

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – OPEN MEETING – VIDEOCONFERENCE CALL

Date: Thursday, June 25, 2020
 Time: 1100 – 1245 hours – Regular KHSC Board Meeting
 1250 – 1255 hours – Annual General Meeting of the Corporation
 1255 - 1300 hours – Special KHSC Board Meeting
 Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/95903797971> Audio Number: 1-855-344-7722 7673253#

Start	Time	Item	Topic	Lead	Purpose	Attachment
1.0 CALL TO ORDER, CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM, CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS & APPROVAL OF AGENDA						
1100	5 min	1.1	Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum, Conflict of Interest Declarations	O'Toole	Inform	Verbal
		1.2	Consent Agenda Items a) Approval of Minutes: April 22, 2020 b) BPSAA Compliance Report Attestation c) Quarterly Performance Report: Q4 Update	O'Toole	Decision	Draft agenda
		1.3	Approval of Open Agenda	O'Toole	Decision	Draft minutes
2.0 PATIENT & FAMILY CENTRED CARE						
3.0 KEY DECISIONS/ELECTRONIC VOTE RESULTS						
1105	10 min	3.1	Acceptance of the Audited Financial Statements	Thesberg	Decision	Briefing note + draft financials
1115	5 min	3.2	Appointment of the Auditors for Fiscal 2020-21	O'Toole	Decision	Briefing note
1120	5 min	3.3	2020-21 Board & Committee Master Schedule	Hunter/Jones	Decision	Briefing note to follow @ mtg
1125	5 min	3.4	2020-21 Board Committee Compositions	Hunter/Jones	Decision	Briefing note to follow @ mtg
4.0 REPORTING & PRESENTATIONS						
1130	10 min	4.1	KHSC President & CEO + External Environment Update • COVID-19 update	Pichora	Discuss	Written report
1140	5 min	4.2	Medical Advisory Committee/Chief of Staff Report – May & June MAC meetings	Fitzpatrick	Discuss	Written report to follow
5.0 IN-CAMERA SEGMENT (Members of the Public/Guests depart meeting)						
1145		5.1	Motion to Move In-Camera	O'Toole	Inform	Verbal
8.0 REPORT ON IN-CAMERA MATTERS						
1250		8.1	Motion to Report on Decisions Approved In-Camera	O'Toole	Inform	Verbal
		8.2	Date of Next Meeting & Termination			

BOARD OF DIRECTORS OPEN MEETING: JUNE 25, 2020

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Kingston Health Sciences Centre was held by video-conference on Thursday, June 25, 2020 from 1100 to 1250 hours. For staff members attending in person, the meeting was held at the HDH site in the Henderson Board Room, Sydenham 2. The Board Chair and Secretary determined, in advance of the meeting, that it was important to hold the meeting by videoconference in light of the government's directives for self-isolation and social distancing in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The following are the open minutes.

Elected Members Present by videoconference (voting): Alan Cosford, Anne Desgagnes, Brenda Hunter, Michele Lawford, Emily Leslie, Sherri McCullough, David O'Toole (Chair), David Pattenden, Axel Thesberg and Sandy Wilson.

Ex-officio Members Present by phone (voting): Dr. Richard Reznick.

Ex-officio Members Present (non-voting): Dr. Peggy DeJong, Dr. Mike Fitzpatrick, Mike McDonald and Dr. David Pichora.

Regrets: Cheryl Doornekamp and Glenn Vollebregt.

Administrative Staff by videoconference: Amit Bansal, Sandra Carlton, Val Gamache-O'Leary, Chris Gillies, Renate Ilse, Steve Smith and Krista Wells Pearce.

Administrative Staff in person: Rhonda Abson (Recording Secretary), Elizabeth Bardon, Troy Jones and Renate Ilse.

1.0 CALL TO ORDER, CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM, CONSENT & AGENDA APPROVALS

1.1 Call to Order, Confirmation of Quorum, Conflict of Interest Declarations

David O'Toole called the meeting to order and confirmed that all board members participating by video-conference and phone were able to hear the proceedings. Roll call was completed and the Secretary confirmed quorum.

