



HEALTH RESEARCH CONFERENCE

*A forum to showcase, connect, and
strengthen health research excellence.*



March 22nd, 2025

Caesars Windsor Convention Centre
#YQGHealthResearchConference
www.wesparkhealth.com

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	3
WELCOME	3
ABOUT THE VENUE	3
ABOUT WE-SPARK HEALTH INSTITUTE	3
CODE OF CONDUCT	4
SCHEDULE OVERVIEW	5
GOOD WAY OPENING & CLOSING CEREMONY	6
PLENARY SPEAKERS.....	7
Zayna Khayat, PhD	7
Paul Kurdyak, MD, PhD.....	8
Rama Khokha, PhD.....	8
PANELISTS.....	9
DETAILED CONFERENCE SCHEDULE.....	10
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE	32
SCIENTIFIC PLANNING COMMITTEE	32
THANK YOU	33

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

WE-SPARK Health Institute is physically located on land and surrounded by water honoured by the Wampum Treaty; agreements between the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lenni, Lenape, and allied Nations to peacefully share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes.

We acknowledge the presence of the People of the Three Fires Confederacy (Ojibwe, Odawa, Potawatomi and Huron/Wendat) and the importance of reconciliation. Health research, care, and training benefit from a deep appreciation of the past and present healing practices of Indigenous people. WE-SPARK recognizes the urgency for all areas of health to meet the needs of the Indigenous communities across Canada. As such, we are dedicated to meaningful consultation, building respectful relationships and the continued learning and education required for positive action toward reconciliation.

WELCOME

Thank you for joining us for the **2025 Health Research Conference**. This is the third health research conference that we are hosting in Windsor-Essex (Ontario, Canada). Guest speakers and presenters include a diverse group of researchers, clinicians, students, and community partners representing a wide range of health research areas. We are thrilled that you are here with us to showcase, connect, and strengthen local health research excellence. Welcome!

ABOUT THE VENUE

Our conference is taking place in Augustus, Saturni, Martis, Mercury, and Luna rooms of the Caesars Windsor Convention Centre. In addition to signaled accessible entrances, a multifaith space is in the Veneris room. Connect with a conference volunteer if you require support to find any of these locations.

ABOUT WE-SPARK HEALTH INSTITUTE

WE-SPARK Health Institute is an innovative partnership supported by Erie Shores HealthCare, Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare, St. Clair College, University of Windsor, and Windsor Regional Hospital that brings together health research strengths, expertise, and infrastructure from across the Windsor-Essex region of Ontario, Canada. We are establishing research pipelines to address pressing health issues, advancing discovery, innovation and technology, training and promoting excellence among our health professionals, and engaging our community.

Mission: Enhance the health, well-being, and care of people through transformative research, evidence-based interventions, and knowledge translation.

Vision: A thriving and engaged research community driving innovation and advancements in health.

In **Year 6**, we look forward to continuing igniting local research and elevating excellence!

CODE OF CONDUCT

We aim to provide an in-person conference experience that has the health and safety of all participants at the centre of our planning. We ask that you read carefully our [Code of Conduct](#) which seeks to contribute to a harmonious experience for all. We acknowledge that it constitutes a work in progress, open to continuous feedback from our community. Please, contact us at wesparkconference@uwindsor.ca for any suggestions you may have.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



When sharing any social media content about the conference, please use:

#YQGHealthResearchConference

SCHEDULE OVERVIEW

7:45 AM	Registration & Light Breakfast	LOBBY
8:45 AM	Good Way Opening & Welcome Lived-Experience Perspective Plenary Session	AUGUSTUS I & II
9:15 AM	Moderator: Dr. Trevor Shepherd, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry Dr. Andrea Steen, Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare	AUGUSTUS I & II
10:15 AM	Refreshments/Movement Break	LOBBY
10:30 AM	Rapid Fire Session Moderator: Dr. Kyle Jackson, St. Clair College	AUGUSTUS I & II
11:00 AM	Poster Session A	AUGUSTUS III
12:00 PM	Lunch	AUGUSTUS I & II
12:45 PM	Poster Session B	AUGUSTUS III
2:00 PM	Concurrent Session A-1 Moderator: Dr. Andrew Hubberstey, University of Windsor	SATURNI
	Concurrent Session A-2 Moderator: Dr. Jennifer Voth, Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare	LUNA
	Concurrent Session A-3 Moderator: Dr. Sindu Kanjeekal, Windsor Regional Hospital	MARTIS
	Concurrent Session A-4 Moderator: Rowena Hill-Ernesto, INSPIRE	MERCURI
3:00 PM	Refreshments/Movement Break	LOBBY
3:15 PM	Concurrent Session B-1 Moderator: Dr. Andrew Hubberstey, University of Windsor	SATURNI
	Concurrent Session B-2 Moderator: Dr. Jennifer Voth, Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare	LUNA
	Concurrent Session B-3 Moderator: Dr. Sindu Kanjeekal, Windsor Regional Hospital	MARTIS
	Concurrent Session B-4 Moderator: Rowena Hill-Ernesto, INSPIRE	MERCURI
4:20 PM	Panel: “Engaging People with Lived-Experience in Research Projects” Moderator: Dr. Paula van Wyk, University of Windsor	AUGUSTUS I & II
5:05 PM	Closing Remarks & Awards	AUGUSTUS I & II

GOOD WAY OPENING & CLOSING CEREMONY



Jaimie Kechego

Learning Specialist, Indigenization

Jaimie Kechego is Anishnaabe kwe from Deshkaan Ziibing (the Chippewa of the Thames First Nation reserve) located near London, Ontario. Jaimie's academic experience began at the University of Windsor as she pursued her Bachelor of Arts degree. Her professional experience with the University of Windsor began at Turtle Island as the Student Representative for the Aboriginal Education Committee. After graduating from the University of Windsor, she secured a position with the Greater Essex County District School Board as the First Nation, Metis and Inuit secondary school counsellor for eight years. Jaimie went back to the University of Windsor to pursue her Bachelor of Education in 2014 and graduated in 2015. Recently, Jaimie completed her requirements for a Master's degree in the Field of Educational Leadership focused in Aboriginal Education at Western University.

