

PRESIDENT'S NEW YEARS MESSAGE



This marks the first complete calendar year for the not-for-profit Ontario Long Term Care Clinicians (OLTCC). We are the largest organization in Canada that represents physicians in long term care. Our membership includes nurse practitioners and pharmacists.

The creation of the not-for-profit allows OLTCC to advance the admirable Vision and Mission of the Ontario Long Term Care Physicians (OLTCP), the charitable organization created forty years ago. The Vision of OLTCC is "all Ontarians in long term care will receive excellent care". The OLTCC promotes education, advocacy and engagement. Advocacy for our LTC residents is through dialogue with the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, and other stakeholders in LTC. OLTCP continues as a charity and we are grateful for their support towards our educational endeavors.

Our three-day annual conference, Long Term Care for the Practicing Clinician, is the largest conference for LTC physicians in Canada. The title of this year's conference was Clinical Pearls in Long Term Care. Our attendees seek practical knowledge and skills for long term care. We are the experts in long term care. Over the last couple of years, the Friday program is expanded to provide intensive workshops. This feature will continue at next year's conference.



Practical Pearls in Long Term Care will occur at the Sheraton Centre in Toronto, October 19 – 21, 2018. Members and colleagues contribute through the submission of workshops and poster presentations. Further information for application can be found at our website <http://www.oltcc.ca>

The Medical Director Curriculum will again be offered in 2018. This curriculum covers regulations, leadership, risk management and quality improvement. This MainPro Plus program should interest all long term care medical directors as well as attending physicians. Along with an on-line component, the program will now be four days. Part one is a three day weekend, April 27 – 29. Part two is LTC physicians' quality improvement or IDEAS (Improving and Driving Excellence Across Sectors). This will be held on the pre-conference day, October 19, 2018 of the annual Conference – **Practical Pearls in Long Term Care**.

A couple of significant events will occur in 2018. The Long Term Care Inquiry into the Safety and Security of Residents in the Long Term Care Homes System (LTCI) will occur at the Elgin County Court House in June of 2018. OLTCC made application and representation for Standing or Participation. The Long Term Care Homes Act requires homes to have a Medical Director who is a physician. As the skilled medical providers, OLTCC gives opinion on the role of the physician, staffing, supervision, communication and documentation. We care for the wellbeing of our residents and advocate for their safety.

There will be a provincial election in June. OLTCC will encourage members to engage with MPPs and candidates. Key political action topics will be forthcoming. The LTC sector will grow. OLTCC promotes exposure to LTC for medical students, post-graduate trainees and other health professionals. We encourage better advance care planning over transitions of care. Quality and efficiency can be improved with mobile diagnostics. There needs to be better public education of issues like LTC palliative care, emergency department avoidance, antibiotic stewardship and quality of life in LTC.

The Board of Directors are Drs. Julie Auger (Secretary), Robert Cooper, Louis Kennedy (Vice President), Lorand Kristof (Conference Chair), Philip McGarry, Nancy McKeough, Ross Moncur (Treasurer), Kirsten Mossman, Benoit Robert and Evelyn Williams (Past President) and myself. I am grateful to work with these committed colleagues. In March, there will be strategic planning session. We need to determine where the organization is heading in five and ten years' time.

My wish for the new year is greater member engagement. Please let the office know your interest. We welcome members to join a committee. Our stakeholders, including the Ministry and Health Quality Ontario, are often looking for the input and perspective of physicians. Contact us at office@oltcc.ca.

I join with you in the opportunity for pause and reflection that comes at this time. Our members do good work in the challenging and changing field of long term care. We will continue to work together so that all Ontarians in long term care will receive excellent care.

My best wishes for the holiday season.

Fred Mather, MD
President,
Ontario Long Term Care Clinicians (OLTCC)

