



A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN DR. DEBBIE SHEPPARD-LEMOINE



Welcome to the summer 2024 edition of **Connecting With Care**. I hope you will enjoy our updates and feel pride in our students, faculty, staff, alumni and extended community.

As Dean, I have the privilege to be part of diverse activities both within the University, provincially and nationally. I am continuing my commitment to research that improves the health of families globally. Through presenting 2 papers at the International 6th Nordic Conference in Family Health and Care in May 2024 in Odense, Denmark I connected with global researchers, educators and practitioners committed to improving the health and well-being of families and their access to equitable health interventions.

I also attended the Canadian Association of Schools of Nursing Board Meeting and Biennial Nursing Education Conference 2024. UWindsor

stood out at the conference with Faculty members **Dr. Edward Cruz, Dr. Debbie Rickeard, Rachel Elliott, Amanda McEwen and Padma Ravi**. They presented their work in Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Decolonization and significant examples from their work in policy/committee changes, indigenous simulation development and innovations in teaching.

I am also looking forward to influencing family health and sharing the strengths of the Faculty of Nursing globally having been recently elected as the only Canadian Director to the Board of the International Family Nursing Association (IFNA) in May.

We are already busy planning the coming academic year - looking forward to welcoming new students and hosting milestone alumni reunions. We will keep our Faculty of Nursing strong while making contributions that are responsive to the the health of our community and beyond.

Wishing you a healthy, safe, summer with time to relax.

\$100,000 IN NEW SCHOLARSHIPS FOR FUTURE STUDENTS



DR. CATHERINE YANCHULA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Established in memory of **Dr. Catherine**

Yanchula who was known for her compassion and care for people. After years of service as a registered nurse in public health and in oncology, she pursued degrees in both medicine and psychology. She practiced family medicine in Windsor for 25 years and was dedicated to her family, patients and the community. Established by Catherine's family and friends.

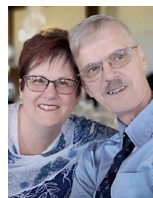
navigate the complexity of care. Established by **Dr. Linda Patrick**, past Dean of the University of Windsor Faculty of Nursing in memory of her husband, Larry.



HANNAH PARE MEMORIAL ENTRANCE SCHOLARSHIP

An entrance scholarship to be awarded to

students wishing to pursue a degree in Nursing at the University of Windsor and will be based on community involvement and academic performance.



LARRY AND LINDA PATRICK GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

The Larry and Linda

Patrick Graduate Scholarship in Nursing will be awarded to Graduate students in the Faculty of Nursing with interest in pursuing practice or research that improves the lives of community dwelling individuals living with life altering or life limiting conditions and their caregivers who require assistance to

HANNAH PARE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE IN PEER MENTORSHIP

Awarded for outstanding contributions by a student in their third year of study at the Faculty of Nursing based on their contributions to the Peer Mentorship Program. Students will be nominated by a colleague or peer. These scholarships were established by Hannah's family and friends to recognize her passion for nursing education and peer mentorship among fellow students.



RX REVOLUTION: UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR OFFERS GROUND-BREAKING NURSING CERTIFICATION PROGRAM



The Faculty of Nursing, in collaboration with Continuing Education and the Ontario Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner consortium, has launched a certification program allowing Registered Nurses (RNs) in Ontario to prescribe medication for specific treatments such as contraception, immunization, smoking cessation, and wound care.

In the past, only specialized health-care professionals like physicians, nurse practitioners, and pharmacists had prescribing authority. With the College of Nurses of Ontario's approval of the Ontario University Consortium RN Prescribing Education Program, this is no longer the case.

Professors **Sherry Morrell** and **Gina Pittman** emphasized the program's significant impact on improving access to care and treatment.

"For communities, the benefit is faster and easier access to specific treatments in Ontario," says Dr. Morrell. "For instance, you no longer have to wait for a doctor's appointment to obtain prescriptions for things such as birth control, medications to help you quit smoking, and travel medications to treat and prevent malaria and traveller's diarrhea."