PLENARY SPEAKERS



“The Future of Health(care) – the Future of Research”

Zayna Khayat, PhD

Dr. Zayna Khayat is the in-house health futurist with Deloitte Canada's Healthcare and Life Sciences practice. She is adjunct faculty in the Health Sector Strategy stream at the Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto where she instructs courses in healthcare innovation and partnerships in the health MBA program. Zayna is a Growth Advisor at Teladoc Health in Canada, and advises a few emerging health startups. Zayna previously led the Futures team with national home healthcare and aging social enterprise, SE Health, as their Future Strategist. Dr. Khayat was previously the lead of health system innovation at MaRS Discovery District, a health innovation hub in Toronto, Canada. In 2017 she was seconded to the REshape Innovation Centre at Radboud university medical centre in the Netherlands. Zayna completed her Ph.D. in diabetes research from the University of Toronto (2001), followed by a career in strategy consulting, including as a Principal in the healthcare practice of The Boston Consulting Group (BCG). She currently resides in Toronto with her husband and three children and is proficient in French and Arabic languages (and a bit of Dutch!).



“From Research to Policy Change: lessons from applying population-based research to the development of a provincial agency”

Paul Kurdyak, MD, PhD

Dr. Paul Kurdyak is a psychiatrist and Chair of the Medical Advisory Committee at CAMH. He is also a Core Senior Scientist and Lead of the Mental Health and Addiction Program at ICES. He holds the position of Vice President (Clinical), Mental Health and Addictions at Ontario Health. He is Professor and Chair, Addictions and Mental Health Policy Research in the Department of Psychiatry and Institute for Health Policy, Management and Evaluation at the University of Toronto.



“Steps to Molecular-targeted Breast Cancer Prevention”

Rama Khokha, PhD

Dr. Rama Khokha is a Senior Scientist, and Professor in the Department of Medical Biophysics at the University of Toronto. She received her MSc from Delhi University (India), PhD from Western University, and was awarded von Humboldt Fellowship for postdoctoral training at EMBL (Germany). She began her independent program at the London Regional Cancer Centre, moved to Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, was the Vice Chair Biology for MBP and Interim Director of PMCC. Her lab studies tissue homeostasis and adult stem cell niches. Her work was recognized by the Robert L Noble Prize from the Canadian Cancer Society in 2014. She is an elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and currently holds a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair.

PANELISTS



Dr. Kemi S Anazodo, PhD

Assistant Professor, Odette School of Business,
University of Windsor



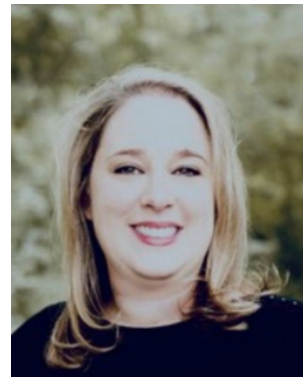
Dr. Caroline Hamm, MD

Medical Oncology, Windsor Regional Hospital;
Clinical Professor, University of Windsor;
Associate Professor, Department of Oncology,
Western University; Founder of the Clinical Trials
Navigator program



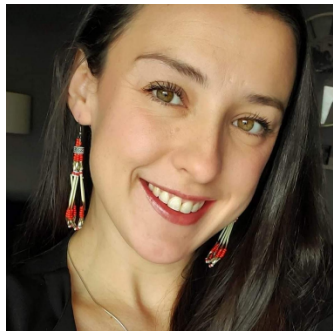
Dr. Dajan O'Donnell, PhD

Director of Scientific Affairs and Partnerships,
Cancer Research Society (CRS); Chair of the
Advisory Board for the Canadian Cancer Research
Alliance (CCRA)



Dr. Kendall Soucie, PhD

Associate Professor, Department of Psychology,
University of Windsor



Sara Williams, RN MN PhD (Student)

Indigenous Curriculum and Pedagogy Advisor for the Faculty of Nursing, University of Windsor

DETAILED CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

7:45 AM	Registration & Light Breakfast	LOBBY
8:45 AM	Good Way Opening & Welcome – Jaimie Kechego, Learning Specialist & Dr. Dora Cavallo-Medved, Director of WE-SPARK Health Institute & Associate Dean, Faculty and Student Engagement, University of Windsor	AUGUSTUS I & II
	A Lived-Experience Perspective: Dr. Kendall Soucie	
9:15 AM	Plenary Session Moderator: Dr. Trevor Shepherd, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University Dr. Andrea Steen, Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare	AUGUSTUS I & II
	“The Future of Health(care) = the Future of Research” Dr. Zayna Khayat, University of Toronto	
	“From Research to Policy Change: lessons from applying population-based research to the development of a provincial agency” Dr. Paul Kurdyak, The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health	
	“Steps to Molecular-targeted Breast Cancer Prevention” Dr. Rama Khokha, University of Toronto	
10:15 AM	Refreshments/Movement Break	LOBBY
10:30 AM	Rapid Fire Session Moderator: Dr. Kyle Jackson, St. Clair College	AUGUSTUS I & II
	ABSTRACT 001 ADVANCING EARLY CANCER DETECTION: A NOVEL DUAL-FREQUENCY ULTRASOUND TECHNOLOGY FOR ENHANCED IMAGING Yumna Birjis, University of Windsor	
	ABSTRACT 002 EXPLORING PRINCIPLES OF THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN TUMOUR INITIATING CELLS AND THE ENDOTHELIAL COMPONENT IN GLIOBLASTOMA Alan Cieslukowski, University of Windsor	

ABSTRACT O03

EXPANDING SALIVA SCREENING TO TRACK NEW & EXISTING VIRUSES:
STRENGTHENING PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE WINDSOR-ESSEX REGION

Maria Badalova, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT O04

IMPLEMENTATION OF A MEDICAL EDUCATION SERVICE LEARNING
PROGRAM CENTRED ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS
(IAWS) IN SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO

Rachel-Ann Dixon, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

ABSTRACT O05

IDENTIFYING AND DEVELOPING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION
STRATEGIES THROUGH RESPONDENT DRIVEN SAMPLING AND
INTERSECTIONALITY

Emma Beecroft, St. Clair College

ABSTRACT O06

LEVERAGING DATA & COMMUNITY ACTION: STRENGTHENING SAFETY
& WELL-BEING IN WINDSOR-ESSEX

Emma Kiessling & Madison Dekok, St. Clair College

ABSTRACT O07

PRESSING HEALTHCARE NEEDS IN A WINDSOR-BASED SHELTER
HEALTH INITIATIVE

Alex Zhou & Kim Nguyen, Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry

ABSTRACT O08

BARRIERS TO ACCESSING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES THAT IMPACT
BLACK CANADIANS: A SCOPING REVIEW AND THEMATIC ANALYSIS

