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## WHC Ontario Inequities in Gynecology Collaboration - JOIN US!

Please join us for a collaborative discussion about the **future of gynecology** in **Ontario**:

**Date: February 11th, 2025 at 7:30 pm ET (virtual)**

Together we can address **systemic challenges** that continue to impact **equitable access** to healthcare for **women in Ontario**. The [Under Valued – Under Served report](#) is a reference for our discussion. An additional briefing document and agenda will be provided to registered participants.

**To register:** RSVP to [info@TheWHC.ca](mailto:info@TheWHC.ca) with the subject line "Gynecology Inequities Collaboration RSVP"

**Hosted by:**

Dr. Sony Singh, Ottawa Hospital

Dr. Colleen McDermott, Mount Sinai Hospital

Carmen Wyton, Chair, Women's Health Coalition of Canada

Alita Fabiano, Chair, Women's Health Coalition of Ontario

## CALL FOR PATIENT ADVOCATES:

## Women's Health Day at the Alberta Legislature

Do you have a **story** about **navigating your reproductive, sexual, or gynecological health**? If, so, please join us as a **Patient Advocate** for the following event! If you need to travel to Edmonton, we may be able to reimburse your costs.

The WHC-AB is hosting a **full-day event** at the Alberta Legislature Building during **Women's Health Week in May 2025**. Our **Women's Health Day at the Alberta Legislature** will bring together **Ministers** and **Members of the Legislature** with patient advocates, healthcare experts, and decision-makers to learn the latest developments in Alberta healthcare, share personal stories and lived experiences, and to discuss potential solutions to the challenges women in Alberta face in getting the healthcare they need to live well.

If you are interested or have any questions, please email [elaha.niazi@ucalgary.ca](mailto:elaha.niazi@ucalgary.ca)

## Quebec Stakeholder Forum - REGISTER NOW

Join us for the Quebec Stakeholder Forum on:

**February 18th, 2025 at 7 pm ET (virtual)**

This event will mark the start of the Quebec Chapter, and aims to help us gain insight from regional stakeholders (Quebec residents, patients, professionals, champions of women's health) about the barriers and gaps in women's health in Quebec to identify regional advocacy priorities for the WHC of Quebec. Please also support us by sharing this event with your networks in the province!

**REGISTER HERE**

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## New Leadership Team Shout-out



**Danika Kelly**  
Vice Chair, West



**Eamonn O'Connell**  
Director of Marketing and Fund  
Development



**Samantha Kernahan**  
Director of Advocacy and  
Partnerships



**Carly Kutniko**  
Director of Youth and  
Student Council



**Kelly Bennett**  
WHC Alberta-Vice Chair, North



**Dr. Karen Philp**  
WHC Alberta – Director of  
Government Relations



**Lana Rogers**  
WHC Alberta – Director of  
Community Advocacy &  
Partnerships, South



**Sarah Mackie**  
WHC Ontario: Director of Member  
and Volunteer Experiences



**Sanjeet Sandhu**  
WHC Alberta – Director of Alberta  
Leadership Council

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# Options for Sexual Health Announcement



Due to insufficient funding and financial challenges, Options for Sexual Health may be forced to close many of their clinics in British Columbia.

You can help improve their funding by contacting your MLA and urge their support and you can share how your local clinic has impacted you.

Read more of the Open Letter from Options for Sexual Health [HERE](#)

## Recruiting: Organizational Committee Disruption: The Future of Women's Health Global Conference



### Interested in volunteering?

Email our Member and Volunteer Experiences Director, Elaha, at [elaha.niazi@ucalgary.ca](mailto:elaha.niazi@ucalgary.ca)

## Recruiting: WHC Board & Committee Leaders

We are inviting passionate volunteers to join the WHC team to make a difference for women, women's health and gender equity across Canada.

We are currently seeking board members and committee leaders in positions as noted below. Apply today!