Drs. Morrell and Pittman, also Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioners (PHCNPs), have advanced graduate-level training that enables them to act as autonomous primary care providers. They diagnose and treat medical conditions, order and interpret tests, prescribe medications, refer to specialists, and serve as the first point of contact in the health care system.

"When the College of Nurses of Ontario requested University of Windsor to map a course program for this type of certification, the fit was perfect for Sherry and Gina since the essential RN-prescribing process was a natural extension of their established clinical expertise in the field, and their proven ability

to formulate a program's core competencies, testing methodology, and outcomes," says Faculty of Nursing Dean **Debbie Sheppard-LeMoine**.

"They also have extensive experience leading the development of Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner students within the University of Windsor PHCNP program and are active as researchers."

However, proposing a new and comprehensive certification course proved to be quite challenging.

"It was difficult to create a new and robust course

in such a short amount of time while addressing issues related to effectively delivering this education across Ontario asynchronously," says Pittman.

Pittman highlights that collaboration with the Ontario Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner Consortium, the Council of Ontario Universities, and UWindsor Continuing Education was crucial in developing and quickly launching the learning modules.

"We're honoured to be contributing as the operational unit for this vital program," says **Jennie Atkins**, executive director of Continuing Education. "The Faculty of Nursing is a great partner and their wealth of expertise in the field is invaluable to the learning experience this program provides."

Atkins notes the high interest in the program, showing a strong demand among Ontario's Registered Nurses for certifications to enhance their patient care skills. It also reflects the University's agility in adapting to evolving health care and nursing needs.

"The Council of Ontario Universities is proud to support the University of Windsor in developing this innovative RN prescribing program," says **Steve Orsini**, the council's president and CEO. "Drawing on the expertise of university Nurse Practitioners from the nine-university consortium was instrumental in developing this safe and effective program that promotes the expansion of RN scope of practice and improves access to care for Ontarians."

Current sections and waitlists for the certification program are full. Plans to add more sections are underway, with dates to be confirmed. For more information, visit the program page on the Continuing Education website or contact continue@uwindsor.ca. ■

STUDY AIMS TO REHAB STROKE REHABILITATION PROGRAMS



During Black History Month, Nursing featured **Dr. Eric Tanlaka**, who is part of a research team examining the role of nurses in stroke rehabilitation with the goal of improving job equity and augmenting Ontario's nursing curriculum.

Funded by the Registered Practical Nurses Association of Ontario, the multi-phase research project reveals that hospital nurses performing functions in stroke rehabilitation units are not factored into the measurement of stroke rehabilitation outcomes — measurable results or effects that are assessed to

determine the impact of a particular treatment or health-care action.

According to the study, while patients are in rehabilitation, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, and speech-language pathologists are key members whose services are measured in such outcomes. However, nurses also play a critical role, spending the most time with patients and providing comprehensive care throughout their recovery process.

“Nurses are pivotal members of interprofessional stroke rehabilitation teams,” says Tanlaka. “Yet their role is not clearly defined, and their contributions are not documented and recognized.”

Tanlaka says that nurses exhibit wide-ranging expertise and hands-on involvement within stroke rehabilitation units. While some nurses have expressed a need for further education and training in this field, others have highlighted their proficiency and experience, but perceive themselves as unequal contributors to the stroke patient's rehabilitation program.

Increased job equity would also generate opportunities for leadership and management roles, allowing for a more diverse career path and greater job fulfillment.

Tanlaka's goal is to lay a foundation for developing competencies for stroke rehabilitation and have them incorporated into Ontario's university-level nursing curriculum.

“By standardizing education in this field of nursing, we can empower future nurses with knowledge, skills, abilities, and confidence when they enter the workforce,” says Tanlaka. “In the end, patient care is enhanced while nurses providing that care feel more valued, respected, and connected to their stroke rehabilitation units.”

