

Board approves Chief of Medical Staff appointment

The board of West Parry Sound Health Centre has unanimously approved the appointment of Dr. Wil Smith to serve as the health centre's new Chief of Medical Staff. The board voted on a recommendation received from the Chief of Medical Staff Search Committee during its meeting on November 9. The committee included seven members of the local medical community; the health centre's CEO Donald Sanderson and Chief Nursing Officer Deborah Randall-Wood; and was chaired by WPSHC board vice-chair Marcella Sholdice.

Dr. Smith, lead anesthetist and immediate-past President of Medical Staff at WPSHC, replaces Dr. Terence Fargher who served as Chief of Medical Staff for 10 years and announced his retirement from the position in June. Dr. Fargher continues to care for patients in his clinic at WPSHC.

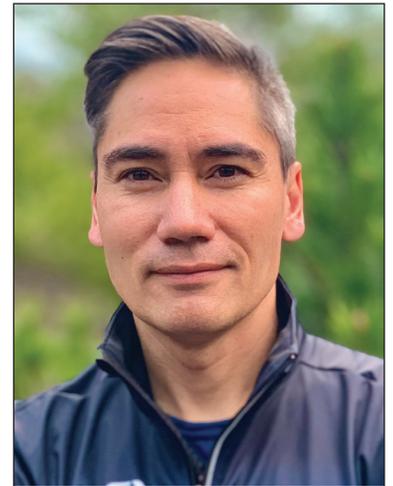
"The board is honoured to appoint Dr. Smith as the health centre's new Chief of Medical Staff," said WPSHC Board Chair Kevin Fuchs. "Dr. Smith has provided years of exemplary leadership within the health centre and at our board table. Most recently he has helped to lead our pandemic response while also serving as our acting Chief of Medical Staff. He brings important knowledge to our governance team where he actively participates in our deliberations. We are thankful to members of our physician community, and all others, who actively supported our search for a new Chief of Medical Staff."

In addition to their work as physicians, medical leaders - chiefs of medical staff and presidents of medical staff - are legislatively required in Ontario to serve on hospital boards as non-voting members.

Dr. Smith is a medical graduate of Dalhousie University and he has practised at WPSHC since 2010. Since 2017 he has served as the Chief Medical Information Officer, playing a critical role in development and launch of the health centre's electronic health information system in partnership with other hospitals in northeastern Ontario.

Many members of the community will be familiar with Dr. Smith's outdoor interests, particularly his athletic enthusiasm for the Georgian Nordic Activity Centre where he currently serves as president and as a very active trail builder. Dr. Smith is an avid cyclist (road and off-road), open-water sailor, runner, nordic skier, and a former world-class competitor in the sports of orienteering and cross triathlon. He is a proponent for creating and sustaining healthy communities as evidenced by his strong support for Active Transportation and a community pool and wellness centre for West Parry Sound.

"Speaking on behalf of my colleagues, we all extend our heartfelt thanks to Dr. Fargher for his incredible decade of contributions as Chief of Medical Staff," said Dr. Smith. "We will all have to work collaboratively over the coming years, to continue to build on the progress that he has initiated."



WPSHC Chief of Medical Staff
Dr. Wil Smith

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