Ibukunoluwa Grace Okusanya, University of Waterloo

ABSTRACT O09

SYSTEMIC CHALLENGES, LOCAL SOLUTIONS: HEALTH EQUITY AT THE
INTERSECTION OF MEDICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES SECTORS

Lauren Wan-Sai-Cheong, University of Windsor & University of Calgary

11:00 AM **Poster Session A**

AUGUSTUS III

Biomedical Research

ABSTRACT P01

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN KINASE PATHWAYS IN PLUROPOTENCY
AND CELL CYCLE PROGRESSION

Ali Abdel Raheem, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P03

ESTABLISHING A BIOMARKER DISCOVERY PLATFORM TO TRACK
PROGRESSION TO TREATMENT RESISTANT NEUROENDOCRINE
PROSTATE CANCER

Samavia Ahmad, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P05

COLORECTAL CANCER SCREENING WITH FECAL IMMUNOCHEMICAL
TEST

Talal Ali, Erie Shores HealthCare

ABSTRACT P07

IDENTIFICATION OF CELL-TYPE-SPECIFIC MRNA TRANSLATIONAL
CONTROL MECHANISMS IN SYNAPTIC PLASTICITY AND MEMORY
FORMATION

Maria Badalova, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P09

UNRAVELING COMPLEX ASSOCIATIONS OF GENETIC VARIATION AND
TUMOUR MICROENVIRONMENTS FOR CLONAL EXPANSION IN BREAST
CANCER WITH METASTASIS

11:00 AM Joseph Butler, Western University

AUGUSTUS III

ABSTRACT P11

ESTABLISHING AN ORTHOTOPIC MOUSE MODEL FOR BREAST CANCER
USING MMTV-PYVT-DERIVED TUMOUR CELLS

Elizabeth Coleman, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P13

THE CYCLIN-LIKE PROTEIN SPY1 REGULATES SENESENCE IN
GLIOBLASTOMA (GBM)

Stephanie Dinescu, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P15

MICROGLIAL ACTIVATION IN HIGH-GRADE GLIOMAS: A META-
ANALYSIS OF IBA1 AND CD68 BIOMARKERS AND THEIR CLINICAL
IMPLICATIONS

Mohamed Elkreki, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P17

ELUCIDATING THE ROLE OF CANCER-ACTIVATED FIBROBLASTS IN
REGULATING GLIOBLASTOMA STEM CELLS

Christopher Jaworski, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P19

THE EFFECT OF USING THE COMPONENTS OF CANNABIS AND ITS
INFLUENCE ON THE SEVERITY AND PROGRESSION OF ANXIETY
DISORDERS IN ADULTS

Ayesha Khan, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P21

IDENTIFICATION OF PATIENT CHARACTERISTICS AFFECTING
OUTCOMES IN MONO-IMMUNOTHERAPY VERSUS COMBINATION
TREATMENT IN STAGE IV NSCLC

Almas Khan, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P23

THE LOSS OF SPY1 ALTERS THE COMPOSITION OF IMMUNE CELLS AND
EXPRESSION OF IMMUNE CHECKPOINT PROTEINS

Jalyn Laliberte, University of Windsor

AUGUSTUS III

11:00 AM

ABSTRACT P25

THE SEX-SPECIFIC ROLE OF SPY1 IN THE LIVER STRESS RESPONSE AND
DISEASE

Milan Lobana, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P27

STUDYING THE CELL CYCLE'S ROLE IN THE TRANSDIFFERENTIATION OF
PROSTATE CANCER

Jeffery Martin, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P29

A PIONEERING BLEND OF SUPERPIXEL GENERATION AND GRAPH
NEURAL NETWORKS FOR LUNG NODULE IDENTIFICATION

Sudipta Monk, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P31

TUBERIN AS A TUMOR SUPPRESSOR AND MOLECULAR INTEGRATOR
OF GROWTH SIGNALING AND CELL CYCLE CONTROL

Ali Nadi, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P33

ASSESSING THE SEX-SPECIFIC IMPACT OF SPY1 KNOCKOUT IN THE
LIVER STRESS RESPONSE

Lauren Oschanney, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P35
IDENTIFYING THERAPEUTICALLY TARGETABLE TUMOUR-IMMUNE
INTERACTIONS IN SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER
Nakul Pandya, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P37
COMPARISON OF HEPATIC GENE EXPRESSION PROFILES BETWEEN
CIRRHOTIC AND NON-CIRRHOTIC HCC
Masha Rahimi, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P39
CELL-TYPE SPECIFIC ROLE OF THE INTEGRATED STRESS RESPONSE
PATHWAY IN AGED BRAIN
Maya Reeves, University of Windsor

11:00 AM

AUGUSTUS III

ABSTRACT P41
THE ROLE OF SPY1 IN CDK4/6 INHIBITOR RESISTANCE IN ESTROGEN-
RECEPTOR POSITIVE BREAST CANCER
Kiara Roncone, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P43
EXPLORING THE ROLE OF SPY1 AND MUSASHI-1 IN GLIOBLASTOMA
STEM CELL MAINTENANCE AND THERAPY RESISTANCE
Jagdeep Singh, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P45
INVESTIGATING THE ROLE OF NKR-P1C RECEPTOR IN NATURAL KILLER
CELL ACTIVATION AND MURINE CYTOMEGALOVIRUS CLEARANCE
Ian M Strange Seguel, University of Windsor

Clinical Research

ABSTRACT P47
A QUALITY IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE TO MITIGATE
IMMUNOTHERAPY-RELATED TOXICITIES AMONG PATIENTS RECEIVING
IMMUNOTHERAPY USING A NOVEL GRADE 2 T
Laurice Arayan, Windsor Regional Hospital

ABSTRACT P49
REAL-WORLD ANALYSIS OF IMMUNOTHERAPY RELATED TOXICITIES IN
PATIENTS WITH TRIPLE NEGATIVE BREAST CANCER RECEIVING
THERAPY PER KEYNOTE-522
Emmanuel Boujeke, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

ABSTRACT P51

LEVERAGING LIVED EXPERIENCE FOR A PROPOSED SELF-GUIDED,
INTERNET-DELIVERED DIALECTICAL BEHAVIOUR THERAPY
INTERVENTION

Brooke Dupuis, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P53

THE USE OF PANTOPRAZOLE PRIOR TO FROZEN EMBRYO TRANSFER: A
CLINICAL TRIAL

Brianna Grandi, Melanie Trifan, Jeannette Vanier, University of
Windsor

ABSTRACT P55

PSYCHOSOCIAL FACTORS AND OUTCOMES IN ADOLESCENTS WITH
TYPE 1 DIABETES: A BASELINE ANALYSIS FROM THE DIABETES
JOURNEY PROJECT

