or text any time. For Poster click [here](#)

GWPA Steering Committee Profile

Guelph FHT Representative –**Dr. Carol Thomson**

I have been a family physician providing cradle to grave care in Guelph for almost 30 years. I have been involved in many aspects of health care including Public Health and currently sit on the board of the family health team. I look to the exciting future of GWPA and our OHT to bring exemplary and accessible care to our area.



GWPA Steering Members:

Physician Lead – Ian Digby, Rob Norrie, Christine Peterkin, Dean Raso, Ken Reed, Will Ruddock, Kevin Samson, Carol Thomson, Julie Weinstein

GWPA Steering Committee Key Messages, [Click here](#)

Contact/More Information: gwphysicianassociation@gmail.com

Ontario Health

Ontario Health Team Bulletin-November 2023 – Click - [here](#)

Ontario Health – Health811 – Click [here](#). 24/7 online access for non emergent health advice by calling 811.

