

MEDIA RELEASE

London's Dr. Laura Lyons named Regional Family Physician of the Year

LONDON, November 16, 2021 -- Dr. Laura Lyons of London has been named a 2021 Regional Family Physician of the Year by the Ontario College of Family Physicians.

Nominated by their peers, the Regional Family Physician of the Year Award is presented annually to seven family doctors across Ontario who provide exemplary care to their patients and contribute to excellence in family medicine. Dr. Lyons is the award recipient for Erie St. Clair and South West.

"Dr. Laura Lyons is a well-rounded family physician whose clinical work impacts not only her own patient population but many marginalized women in our community," said Dr. Saadia Jan, St. Joseph's Family Medical Centre. "As an effective leader and teacher, learners have benefited greatly from her expertise and hence her clinical work and expertise is constantly being perpetuated in London and beyond our region."

Dr. Lyons exemplifies the vital role family physicians play across Ontario as clinicians, advocates, teachers, and researchers. This award was presented to Dr. Lyons at the OCFP's virtual Awards Ceremony on November 10, 2021. A list of all awardees is posted on [OCFP's website](#).

Influential medical leader and teacher in obstetrics and addiction medicine

A dedicated family physician for over 15 years, Dr. Laura Lyons has been providing comprehensive care to her patients "from cradle to grave." As past Medical Director of St. Joseph's Family Medical Centre and Director of Family Medicine Obstetrics at London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC), her broad scope of practice includes obstetrics, palliative care, addiction medicine and women's health.

Dr. Lyons has had a significant impact on the local medical community as a role model, mentor, and teacher at Western University. According to colleagues, her passion for maternal and newborn care has resulted in the doubling of the number of family medicine obstetrics practitioners in London during her leadership tenure over the last decade. In addition to teaching residents in her academic family practice, she developed a mandatory hands-on obstetrics workshop for post-graduate trainees. Dr. Lyons also established monthly Family Medicine Obstetrics grand rounds within the region to enhance the continuing medical education of family physicians, midwives, and medical learners.

Dr. Lyons is also well regarded regionally and nationally as an expert in the care of pregnant women who are struggling with opioid, substance dependence and addiction. She is the sole local on-call physician for these patients when they go into labour at LHSC, also caring for their newborns beyond discharge in community follow-up. Under her vision and direction, hundreds of pregnant women without their own family physicians have benefitted from an obstetrics clinic at LHSC. This clinic enables these patients, many of whom face socioeconomic challenges, to connect with social supports and community family physicians after giving birth. Dr. Lyons also

spearheaded development of a new policy at LHSC for treating Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome. This innovative approach empowers parents to recognize their baby's behaviours and care for their needs while moving away from traditional pharmacological treatment of withdrawal symptoms.

"As an outstanding educator, Dr. Lyons has inspired many residents to add obstetrics to their family practice and broaden their scope of care," said Dr. Elizabeth Muggah, President, Ontario College of Family Physicians. "Her dedication to advancing women's health and addiction medicine has had a tremendous impact in the London community, and I am delighted to recognize her contributions with this award."

About the Ontario College of Family Physicians

The Ontario College of Family Physicians represents more than 15,000 family physicians across the province. We support our members by providing evidence-based education and professional development, promoting and recognizing leadership excellence in family medicine, and advocating for the vital role family physicians play in delivering the highest quality care to patients and families across Ontario.

-30-

For more information and to schedule an interview:

Karen Archer
Ontario College of Family Physicians
(416) 875-3778
karcher@ocfp.on.ca