Mayah Huggins, University of Windsor

AUGUSTUS III

11:00 AM

ABSTRACT P57

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR SELF-DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT:
EVALUATING LARGE LANGUAGE MODELS IN LUMBAR SPINAL
CONDITIONS

Deven Jhavar, Western University

ABSTRACT P59

BARRIERS AND FACILITATORS TO IMPLEMENTING THE CLINICAL TRIAL
NAVIGATOR PROGRAM: A QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

Anthony Luginaah, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

ABSTRACT P61

MACHINE LEARNING FOR PREDICTING NEUROSURGICAL
POSTOPERATIVE COGNITIVE DECLINE

Ahmed Mohamed, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

ABSTRACT P63

REAL-WORLD EVIDENCE STUDY OF NALTREXONE/BUPROPION FOR
ACHIEVING CLINICALLY SIGNIFICANT WEIGHT LOSS

Rishi Naidu, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P65

CLINICIAN PERSPECTIVES OF BENZODIAZEPINE RECEPTOR AGONISTS
(BRZA) PRESCRIBING AND DEPRESCRIBING IN ONTARIO

Arani Sivakumar, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

Health Service Research

ABSTRACT P67

ROLE OF THE ER IN INITIAL DIAGNOSTIC PATHWAY OF MULTIPLE
MYELOMA PATIENTS: A RETROSPECTIVE REVIEW OF 80
PRESENTATIONS AT A REGIONAL HOSPITAL

Sophia Campana, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P69

EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF PATIENT NAVIGATOR SUPPORT ON
VISION-RELATED QUALITY OF LIFE AND MENTAL HEALTH IN A
COMMUNITY RETINA CLINIC

Hasan Ghafoor, University of Windsor

11:00 AM

ABSTRACT P71

CONNECTING CLINICAL TRIALS WITH PATIENTS USING PATIENT
NAVIGATION: A SCOPING REVIEW

Olla Hilal, Western University

AUGUSTUS III

ABSTRACT P73

THE PROSPECT OF SUPPORT SCROLLING: A CONTENT ANALYSIS OF
TYPE 1 DIABETES ADVOCACY, TECHNOLOGY, AND SUPPORT ON
SOCIAL MEDIA

Cristian Iannicello, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P75

DEVELOPING A ROBUST DISEASE SURVEILLANCE PLATFORM TO
DETECT EMERGING VIRUSES IN THE WINDSOR-ESSEX REGION

Cassidy Kost, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P77

ACHIEVING PATIENT CARE EXCELLENCE WITH EMOTIONAL
INTELLIGENCE

Bryce Leontowicz, Erie Shores HealthCare

ABSTRACT P79

COMPARING EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT NEEDS AMONGST PEOPLE
WHO ARE HOUSED AND PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS (PEH)
IN WINDSOR, ONTARIO

Kim Nguyen, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

ABSTRACT P81

EXAMINING FACTORS AFFECTING CLINICAL TRIAL ENROLMENT IN THE
CLINICAL TRIALS NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

Govana Sadik, Michael Touma, University of Windsor & Windsor Regional Hospital

ABSTRACT P83

EVALUATING THE IMPORTANCE OF METAL IONS ON INHIBITOR SCREENING FOR THE SARS-COV-2 RNA REPLICATION COMPLEX
Sehar Sidhu, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P85

11:00 AM EXPLORING THE PERCEIVED COMPETENCE AND SELF-EFFICACY ON ONTARIO'S HOME CARE NURSES IN PALLIATIVE CARE DELIVERY
Joanne Ta, University of Windsor

AUGUSTUS III

ABSTRACT P87

PERSPECTIVES OF YOUTHS, CAREGIVERS, AND HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS: EXPLORING VARIOUS CANCER CARE EXPERIENCES IN WINDSOR-ESSEX REGION
Joanne Tay, Melissa Miljanovski, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P89

EXPLORING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A HOME NASOGASTRIC FEEDING PROGRAM TO FACILITATE EARLY DISCHARGE OF INFANTS FROM THE NICU
Olivia Youssef, Shauna Halliday, Grace Butler, Kividi Samaraweera, University of Windsor

Social, Cultural, Environmental and/or Population Health Research

ABSTRACT P91

IMPLEMENTING AND ENHANCING THE PEER MENTOR NETWORK (PMN) IN UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH EDUCATION
Adam Bakos, Noah Cleary, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P93

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON CHILD DEVELOPMENT COMPARED TO ESTABLISHED AGE-MATCHED STANDARDS
Camile Cardinal, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P95

BLACK MATERNAL MORTALITY AND SOCIAL MEDIA: USING INSTAGRAM TO EXAMINE REACTIONS TO AMERICAN TRACK ATHLETE TORI BOWIE'S DEATH
Paige Coyne, Henry Ford Health & Michigan State University

ABSTRACT P97
APPLICATIONS OF WASTEWATER-BASED SURVEILLANCE OF HOSPITAL
EFFLUENT TO AID DISEASE TRACKING AND TRAJECTORY
Ethan Harrop, Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research

ABSTRACT P99
AMR SURVEILLANCE AND DISCOVERY USING FUNCTIONAL
METAGENOMICS IN ONTARIO WASTEWATER
Yemurayi Hungwe, University of Waterloo

11:00 AM ABSTRACT P101
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) AND THE IMPACT OF VIOLENCE ON HEALTH AND THE ROLE OF TRAUMA AUGUSTUS III
Tori Lewis, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P103
DETERMINING THE PREVALENCE OF NUTRITION RISK IN OLDER
ADULTS IN WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY, ON: A CROSS-SECTIONAL
SURVEY-BASED STUDY
Emma S McGinnis, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

ABSTRACT P105
“IT’S NOT USABLE FOR HIM”: AN EXPLORATION OF DIVERSE USERS’
EXPERIENCES OF ACCESSIBILITY, USABILITY, AND INCLUSION IN GYMS
Fallon R Mitchell, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P107
LITERACY IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION: INCORPORATING
LITERACY THROUGH PLAY BASED LEARNING UTILIZING AN ENGLISH
LANGUAGE LEARNER LENS
Michaela Reid, Alexandra Fuentes Atencio, St. Clair College

