

Burlington Ontario Health Team Invited to Present Innovative Healthcare Programs On the World Stage

Burlington OHT to present on Palliative Care, Senior Care, and Digital Access to Care at the International Conference on Integrated Care 2023

For Immediate Release

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(Burlington, ON) For the second year in a row, the Burlington Ontario Health Team (BOHT) is recognized as a global leader by being invited to present its innovative, co-designed health and social care programs at the International Conference on Integrated Care (ICIC23). This year's event takes place in Antwerp, Belgium on May 22-24, 2023. The largest global conference on integrated care will bring together health professionals, researchers, and patient representatives from around the world who are engaged in the design and delivery of integrated health and social care.

The BOHT will be represented by Dr. Reham Abdelhalim, Population Health Management and Evaluation Lead and Ms. Adeeta Aulakh, BOHT Project Manager.

"It is an honour for our small team to be recognized again this year to present some of our most successful integrated programs on senior care and digital access to care that were co-designed by local health and social care organizations, health professionals as well as patients, families, and caregivers," says Kathy Peters, BOHT Executive Director. "We had the pleasure of presenting at the 2022 conference on co-designed programs that were in the early stages of development. They were so well received by the international audience, we've been invited back to report on our progress and evaluation. We're very proud to represent Burlington and Canada on the world stage and share our collaborative work that is of great interest to other countries."

Under the title of **Working Together - Planning Together: A participatory experience-based co-design approach to build an integrated palliative care model in Ontario, Canada**, Dr. Abdelhalim and Ms. Aulakh will present the BOHT's new journey to create an effective working group to co-design an integrated palliative care model based on identified gaps in this area of care, and best practices to create an implementation plan, implement, evaluate and enhance the plan going forward.

The BOHT is spearheading work in digital navigation among other Ontario Health Teams. This year, the story of co-developing our Burlington Health Navigator app will be shared through a digital poster titled: **The co-development of a mobile navigation app in an integrated care network in Ontario, Canada**. The Burlington Health Navigator is the first community-based navigator app co-designed with patient partners, providers, and community volunteers with lived experiences within the health and social care systems in Ontario. It builds on a framework of hospital-based apps to enhance public access to a broad scope of health and social services. The success of the app helped guide other Ontario Health Teams on a similar digital navigator design journey, and it became the blueprint for a provincial solution.

After sharing an oral presentation in 2022 about the creation of the *Community Wellness Hub* and plans for evaluating its impact, Dr. Abdelhalim and Ms. Aulakh will run a 60-minute workshop this year on **A Practical Guide to Building, Evaluating and Refining a Multi-Sector Community-Based Integrated Care Model for Seniors**. The *Community Wellness Hub* is an alliance of 15 local health and social service providers that coordinate and deliver services to seniors living in affordable housing buildings and surrounding areas. The program identifies and responds to their physical, mental, and social care needs by providing care coordination and access to integrated health, social and wellness services in the community.

About the Burlington Ontario Health Team

The Burlington Ontario Health Team (BOHT) is a collaboration of 36 health and social service providers who work together to provide integrated services and supports to meet the healthcare needs of residents in Burlington and surrounding communities.

As one of the first Ontario Health Teams that the Government of Ontario announced in 2019, the BOHT's goal is to improve timely access to care, integrate service delivery with a focus on disease prevention and early identification, and ensure clients have seamless transitions among healthcare and social service providers. At the centre of this new model of care is the patient-primary care provider, the most enduring relationship established within the healthcare system.

For more information visit www.burlingtonoht.ca

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