



News Release

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Bluewater Health Proudly Partners with Western University

The Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry and local hospital formalize relationship

SARNIA & PETROLIA – March 25, 2019 – Today, Bluewater Health and Western University’s Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry are proud to mark their partnership in medical education with two significant announcements.

Bluewater Health will be an approved site for the training of a family medicine resident specializing in emergency medicine. Starting July 1, one medical resident will join the emergency department physicians in Sarnia who serve almost 60,000 patients per year. Today’s announcement underscores Bluewater Health’s commitment to medical education, excellence in emergency medicine and speaks to a teaching experience that can be obtained for students and residents directly from the hospital’s emergency department team.

Bluewater Health’s Chief of Staff, and Lambton’s Regional Academic Director for Schulich Medicine & Dentistry distributed education, Dr. Michel Haddad, commented, “We are proud that Schulich Medicine & Dentistry views Bluewater Health as a clinical teaching site where their students and residents can learn alongside some amazing local physicians. Many of our team members are best in class and are Adjunct Professors at Schulich Medicine, and we’re delighted that this learning and teaching opportunity is now in Sarnia Lambton. This is a creative way to showcase our hospital to new physician trainees and have them realize why Sarnia is a great place to live and work long-term.”

Bluewater Health will support the local training of a family medicine resident training for an extra year in emergency medicine, which means that the family medicine resident will spend approximately half of their training rotations at Bluewater Health. In return, the newly trained physician will be required to practice Emergency Medicine at Bluewater Health for a set period of time. Bluewater Health is part of the selection Committee at Western University participating in the selection of residents for Sarnia’s training program.

This is the first time that Bluewater Health has had a family medicine resident doing the extra year of training in emergency medicine. Having residents train locally is an important recruiting strategy implemented by the hospital’s medical leadership. “Training physicians locally gives them a good understanding of what it is like to practice and live here, including the supports available in the medical community, and the resources that are available,” continued Dr. Haddad. “We are competing with bigger centres, so to build our medical community, I’ve set a goal to training more medical students and residents locally.”

Bluewater Health has a long history of working with Schulich Medicine & Dentistry’s Family Medicine residency program including having a family residency program based in Petrolia. Our existing Petrolia-based family residents spend many months training with our team of primary care physicians in Petrolia in addition to doing various specialty rotations in Sarnia in specialties such as Obstetrics/Gynaecology, Intensive Care, Psychiatry, palliative care, and other disciplines.

Also unveiled today, is partnership signage for both locations, announcing to local residents, patients and families, the shared academic mission and alignment of both institutions. Dr. George Kim, Assistant Dean, Rural & Regional Community Engagement noted, “Schulich Medicine & Dentistry is proud to formally welcome Bluewater Health to the academic family of Western University and I know that many students will benefit from this relationship. We are jointly committed to a high standard of health care and teaching programs and together we are creating stronger and healthier communities.”

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Bluewater Health, with locations in Sarnia and Petrolia, cares for the residents of Sarnia-Lambton. With close to 2,500 staff, Professional Staff and volunteers, Bluewater Health provides an array of specialized acute, complex continuing care, allied health and ambulatory care services. Bluewater Health’s Mission is: *We create exemplary healthcare experiences with patients and families every time.* For more information about Bluewater Health, visit bluewaterhealth.ca or follow us on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Twitter or YouTube.

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