Axel Thesberg declared a conflict of interest relating to agenda item #3.2 on the open agenda and his affiliation with KPMG as a retired partner from the firm was noted; David O'Toole agreed to bring forward the recommendation from the People, Finance and Audit Committee regarding the appointment of the auditors.

The Chair recognized the contributions of Dr. Peggy DeJong who has served on the KHSC Board in her capacity as President of the Medical Staff Association. Dr. DeJong will be completing her term on July 1, 2020

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when the Board welcome Dr. Sonal Varma as the newly elected President. David O'Toole also confirmed that today's meeting would be the last one for Dr. Richard Reznick as the representative of the Principal as he completes his term as Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Another important date is the Rose of Hope Golf Tournament scheduled to take place on July 28, 2020 at the Catarauqui Golf Club. Sherri McCullough described the challenges being faced by the organizing committee this year in response to COVID-19. This year's target will focus on taking the funds raised to-date over the \$2M mark for the lifetime of the tournament.

1.2 Consent Agenda Items

In advance of the meeting, the following items were provided as part of the consent agenda:

- Approval of Minutes: April 22, 2020
- BPSAA Compliance Report Attestation
- Quarterly Performance Report: Q4 Update

Moved by Richard Reznick, seconded by Brenda Hunter:

THAT the consent agenda be approved as circulated.

CARRIED

1.2 Approval of Agenda

On Monday, June 22, 2020 the open agenda and supporting materials were circulated to board members. It was agreed that agenda item #3.4 – 2020-21 Board Committee Compositions would be moved and form part of in-camera agenda item #7.2 – 2020-21 KHSC Board Slate and Brenda Hunter, Chair of the Governance Committee, will be delivering a presentation in support of this item. The Chair invited a motion to amend the agenda.

Moved by David Pattenden, seconded by Axel Thesberg:

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

2.0 PATIENT & FAMILY CENTRED CARE – no agenda items identified.

3.0 KEY DECISIONS

3.1 Acceptance of the Audited Financial Statements

The draft audited financial statements for the period ending March 31, 2020, were circulated to the Board along with the management discussion and analysis report. Axel Thesberg, Chair of the People, Finance and Audit

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Committee, provided a summary of discussion points leading from the committee meeting held prior to the Board meeting. Committee members appreciate the many challenges staff and the auditors faced in completing their work in light of COVID-19 activities. While the audit was delayed by several weeks, the committee commends the staff for their efforts and the additional reporting that was required. Axel Thesberg drew particular attention to the Note 20 accompanying the draft statements pertaining to COVID-19 as well Note 5, Capital Assets, noting a slight adjustment will be made in terms of how the information was presented regarding the redevelopment project. The committee discussed revenue impact associated with reduced procedures going forward and there were no concerns associated with the annual review of the CEO and COS expense reports. The auditors confirmed with the committee an unqualified audit report for the year ending March 31, 2020.

Moved by Axel Thesberg, seconded by David Pattenden:

THAT, as recommended by the People, Finance and Audit Committee, the draft audited financial statements and accompanying notes to the statements and the related unaudited management discussion and analysis report for the year ended March 31, 2020 be approved.

CARRIED

3.2 Appointment of the Auditors for Fiscal 2021

The Chair drew attention to the recommendation of the People, Finance and Audit Committee regarding the appointment of the auditors.

Moved by David O'Toole, seconded by Sherri McCullough:

THAT, as recommended by the People, Finance and Audit Committee, the approves the reappointment of KPMG as the hospital's auditors for Fiscal 2021.

