

## GWPA Update — June 2022

Guelph Wellington Physician Association



### Welcome

Welcome to the first issue of GWPA Update from the Guelph Wellington Physician Association. This will be distributed quarterly to keep GWPA members aware of activities of our Association and the Guelph Wellington Ontario Health Team (GW OHT).

### GWPA Health System Recovery

The GWPA Board presented a position paper ([Here](#)) to the Guelph Wellington OHT Steering Committee in February on OHT Health System Recovery Opportunities. There is a great deal of alignment between GWPA priorities and actions being taken by the GW OHT to date. GWPA will continue to advocate for physician perspectives as the OHT develops.

### Digital Health Update

The GW OHT is focussing on the practical, clinically useful, physician informed utilization of digital health tools to improve healthcare delivery in each of the following 5 key areas:

1. Population and Care Plan Management
2. Provider Access to Health Information
3. Clinician-to-Clinician Communication
4. Patient/Clinician Communication
5. Patient Access to Health Information

The GW OHT has arranged for funding and support to assist doctors and organizations with the onboarding and effective use of digital health tools in each of these areas and the work is well underway.

### Integrated Patient Care Teams (IPCT) and Home Care

The GW OHT is one of 7 OHTs to be selected to proceed to the next stage of planning to be a 'Leading Project for Home Care Modernization! The GW OHT will advance the 'Integrated Patient Care Team' (IPCT) model which will see in-home care, integrated into primary care teams. "Leading Projects" will inform the provincial approach to transitioning home and community care services to Ontario Health Teams.

The project will be piloted in a number of primary care practices.

### Physician Recruitment

Guelph and Wellington are experiencing recruitment shortages and anticipating needs in many clinical areas. GW OHT has convened a "Specialist and Primary Care Physician Recruitment Task Group" to determine key areas of focus and to develop an effective plan. GWPA will work closely with the Task Group to give a physician lens and ensure success.

### GWPA Mission Statement

GWPA is a collaborative, inclusive and diverse community of physicians from across the Guelph Wellington OHT, working together with community partners to create an effective transformation of our health system. We support our membership in the pursuit of successful ethical practice, professional excellence and personal/professional fulfillment.

We strive to create seamless transitions, improve efficiencies, and foster excellent patient/family care.

### GWPA Board Profiles

Meet your GWPA Board:

Rural representative - **Dr. Christine Peterkin**

Greetings! I am a rural family physician practicing in the town of Drayton, Ontario since 2003. I am affiliated with Palmerston and District Hospital supporting the hospitalist, emergency, surgical and obstetric departments and also work in Long Term Care. It excites me to be part of GWPA as the advancement of healthcare excellence is something near and dear to my heart. To be able to collaborate with my peers and learn from each other is extremely rewarding.



Guelph representative – **Dr. Ian Digby**

I am a full-time Emergency Physician at GGH since 2002. I support GWPA and the OHT because this is a unique opportunity to align our region's many excellent health care services, and create a system that works compassionately, effectively and efficiently for patients and providers.



Specialist representative—**Dr. Ian Phillips**

I have been practising in Guelph and Mount Forest for more than 20 years. I have a particular interest in minimally invasive surgery including laparoscopic bowel, hernia and endoscopic Carpal Tunnel Release. GWPA holds particular interest to me as an opportunity to influence health care delivery in our region through the efficiencies of a physician's perspective.



GWPA Board Members to be featured in future editions:

Chair - Will Ruddock

Joan Chan, Phil Deacon, Doug Friars, Phil Harvey, Dan Kottachchi, Richa Mittal, Rob Norrie, Kevin Samson

### GWPA Engagement

#### GW OHT Working Groups

GWPA looks for opportunities to provide the physician voice through engagement and consultation with the health care community and the Guelph Wellington Ontario Health Team (GW OHT). Physicians are consulted by the following GW OHT Working Groups:

- Anti-Oppression Advisory Team
- Digital Health
- MH&A in Integrated Patient Care Teams
- MH&A—Health Hub (Tier 4/5)
- Privacy & Security
- Quality Improvement & Continuous Learning

As well physicians are members of key GW OHT Leadership Committees: Governance Council and Core Partner Steering Committee

#### GWPA Sub-Committees

The GWPA Surgical sub-committee was formed with a member from each surgical discipline, anaesthetist representation and also rural surgeons and anaesthetists.

### Contact/More Information

How to get in touch with us: [gwpa.michelle.smith@gmail.com](mailto:gwpa.michelle.smith@gmail.com)