ABSTRACT P109
ACHIEVING LONG-TERM EFFECTIVENESS OF NUTRITION COUNSELING
FOR INDIGENOUS OLDER ADULTS WITH TYPE 2 DIABETES
Munira Sultana, Erie Shores HealthCare

ABSTRACT P111
EXPLORING THE ROLE OF THE TUMOUR SUPPRESSOR TUBERIN IN DNA
REPAIR MECHANISMS
Hannah Ferasol, University of Windsor

Rapid Fire Posters

ABSTRACT P112 

ADVANCING EARLY CANCER DETECTION: A NOVEL DUAL-FREQUENCY
ULTRASOUND TECHNOLOGY FOR ENHANCED IMAGING

Yumna Birjis, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P113 

EXPLORING PRINCIPLES OF THE INTERPLAY BETWEEN TUMOUR
INITIATING CELLS AND THE ENDOTHELIAL COMPONENT IN
GLIOBLASTOMA

Alan Cieslukowski, University of Windsor

11:00 AM

ABSTRACT P114 

EXPANDING SALIVA SCREENING TO TRACK NEW & EXISTING VIRUSES:
STRENGTHENING PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE WINDSOR-ESSEX REGION

Jackie Fong, University of Windsor

AUGUSTUS III

ABSTRACT P115 

IMPLEMENTATION OF A MEDICAL EDUCATION SERVICE LEARNING
PROGRAM CENTERED ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS
(IAWS) IN SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO

Rachel-Ann Dixon, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

ABSTRACT P116 

IDENTIFYING AND DEVELOPING YOUTH HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION
STRATEGIES THROUGH RESPONDENT DRIVEN SAMPLING AND
INTERSECTIONALITY

Emma Beecroft, St. Clair College

ABSTRACT P117 

LEVERAGING DATA & COMMUNITY ACTION: STRENGTHENING SAFETY
& WELL-BEING IN WINDSOR-ESSEX

Emma Kiessling, St. Clair College

ABSTRACT P118 

PRESSING HEALTHCARE NEEDS IN A WINDSOR-BASED SHELTER
HEALTH INITIATIVE

Alex Zhou, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

ABSTRACT P119 

BARRIERS TO ACCESSING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES THAT IMPACT
BLACK CANADIANS: A SCOPING REVIEW AND THEMATIC ANALYSIS

Ibukunoluwa Grace Okusanya, University of Waterloo

ABSTRACT P120 

SYSTEMIC CHALLENGES, LOCAL SOLUTIONS: HEALTH EQUITY AT THE
INTERSECTION OF MEDICAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES SECTORS

Lauren Wan-Sai-Cheong, University of Windsor & University of Calgary

12:00 PM Lunch

AUGUSTUS I & II

12:45 PM Poster Session B

AUGUSTUS III

Biomedical Research

ABSTRACT P02

INVESTIGATING KAISO AND TGF β SIGNALING CROSSTALK IN
EPITHELIAL-TO-MESENCHYMAL TRANSITION IN TRIPLE-NEGATIVE
BREAST CANCER

Hanad Adan, McMaster University

ABSTRACT P04

UNDERSTANDING THE DIAGNOSTIC EXPERIENCE OF POSTPARTUM
BREAST CANCER PATIENTS

Rabia Ali, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P06

HIGH KAISO EXPRESSION IS ASSOCIATED WITH INCREASED
QUADRUPLE-NEGATIVE BREAST CANCER IN WOMEN OF AFRICAN
ANCESTRY

Stephanie Ali Fairbairn, McMaster University

ABSTRACT P08

EVALUATION OF NOVEL LKB1 INHIBITORS AS NEW THERAPEUTICS
AGAINST OVARIAN CANCER HISTOTYPES

Natasha Bruce, The Mary & John Knight Translational Ovarian Cancer
Research Unit & Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

ABSTRACT P10

UNCOVERING MIR-142 TARGETS REGULATING B-CELL EXPANSION IN
NHL

Aqil Butt, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P12
GENETIC ANALYSIS OF RB FAMILY LOSS IN G2-S TRANSIT REGULATION
Adina Dass, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P14
IDENTIFICATION OF THE CELL-TYPE SPECIFIC MRNA TRANSLATIONAL
CONTROL IN LEARNING AND MEMORY FORMATION
Bromleigh Dobson, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P16
A MULTIDISCIPLINARY STUDY OF THE CYCLIN-LIKE SPY1, MAMMARY
INVOLUTION, AND POSTPARTUM BREAST CANCER
Isabelle Hinch, University of Windsor

AUGUSTUS III

12:45 PM

ABSTRACT P18
CELL-TYPE -SPECIFIC REGULATION OF THE $ELF2\alpha$ PATHWAY IN LONG-
TERM MEMORY
Danielle Jezdic, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P20
TREATMENT OF AEROSOL BDP FOR MANAGING EXACERBATIONS IN
CHRONIC ASTHMATIC PATIENTS, AGES 5-18, AND THOSE WITH
CORTICOSTEROID DEPENDENCE
Fatima Khan, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P22
CELL-TYPE-SPECIFIC MECHANISMS IMPLICATED IN MRNA
TRANSLATION AND MEMORY IN ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE
Rogers Kobojsi, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P24
SEX-SPECIFIC DIFFERENCES IN METABOLIC DYSFUNCTION-ASSOCIATED
STEATOTIC LIVER DISEASE PROGRESSION: INSIGHTS FROM THE
STEATOSITE DATABASE
Amy Llancari, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P26
SWITCHABLE AFFINITY STREPTAVIDIN MUTEINS FOR PURIFICATION
AND PROTEOMICS APPLICATIONS
Jesse Marangoni, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P28
PHARMACOLOGICAL INHIBITION OF LKB1-NUAK1 SIGNALING IN
SPHEROID MODEL OF OVARIAN CANCER METASTASIS

Sarah McArthur, The Mary & John Knight Translational Ovarian Cancer
Research Unit & Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

ABSTRACT P30

STEPPING INTO THE FUTURE: A NARRATIVE REVIEW OF TECHNOLOGY-
ASSISTED DEVICES IN MOTOR REHABILITATION

Samantha Monk, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P32

ASSOCIATION BETWEEN SUBOPTIMAL PRENATAL CARE AND
PREGNANCY OUTCOMES

Oshiomeghe Kenneth Ogah, Erie Shores HealthCare

12:45 PM

AUGUSTUS III

ABSTRACT P34

ADVANCING ORGANIC ELECTRONICS: CARBOHYDRATE-CONTAINING
POLYMERS FOR BIOMEDICAL APPLICATIONS AND ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY

Lauren Pandolfi, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P36

THE UNIQUE ROLE OF SPY1 IN BREAST CANCER STEM CELL (BCSC)
REGULATION AND RESIDUAL DISEASE STATES IN TRIPLE NEGATIVE
BREAST CANCER (TNBC)

Nick Philbin, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P38

THE ROLE OF ANAPHASE PROMOTING COMPLEX IN DROSOPHILA
FEMALE MITOSIS

Rajni Rai, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P40

INVESTIGATING THE TARGETED EFFECTS OF HA-RHOD CONJUGATED
NANOPARTICLES AGAINST GLIOBLASTOMA

Vanessa Riolo, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P42

FROM LIQUID TO LIFE: REPROGRAMMING URINARY STEM CELLS TO
PANCREATIC CELLS

Sohila Sidhu, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P44

LOSS OF FREQUENIN1 AND FRQ2 RESULTS IN NOCICEPTIVE
HYPERALGESIA

Alexandria St. Louis, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P46
EXPLORING NOVEL SPEEDY-CDK INTERACTIONS: EXPANDING THE CELL
CYCLE REGULATORY NETWORK
Farinaz Ziaee, University of Windsor

Clinical Research

ABSTRACT P48
CLINICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF GRADE 1 TRIPLE NEGATIVE BREAST
CANCER: A RETROSPECTIVE COHORT ANALYSIS
Laurice Arayan, Windsor Regional Hospital

ABSTRACT P50
PROMOTING BREAST MILK FEEDING IN PRETERM INFANTS AT THE
WINDSOR REGIONAL HOSPITAL NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT
Grace Butler, Kividi Samaraweera, Olivia Youssef, Shauna Halliday,
University of Windsor

12:45 PM

AUGUSTUS III

ABSTRACT P52
THE USE OF DIGITAL MOBILE TECHNOLOGY FOR RAPID ASSESSMENT
OF TREATMENT INDUCED COGNITIVE DEFICITS IN MULTIPLE
MYELOMA PATIENTS
Madeline Garlatti, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P54
MINDFULNESS FOR ALL? DIFFERENCES IN ENGAGEMENT AND
TREATMENT OUTCOMES FOR SEXUAL MINORITY PEOPLE DURING A
MINDFULNESS APP CLINICAL TRIAL
Olive Chung-Hui Huang, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P56
WINDSOR ARITHMETIC COGNITION TEST (WACT): USING ARITHMETIC
ABILITY TO TRACK CLINICAL RECOVERY AFTER TRAUMATIC BRAIN
INJURY
Deven Jhawar, Western University

ABSTRACT P58
LISA VS INSURE IN PRETERM RESPIRATORY DISTRESS SYNDROME: A
THREE-YEAR EXPERIENCE AT WINDSOR REGIONAL HOSPITAL NICU
(WRH)
Sang Ho (Sean) Kim, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

ABSTRACT P60

TOWARD A STANDARDIZED SCORING SYSTEM FOR LUMBAR MRI:
DEVELOPMENT, VALIDATION, AND FUTURE AI INTEGRATION
Hamza Mahdi, Windsor Regional Hospital & Schulich School of
Medicine & Dentistry

ABSTRACT P62
UNDERSTANDING INTRA-OPERATIVE MORTALITY IN CANADIAN
NEUROSURGERY: A SURVEY-BASED ANALYSIS
Abdul Naeem, Windsor Regional Hospital

ABSTRACT P64
THE BIOPSYCHOSOCIAL IMPACT OF A NUTRITION FOLLOW-UP
PROGRAM ON FAMILIES DISCHARGED FROM THE NICU WITH A
NASOGASTRIC FEEDING TUBE
Rufina Ning, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

12:45 PM

ABSTRACT P66
REGIONAL DISPARITIES IN CANCER BIOMARKER KNOWLEDGE AND
ACCESS ACROSS CANADA
Depen Sharma, University of Ottawa

AUGUSTUS III

Health Service Research

ABSTRACT P68
REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH MANAGEMENT AND TRANSFORMATIVE
BUSINESS PRACTICE; A LITERATURE REVIEW AND FUTURE AVENUES
FOR RESEARCH
Hajar Fatemi, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P70
UNDERSTANDING PRIMARY HEALTHCARE WITH AN OPEN SOURCE AI
Braedon Hendy, Erie Shores HealthCare

ABSTRACT P72
ASSESSING HEALTH INFORMATION NEEDS IN CLL/INDOLENT NHL
PATIENTS ON SURVEILLANCE
Brett Humphrey, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P74
IMPACT OF CLINICAL TRIAL NAVIGATORS ON CLINICAL TRIAL ACCRUAL
THROUGH MULTIDISCIPLINARY CASE CONFERENCES: A PRE- & POST-
IMPLEMENTATION STUDY
Anaam Jaet, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P76

DEFINING THE BASELINE: NORMATIVE DATA FOR THE V-8
NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT
Deborah A Laze, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P78
PLANNING AND DEVELOPING A YOUTH ACT TEAM FOR YOUNGER
CHILDREN IN ONTARIO, CANADA
Jennifer Voth, Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare

ABSTRACT P80
IMPLEMENTING A CLINICAL TRIAL NAVIGATOR PROGRAM FOR
CANCER PATIENTS: BARRIERS & FACILITATORS IDENTIFIED THROUGH
STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES
Renee Nasser, Windsor Regional Hospital

12:45 PM

ABSTRACT P82
EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT NURSES' PERSPECTIVES ON COMPLETING
SEPSIS CARE
Georgia Scholl, University of Windsor

AUGUSTUS III

ABSTRACT P84
EVALUATION AND IMPACT OF AN ORAL HEALTH EDUCATION
PROGRAM IN AN IN-PATIENT SETTING
Jaclyn Sorge, Connor Ranieri, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P86
SHAPING THE FUTURE OF YOUTH CANCER CARE IN WINDSOR-ESSEX
REGION: INSIGHTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS BASED ON SYSTEM
STRENGTHS AND CHALLENGES
Joanne Tay, Melissa Milijanovski, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P88
FILLING THE GAP IN PEDIATRIC COMMUNITY CARE THROUGH
WEECARE
Megan Walker, WeeCare Pediatric Home Health Care