CARRIED

3.3 2020-21 Board & Committee Master Schedule

Prior to the meeting, the Governance Committee discussed the proposed 2020-21 board and committee meeting schedule. A briefing note describing the process in preparing this year's schedule including an outline of the changes from the 2019-20 meeting schedule was also circulated in the Board package. Brenda Hunter, Chair of the Governance Committee, highlighted a significant change with all committee meetings being sequenced on Mondays with the Patient Care and Quality Committee from 830 – 1030; the Governance Committee from 1100 – 1300; and the People, Finance and Audit Committee from 1330 – 1530 hours. Committee meetings would be held in September, November, early March, April and May. The Governance Committee recognizes the challenge that committee chairs have faced trying to cover agendas in the 2 hour timeframe. Brenda Hunter noted that this may result in additional committee meetings during the 2020-21 year.

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Attention was also drawn to the Board's schedule and the fact that the board tours have not been included in the schedule along with the annual board dinner which is usually held in the fall. It was also noted that the proposed schedule may also be a challenge for the President and Vice President of the Medical Staff Association when committee meetings are held during the day due to clinical commitments.

Moved by Brenda Hunter, seconded by David Pattenden:

THAT, as recommended by the Governance Committee, the KHSC Board of Directors' adopt the 2020-21 KHSC Board and committee schedule with an appreciation that adjustments may be required during the year.

CARRIED

3.4 2020-21 Board Committee Compositions

As approved earlier in the meeting, the 2020-21 board committee compositions will be discussed under in-camera agenda item #7.2 when the board slate recommendation is presented.

4.0 REPORTING & PRESENTATIONS

4.1 KHSC President and CEO + External Environment Update

The written report of the President and CEO was pre-circulated to members with the agenda materials. The first order of business is to recognize the tremendous contributions of Dr. Richard Reznick and his service to the legacy Boards of KGH and HDH as well as the KHSC Board over the last 10 years. Dr. Reznick's leadership has and will continue to have significant impact within the Faculty of Health Sciences and the University. He has strengthened the relationships between the three schools within the Faculty of Health Sciences (Medicine, Nursing and Rehabilitation Therapy) and was an advocate for bringing the legacy hospital corporations together to form the Kingston Health Sciences Centre. David Pichora described Dean Reznick's focus to always make things better, his resilience and persistence on issues, and never-ending optimism resulted in many significant achievements during his tenure as outlined in the written CEO report. David Pichora extended best wishes from the KHSC executive team to Richard and Cheryl Reznick on their next adventures. On behalf of the KHSC Board of Directors, Chair O'Toole expressed the Board's best wishes and thanked the Dean for the opportunity to work with him. In recognition of his service, David O'Toole and David Pichora virtually presented Dr. Reznick with a framed picture depicting the Sydenham Street entrance at HDH and the Watkins old main entrance of KGH along with a photograph of the plaque that was unveiled in City Park to recognition the hospital integration back in April 2017. The inscription on the framed gift read: *Presented to Dr. Richard Reznick in recognition of his service as a Board member of Hotel Dieu and Kingston General Hospitals and subsequently Kingston Health Sciences Centre. As a Board member he offered his sage counsel to our hospitals and was a valued partner, respected leader, and a champion of integration. June 2020*"

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Dr. Reznick thanked members of the Board and KHSC executive team for their support and kind words. He expressed his pride in the work that the two legacy hospital corporations completed to support the creation of the Kingston Health Sciences Centre and encouraged David Pichora to be proud of all that has been accomplished under his leadership as CEO of the new enterprise. To the Board, he encouraged members to always remember the caring that goes on at both institutions. The clinical care and academic commitment are significant and the partnership with the Southeastern Ontario Academic Organization (SEAMO) so important. The joint positions that are shared exemplifies the partnership that exists between the University and the hospitals. In closing, the four key elements Dean Reznick shared: the great staff and remarkable clinical teams of KHSC; a great executive team and how much they care; a CEO that will be a life-long friend; and what a privilege it has been for him to work with a Board that has accomplished so much.

Moved by David O'Toole, seconded by Sherri McCullough:

THAT, on behalf of the Board of Directors of the Kingston Health Sciences Centre, deep appreciation is extended to Dr. Richard Reznick for his contributions to the hospitals, the University and the community as Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at Queen's University, and best wishes in the future and for many years to come.

UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED

The Chair requested a future update to the Board on KHSC's backlog in clinical procedures identifying the challenges that senior team members are facing in ramping services back up. Dr. David Pichora reported that emergency and urgent procedures continue, i.e. cancer and cardiac and that other programs such as elective plastics, some orthopedic procedures, have been ramped down with the exception of emergencies. The waiting lists are growing and eliminating the backlog will be challenging. Dr. Pichora explained that a plan will be ready and in place when the government provides direction to bring service levels back up. KHSC awaits further guidelines and direction from government regarding the ramp-up plan. At provincial and local planning tables, leaders are focused on preparations for wave 2 and work continues on plans to support overflow capacity at the Invista Centre. Dr. Pichora also noted that further direction to guide public health agencies in supporting long-term care homes expected as well.

Appended to the CEO report was a copy of Infrastructure Ontario's Spring 2020 P3 Market Update showing KHSC-KGH site as the first redevelopment project on the list. The CEO noted that timelines associated with the redevelopment project will require adjustment due to COVID-19 activities. Discussion focused on the implications for space planning and impact on physical premises post-COVID-19. How will virtual technologies change the way care is delivered? What are the opportunities for ambulatory care clinics?

An announcement of a new supervisor for the KFL&A Addictions Mental Health Services is expected as Karen Berti completes her term. David Pichora reported that meetings with local MPPs Ian Arthur and Daryl Kramp are being arranged over the summer.

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Earlier today, radio stations Pure Country 99 and 98.3 FLY FM hosted a Stream-A-Thon in support of the University Hospitals Kingston Foundation to benefit KHSC and Providence Care. A number of KHSC leaders were interviewed during the 4-hour event.

Regarding the execution of the Hospital Services Accountability Agreement between KHSC and government, KHSC will be discussing next steps with the OHA and legal counsel as some of the conditions are not realistic in response to COVID-19 pandemic planning.

4.2 Medical Advisory Committee/Chief of Staff Report – May and June MAC Meetings

Dr. Michael Fitzpatrick drew attention to this written report that was circulated to the Board on June 24, 2020. At recent MAC meetings, members were briefed on the Q4 critical incident report, a number of new medical directives, an update by the Physician Quality Committee Report was provided, as well as discussions around post-COVID clinical activity ramp up.

On behalf of the MAC membership, Dr. Fitzpatrick recognized the support of Dr. Richard Reznick and his tremendous support over the years. In particular, Dr. Fitzpatrick highlighted the Dean's ability to bring groups together across the continuum of care and his leadership in the development of an accountability framework for the physician leadership.

5.0 IN-CAMERA SEGMENT

5.1 Motion to Move In-Camera

The Chair invited a motion to go in-camera and for executive committee members to attend the session.

Moved by Alan Cosford, seconded by Sherri McCullough:

THAT the Board move into an in-camera session.

CARRIED

8.0 REPORT ON IN-CAMERA MATTERS

8.1 Motion to Report the Decisions Approved In-Camera

The Chair reported on the following in-camera decision/discussion items:

- The board approved the closed minutes of the March and April 2020 Board in-camera minutes;
- The Board approved the draft minutes of the May 22, 2020 governance committee meeting;
- The board approved appointments and reappointments to the medical, midwifery, RN extended class staff, and housestaff;
- The Board received the Q4 patient feedback report

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- The Board endorsed the annual compliance report to the Partnership Council;
- The Board endorsed a series of motions with respect to the board slate, officer appointments, board committee appointments and committee chair appointments;
- The Board received the Q4 quarterly patient safety and quality report;
- The Board received a presentation on KHSC's quality of care review practices;
- The Board completed the CEO and COS performance evaluations;
- The Board approved a recommendation regarding pay for performance for 2019-20; and
- The Board endorsed a recommendation regarding the approach to the 2020-21 performance and evaluation framework for the CEO and COS.

8.2 Date of Next Meeting & Termination

The date of the next KHSC Board meeting is Thursday, August 27, 2020 starting at 1100 hours with a Board planning session followed by a regular Board meeting/summer update. The meeting terminated at 1250 hours on motion of Alan Cosford.

