

GWPA Update – October 2023

Guelph Wellington Physician Association

www.gwpa.ca



Message: GWPA Physician Lead

Welcome to the October Newsletter from Guelph Wellington Physician Association. GWPA is working with physicians from across Wellington and Guelph to support health care transformation and strengthen our collective voice. Please see some updates below. Dr. Ian Digby



GWPA MEMBER MEETINGS

GWPA held two successful member meetings in late September – our first in nearly four years. The meetings drew over 50 physicians for a meal, social interactions and updates on GW OHT and GWPA.

The meetings focused on physician recruitment, with the following key outcomes:

1. GWPA members have a strong consensus that physician recruitment is a critical priority to sustain quality services in our region. GWPA Physicians support the creation of a GW Physician Recruitment Strategy that supports, but does not replace, current recruitment efforts in different parts of the region
2. GWPA physicians support creating more learning opportunities for medical learners (medical students and residents) and International Medical Graduates to train, gain needed certification and get experience working in our region

GWPA is grateful to event sponsors Ontario Medical Association and OntarioMD for financial support.



Sept 26, 2023 at Groves MCH.



Sept 27, 2023 at ICC.

GW OHT Update

[GW OHT Newsletter - September 2023](#)

GWPA Advocacy Activities

GWPA members continue to engage with the 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)

Physician Recruitment

A key initiative for this fall is Physician Recruitment. GWPA is working with GW OHT partners to advocate for a Physician Recruitment Strategy across our region that will promote Wellington and Guelph as great places to live, work and play. The strategy aims to support the excellent recruitment activities that are already occurring and strengthen them by collectively advertising our region and promoting individual facilities. We have brought a business case to Wellington County Council and Guelph City Council for financial support for a project to understand our regional needs and build a collective OHT strategy. At the same time, Wellington Dufferin Guelph Public Health is conducting a research study of physicians who have moved here recently to learn what is attractive about our region and how to best promote Wellington and Guelph for recruitment.

Digital Health Update

AI Scribes are Here

AI scribes are computer programs that use Artificial Intelligence to automatically create visit notes and consult notes by simply “listening” in the background. Unlike transcription software, the AI understands the context of the conversation and organizes the information into clear and complete chart notes or consult reports. This dramatically reduces the burden on physicians and significantly improves the doctor-patient encounter. There are two AI scribes currently available: [Autoscribe by Mutuo Health](#) and [Well AI Voice \(Tali\)](#). Some physicians in our OHT are already using these scribes with excellent results (check out [Joan Chan's vlog](#)). In conjunction with the eHealth Centre of Excellence, we are planning to launch a pilot project and aim to secure funding to provide this tech to the docs in our OHT who would like to give it a try.

GWPA Steering Committee Profiles

Hospital Representative—**Dr. Ken Reed** (Guelph General)

I have been General Surgeon servicing Guelph-Wellington through the Guelph General Hospital since 1990. During this time, I have been active in numerous GGH administrative roles. I am excited to be joining the GWPA steering committee, as one of the GGH representatives, and look forward to working with my urban and rural colleagues to address the health care delivery challenges unique to Guelph Wellington.



Hospital Representative –**Dr. Dean Raso** (Guelph General)

I have been working at GGH as an intensivist and general internist full time since 2012. I was involved in the early stages of planning for GWPA beginning in 2019 and have re-joined the steering committee as part of the GGH Professional Staff Association executive. GWPA offers an opportunity for local medical experts to work together to affect positive change in our community!



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](#)

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