Social, Cultural, Environmental and/or Population Health Research

ABSTRACT P90
REAL-WORLD EFFECTIVENESS OF SEMAGLUTIDE FOR WEIGHT LOSS
OUTCOMES IN A COMMUNITY CLINIC
Aran Singh Bains, Arani Sivakumar, Schulich School of Medicine &
Dentistry

ABSTRACT P92

WASTEWATER-BASED SURVEILLANCE OF RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL
VIRUS REVEALS A TEMPORAL DISCONNECT IN DISEASE TRAJECTORY
ACROSS AN ACTIVE INTERNATIONAL LAND BORDER

Mackenzie Beach, Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research

ABSTRACT P94

APPLICATION OF WASTEWATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEILLANCE
FOR PATHOGENIC AGENTS DURING THE 2024 NFL DRAFT IN DETROIT,
MICHIGAN

Ryland Corchis-Scott, Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research

ABSTRACT P96

TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE IN UNDERGRADUATE NURSING
EDUCATION: AN INTEGRATIVE REVIEW

Rachel Elliott, University of Windsor

AUGUSTUS III

12:45 PM

ABSTRACT P98

MONITORING SPATIOTEMPORAL DIFFERENCES IN ANTIMICROBIAL
RESISTANCE GENES USING WASTEWATER-BASED SURVEILLANCE

Ethan Harrop, Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research

ABSTRACT P100

NEW FRONTIERS RESEARCH PROJECT – COVID AND IPV

Tori Lewis, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P102

A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW OF MENTAL HEALTH HELP-SEEKING
BEHAVIOURS IN YOUNG MEN

Krista Lucier, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P104

POLICY REFORM ADVOCACY FOR THE HEALTHCARE RIGHTS OF
CRITICALLY ILL INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS

Rosa Mikheil, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P106

EXPLORATORY ANALYSIS OF HEALTHCARE WORKER EXPERIENCE WITH
INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL WORKERS (IAWS) IN WINDSOR-ESSEX
COUNTY

Ryan Palazzolo, Mehtaab Dhillon, Salah Alhajsaleh, Wayne State
University & University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P108
WASTEWATER-BASED SURVEILLANCE OF RESPIRATORY SYNCYTIAL
VIRUS (RSV) GENOME SEQUENCE VARIATIONS IN THE WINDSOR-ESSEX
BORDER REGION
Isidora Sekaric, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT P110
END-OF-LIFE CARE AT ERIE SHORES HEALTHCARE
Holly Whitehead, Erie Shores HealthCare

2:00 PM **Concurrent Session A-1: Advancements in Cancer Research & Treatment** SATURNI

Moderator: Dr. Andrew Hubberstey, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT O10
CASE REPORT: UNUSUAL CLINICAL RESPONSE TO TRASTUZUMAB AND
PERTUZUMAB IN METASTATIC HER-2 LOW BREAST CANCER
Rasna Gupta, Windsor Regional Hospital

ABSTRACT O11
SPY1-MEDIATED CELL CYCLE REGULATION AS A TARGET TO OVERCOME
GSC-INDUCED THERAPY RESISTANCE IN GLIOBLASTOMA
Hema Priya Mahendran, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT O12
INVESTIGATION OF ULK1 AND AUTOPHAGY AS THERAPEUTIC TARGETS
IN ADVANCED EPITHELIAL OVARIAN CANCER
Trevor G Shepherd, The Mary & John Knight Translational Ovarian
Cancer Research Unit & Western University

ABSTRACT O13
EFFICACY OF PARP INHIBITORS ON EPITHELIAL OVARIAN CANCER
SPHEROIDS AND ORGANOID
Emily Tomas, The Mary & John Knight Translational Ovarian Cancer
Research Unit & Western University

Concurrent Session A-2: Building Resilient Communities: Mental Health & Well-Being LUNA

Moderator: Dr. Jennifer Voth, Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare

ABSTRACT O14
EXAMINING INFLUENCES OF REJECTION SENSITIVITY AMONG PERSONS
WITH MENTAL ILLNESS
Sebastian Gyamfi, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT O15

EVALUATION OF OUTCOMES AND IDENTIFIED BARRIERS FOR
INDIVIDUALS SEEKING MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS CARE AT A LOCAL
COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

Emma Mineau, St. Clair College

ABSTRACT O16

RESILIENCE AND MENTAL HEALTH OF NEWCOMER YOUTH

Jayashree Mohanty, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT O17

BARRIERS TO TREATMENT PARTICIPATION AND RETENTION IN MENTAL
HEALTH SERVICES AT THE REGIONAL CHILDREN'S CENTRE

Leslee Ward, Baily Csbai, Hotel-Dieu Grace Healthcare & University of
Windsor

2:00 PM

Concurrent Session A-3: Innovation in Health Care

MARTIS

Moderator: Dr. Sindu Kanjeekal, Windsor Regional Hospital

ABSTRACT O18

A SCALABLE MODEL FOR ADVANCING INVESTIGATOR-INITIATED
RESEARCH: THE SUCCESS OF THE TANNER RESEARCH GROUP AT THE
VFCC

Morgan Black, London Health Sciences Centre

ABSTRACT O19

CRITICAL CARE OUTREACH TEAM (CCOT) PROGRAM IN A RURAL
HOSPITAL SETTING

Angela Ciotoli, Erie Shores HealthCare

ABSTRACT O20

RELIEVING THE STRAIN ON HOSPITAL RESOURCES BY IMPLEMENTING
AN ADMISSION DISCHARGE UNIT (ADU) AT ESHC

Holly Kettle, Erie Shores HealthCare

ABSTRACT O21

IS IT POSSIBLE TO JOIN A NATIONAL MULTI-CENTER CLINICAL TRIAL
DURING CYBERATTACK?