More information can be found in Tanlaka's article, “The Role and Contributions of Nurses in Stroke Rehabilitation Units: An Integrative Review” at: bit.ly/StrkRehab ■

FACULTY OF NURSING HOSTS ONTARIO MINISTER OF LONG-TERM CARE



The University of Windsor Faculty of Nursing welcomed Ontario's minister of long-term care, **Stan Cho**, on March 13 for a tour, including visits to long-term care facilities in Windsor and Sarnia. Accompanied by Windsor - Tecumseh MPP **Andrew Dowie**, Cho participated in a roundtable on long-term care research, practice, and needs. Representatives from UWindsor's faculties of Nursing and Human Kinetics, and the Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation, shared their expertise.

“The minister's visit was very engaging and productive,” says Dean of Nursing **Debbie Sheppard-LeMoine**. “Given our

presenters' diverse areas of expertise, we demonstrated how research and practice come together as solutions to ever-evolving long-term care needs, especially from the standpoint of responsiveness to care.”

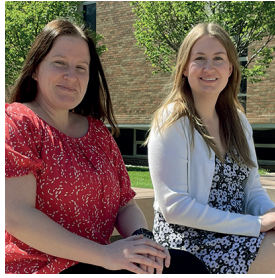
Inter-faculty research provides strategies to support future long-term care. Nursing students in clinical placements, including third-year student **Lekha Patel**, attended the event. Patel shared her insights on quality of life and aging. A tour of the nursing simulation lab showcased its role in preparing students for the workforce. Fully story: bit.ly/MinON-LTC ■



AWARDS, ACCOLADES, AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



On behalf of Sigma, UWindsor Nursing alumna **Regina Yuen** (BScN 2017) was appointed Youth Representative to the United Nations (within the non-governmental organization [NGO] community).



BScN student **Keirsten Smith** and **Victoria Dobrowolski** (BScN 2024) received 2024 Registered Nurses' Foundation of Ontario awards for Palliative Care Nurses Interest Group [PCNIG] Baccalaureate Scholarship, and RNFOO Undergraduate Scholarship Year 3-4 awards respectively.



Nursing clinical instructor **Katie Campeau** and her 3rd year students received a Greater Essex County District School Board Champions for Education Award, recognizing their exceptional support of students and public schools.



Dr. Gail Donner, RN, PhD, FCAN awarded Honourary LLD at the Faculty of Nursing Convocation. Gail is a Partner at Donner Wheeler, specializing in career development, coaching and leadership for both organizations and individuals.



PHOTO BY DAN JANISSE / Windsor Star

Karen Riddell (BScN 1989) was recently appointed the Acting President and Chief Executive Officer of Windsor Regional Hospital, and is the first registered nurse to hold the position.

RECENT EVENTS

SPRING CONVOCATION 2024



With proud families and friends in attendance, Faculty of Nursing students graduated at Spring Convocation 2024 on Thursday, June 6. As students left the stage, they were greeted by 19 Faculty and staff from the Faculty of Nursing for hugs, celebrations and wishes for future success.

NURSING WEEK



National Nursing Week was held May 6 - May 12. The Faculty of Nursing featured **Tracey Seguin** (BScN 2012), who is a UWindsor alumna and sessional instructor. Seguin shared her story on how her work ethic and dedication to her community stem from her family roots.

UPCOMING EVENTS

UWINDSOR ALUMNI WEEK 2024

Friday, Sep 20 - Monday, Sep 30
uwindsor.ca/alumni/alumni-week-2024

FACULTY OF NURSING REUNIONS

Class of 1974 - Oct 3 (Windsor)
Class of 1979 - Oct 18 (Port Stanley)
uwindsor.ca/nursing/class-reunions

UWINDSOR NURSING CAREER FAIR

Tuesday, Nov 26, 1-4 p.m.
Vanier Hall, Winclare Room

STAY CONNECTED!

If you would like to share a story, message, or promote an upcoming event, email us at: connectingnursing@uwindsor.ca

FOLLOW US:



VISIT US ONLINE!