- Women's Health Week, Lead
- WHC of BC Board of Directors
- WHC-Ontario: Director of Government Relations
- WHC-Alberta: Vice Chair (North)
- WHC-Alberta: Director of Community Partnership and Advocacy (North)
- Patient Advisory Committee, Co-Director and Committee Members

### Interested in volunteering?

Email our Member and Volunteer Experiences Director, Elaha, at [elaha.niazi@ucalgary.ca](mailto:elaha.niazi@ucalgary.ca)

## Info from our Government Relations Team

### ALBERTA PILOTING AT-HOME HPV TEST IN HOPES OF REDUCING CERVICAL CANCER

CERVICAL CANCER IS ONE OF MANY CANCERS CAUSED BY HPV. THE ALBERTA GOVERNMENT IS WORKING ON A PILOT PROJECT FOR AT-HOME TESTING FOR HPV. THIS TESTING WILL ALLOW FOR THE DETECTION OF PRECANCEROUS LESIONS WHICH WILL HELP WITH THE PREVENTION OF CANCER. THIS TEST ALSO REMOVES BARRIERS FOR THOSE WHO LIVE IN RURAL OR REMOTE AREAS AND THOSE WHO HAVE DIFFICULTY ACCESSING A HEALTHCARE PROVIDER.



[READ MORE](#)

## MORNING SICKNESS DURING PREGNANCY HAS LARGELY REMAINED UNEXPLAINED – UNTIL NOW

RESEARCHER WHO PUBLISHED A STUDY IN THE NATURE JOURNAL IDENTIFIED A PROTEIN CALLED GDF15, THAT IS SECRETED BY THE FETUS, TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MORNING SICKNESS IN PREGNANCY. RESEARCHERS ARE NOW WORKING ON VARIOUS MEDICATIONS TO SAFELY BLOCK THIS PROTEIN AND REDUCE THE EFFECTS OF MORNING SICKNESS.

### GDF15 linked to maternal risk of nausea and vomiting during pregnancy

M. Fazio, N. Rocha, I. Cirino, S. M. Lockhart, C. J. Petro, E. G. Kuo, K. Burlino, P. Barker, A. L. Garcia, N. Yasari, A. Ponnavaithena, S. Dams, E. Casoli, D. Remington, K. Bamboo, D. J. Withers, Y. Cortesin, P. M. Mullin, K. W. MacGibbon, E. Jin, A. Kahn, A. Carnobal, G. Palasik, G. Toones, ... S. O'Rahilly<sup>1</sup>

[+ Show authors](#)

Nature 625, 760–767 (2024) | [Click this article](#)

100k+ Accesses | 2931 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

[READ MORE](#)

## TABOOS IN WOMEN'S HEALTH CAN LIMIT ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE AND CARE

THIS STUDY REVEALED THAT TABOOS IN WOMEN'S HEALTH CAN TAKE A TOLL ON THE MENTAL HEALTH OF WOMEN IN ALBERTA. ADVOCATING FOR INCREASED EDUCATION AND MORE GOVERNMENT FUNDING ON RESEARCH CAN DRIVE NEW PATHWAYS TO CARE



[READ MORE](#)

Did you know January was **Cervical Cancer Awareness Month**?

Cervical cancer is **preventable**, yet alarmingly, it's becoming increasingly **prevalent among Canadian women**. In fact, Canadian Cancer Statistics in 2023 identified cervical cancer as the **fastest-growing cancer for women in Canada**. Let's work together to change this. Take control of your health and **book an in-person comprehensive screening** - the **most effective** method for **identifying** potential abnormalities that could lead to cervical cancer. Let's also **encourage** the women in our lives to also prioritize their health and schedule their screenings so we can reverse this trend and **eliminate** cervical cancer together.

## WEBINAR: From Pap Tests to Self-Sampling: The Future of Women's Health with Dr. Roni Kraut

If you missed this informative webinar, WHC members will be able to access it on our website in the Members Area soon.

Stay tuned!

Produced in partnership with **Roche Canada**.

## WHC Report - Cervical Cancer Prevention

Have you read our November 2024 report on Cervical Cancer Prevention? Discover how **HPV testing and self-sampling** can revolutionize cervical cancer prevention in our latest report by Claudia Turco.

Read this report—and explore our past reports—under the **Advocacy** tab on website.


[Click here to read!](#)

## New Podcast Episodes Out Now!

Did you know the WHC has a podcast? Tune in to [Women's Health Wednesdays](#), where we connect with experts and advocates in the women's health space!

Catch our latest episodes on **Spotify, Anchor, and Amazon Music**:

- 1) Let's Talk about Period Pain in Teens - It Doesn't Have to Hurt! with Dr. Kristina Arion and Zeba Khan
- 2) 5 P's of Patient Sexual Histories for Medical Professionals, with Diana Wark and Nolan Hill

Hit play and join the conversation!    
[#WomensHealthWednesdays](#)

**Are you following the WHC on social media?  
Click the icons below to follow us for more women's  
health + WHC content!**



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