Ming Pan, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry & Windsor Regional
Hospital

2:00 PM	<p>Concurrent Session A-4: INSPIRE Room</p> <p>Moderator: Rowena Hill-Ernesto, INSPIRE</p> <p>ABSTRACT O22</p> <p>POST PANDEMIC SPREAD OF INFLUENZA AND RSV IN A CHILDCARE FACILITY IN ONTARIO IN THE PRESENCE OF VACCINATION</p> <p>Bridgette Amoako, University of Guelph</p> <p>ABSTRACT O23</p> <p>A DATA DASHBOARD FOR INFORMED HEALTHCARE DECISIONS</p> <p>Kiana Lesan Pezeshki, University of Windsor</p> <p>ABSTRACT O24</p> <p>DEVELOPING A PLATFORM TO MONITOR HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI) VIRUS SEQUENCES IN WASTEWATER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES</p> <p>Ana Podadera, University of Windsor</p> <p>ABSTRACT O25</p> <p>ENHANCING WASTEWATER SURVEILLANCE: OPTIMIZING EUKARYOTIC ENRICHMENT FOR IMPROVED PATHOGEN DETECTION</p> <p>Shahrazad Zahedifar, University of Waterloo</p>	MERCURI
3:00 PM	Refreshments/Movement Break	LOBBY
3:15 PM	<p>Concurrent Session B-1: Putting Patients First: Innovations in Care & Engagement</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Andrew Hubberstey, University of Windsor</p> <p>ABSTRACT O26</p> <p>EQUITY-FOCUSED BARRIERS AND FACILITATORS TO IMPLEMENTING A PRENATAL YOGA INTERVENTION IN A HEALTH SYSTEM: PATIENT AND PROVIDER PERSPECTIVES</p> <p>Paige Coyne, Henry Ford Health & Michigan State University</p> <p>ABSTRACT O27</p> <p>ENHANCING RESEARCH IMPACT THROUGH INCLUSIVE PATIENT ENGAGEMENT: LESSONS FROM THE PEIR-IDEAS PROJECT</p> <p>Sara Santarossa, Henry Ford Health & Michigan State University</p> <p>ABSTRACT O28</p> <p>MAPPING JOURNEYS OF CARE: THE IMPACT OF ARTS-INFORMED STORYTELLING APPROACHES IN IMPROVING DIAGNOSIS AND CARE IN WOMEN WITH PCOS</p> <p>Kendall Soucie, University of Windsor</p>	SATURNI

ABSTRACT O29

‘NAVIGATING THE COMPLEXITIES OF HOME HEALTH CARE FOR MY CHILD’: INSIGHTS FROM PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH COMPLEX MEDICAL CONDITIONS (CMCS)

Joanne Tay, University of Windsor & Emily’s House Children’s Hospice

Concurrent Session B-2: Emerging Topics in Healthcare

LUNA

Moderator: Dr. Jennifer Voth, Hôtel-Dieu Grace Healthcare

ABSTRACT O30

ASSESSING THE TRIAGING AND DIAGNOSTIC ACCURACY OF CHATGPT IN NEUROSURGICAL CASES

Frank Mazza, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

ABSTRACT O31

KAISO AT THE CROSSROADS: UNDERSTANDING THE TRANSITION FROM INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE TO COLORECTAL CANCER

Danial Mohammadi, McMaster University

3:15 PM

ABSTRACT O32

WEIGHT LOSS OUTCOMES OF OPTIFAST® TOTAL VS PARTIAL MEAL REPLACEMENT PROGRAMS IN A COMMUNITY CLINIC

Padmaja Naidu, Windsor Regional Hospital

ABSTRACT O33

FROM AWARENESS TO ACTION: SHAPING A UNIFIED RESPONSE TO INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV) AND FEMICIDE IN WINDSOR-ESSEX

Amy Peirone, Darien Pare, Debra Levitt, St. Clair College

Concurrent Session B-3: Empowering the Future of Nursing & Healthcare

MARTIS

Moderator: Dr. Sindu Kanjeekal, Windsor Regional Hospital

ABSTRACT O34

“I’M ALWAYS GONNA BE FISH OUT OF WATER” – A QUALITATIVE EXPLORATION OF PHILIPPINE-EDUCATED NURSES IN ONTARIO, CANADA

Edward V Cruz, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT O35

NURSE EDUCATORS’ PERCEPTIONS OF TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE (TIC) IN BACCALAUREATE NURSING EDUCATION: AN INTERPRETIVE DESCRIPTIVE STUDY

Rachel Elliott, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT O36

DETERMINANTS OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS' JOB RETENTION DURING THE GLOBAL HEALTH CRISIS: INSIGHTS FROM A NATIONAL SURVEY IN CANADA

Nazim Habibov, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT O37

IMPACT OF DEDICATED NURSING EDUCATION DAYS ON NURSE JOB SATISFACTION AND RETENTION

Catherine Taylor, Erie Shores HealthCare

Concurrent Session B-4: Bridging Science & Clinical Practice for Infection Control

MERCURI

Moderator: Rowena Hill-Ernesto, INSPIRE

ABSTRACT O38

PREFERENTIAL EXPANSION OF NK CELLS LACKING NKR-P1A (CD161) RECEPTOR EXPRESSION DURING HUMAN CYTOMEGALOVIRUS INFECTION

Mohamed Basem Alkassab, University of Windsor

ABSTRACT O39

INVESTIGATING THE EFFECTS OF THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN ON CANCER PATIENT SELF-REPORTED SYMPTOM INTENSITY IN A SOUTHWESTERN ONTARIO CANCER CENTER

Jiil Chung, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry

ABSTRACT O40

PRECISION PROBIOTIC DOSAGE SCREENING IN BREAST CANCER THERAPY USING A NOVEL MICROFLUIDIC PLATFORM

Masoud AkhshiK, St. Clair College & University of Toronto

ABSTRACT O41

FACTORS INFLUENCING NURSE PRACTITIONERS' INFLUENZA VACCINE RECOMMENDATIONS

Caitlyn Wilpstra, University of Windsor

4:20 PM Panel: "Engaging People with Lived-Experience in Research Projects"

AUGUSTUS I & II

Moderator: Dr. Paula van Wyk, University of Windsor

5:05 PM Closing Remarks & Awards

AUGUSTUS I & II

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Thank you to the 2025 Health Research Conference Organizing Committee and the group of conference volunteers for contributing their time, ideas, and enthusiasm to this conference. Their commitment and efforts made all this possible.

Conference Coordinator: Genesis Flores

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Trevor Shepherd
Andrea Steen
Munira Sultana
Jennifer Voth

Special thanks to the WE-SPARK student volunteers.

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Thank you to the 2025 Health Research Conference Scientific Planning Committee. Through their expertise, we were able to acquire Continuing Medical Education (CME) accreditation.

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Caroline Hamm

Mason Leschyna

Judy Seesahai

Andrea Steen

THANK YOU

Thank you to all the registrants, speakers, students, sponsors, and community members for joining us for the 2025 Health Research Conference. It was through your support, commitment, and participation that we were able to hold the third health research conference in Windsor-Essex. We look forward to connecting at future events and highlight the positive impact of health research in our region.

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