David O'Toole
Chair

Briefing Note

Topic of Report:	CEO REPORT	For Decision
Submitted to:	Board of Directors	For Discussion X
Submitted by:	Dr. David R. Pichora, President and CEO	For Information
Date submitted:	June 17, 2020	

Background

This note provides an update on activities at the HDH and KGH sites that relate to our mission and annual corporate plan since the April Board meeting. As always, I welcome feedback and suggestions in terms of content and focus for these regular updates.

Current State

1. Recognizing Dr. Richard Reznick, Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences

As we know, Richard will be completing his term as the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences and Chief Executive Officer of SEAMO later this month and I wanted to take this opportunity to recognize his many accomplishments over the past decade. Under Richard's leadership, Queen's is now recognized as a national leader in competency-based medical education and the Faculty is now teaching over the entire province with partnerships at 22 hospitals and hundreds of clinics and community centres in Ontario. With over 1,400 research studies in progress, there are now over 15 research units on campus with over \$134M in research funding.

As CEO of SEAMO, he has led the organization to deliver on a number of projects this past year including a redesign of the SEAMO accountability framework; the development of a 3-Year HHR Plan supporting the recruitment of 70+ new positions to this Centre; support for the Innovation Fund which saw the distribution of over \$650,000 to 9 projects; the Medical Education Fund awarded 8 bursaries valued at \$120,000; SEAMO also organized the inaugural physician wellness event; as well as welcoming 41 new physicians to Kingston, Queen's and KHSC.

With his support and encouragement, the two hospital corporations (Hotel Dieu and Kingston General) came together as a single entity on April 1, 2017 as the Kingston Health Sciences Centre. He was a champion of integration, offering his sage counsel as a board member of both hospitals and to me personally. Working together, we are now ready to launch the next phase of redevelopment at the KGH site which will require the support of the University – and Richard was there to ensure that the project stayed at the forefront of conversations and required decisions at Queen's.

It has been my absolute pleasure to collaborate and work alongside Richard – a valued partner and well respected colleague and leader. The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and its members are extremely fortunate in having selected him to lead the College in future. I wish him and his wife Cheryl all the best in their next adventures.

2. KHSC Redevelopment Project – KGH Site

The government has reaffirmed its commitment to moving forward infrastructure projects across the province. Listed in the Spring 2020 P3 Market Update – KHSC – KGH project (report attached).

3. Ontario Appoints Special Advisor to Develop Health Data Platform

Dr. Jane Philpott has been appointed a special advisor to support the design and implementation of the new Ontario Health Data Platform. This data platform will provide recognized researchers and health system partners with access to anonymized health data that will allow them to better detect, plan, and respond to COVID-19. The Ontario Health Data Platform is being developed in consultation with the Ontario Privacy Commissioner. The information gathered will help break down long-standing barriers and allow researchers to help with:

- Increasing detection of COVID-19;
- Discovering risk factors for vulnerable populations;
- Predicting when and where outbreaks may happen;
- Evaluating how preventative and treatment measures are working; and
- Identifying where to allocate equipment and other resources.

4. Canada's Role to Support Developing Countries During Pandemic

The Prime Minister continues to signal Canada's support to partner with developing countries to help their governments survive the COVID-19 pandemic. The United Nations estimates that the pandemic could remove nearly \$8.5 trillion from the world economy over the next two-years forcing 34 million people into extreme poverty with potentially 130 million more over the course of the decade.

While no country has escaped the economic ravages of the deadly novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19, developing countries, already in debt distress before the pandemic, cannot afford the kinds of emergency benefits and economic stimulus measures undertaken in wealthy, industrialized countries like Canada.

5. COVID-19 Pandemic Planning Updates at KHSC

Appreciate that MAC members receive regular updates on a variety of sources in terms of operational preparedness at KHSC. The following is a brief summary of what is happening at the provincial and local planning tables that KHSC is participating on. The Ontario government has extended Emergency Orders to June 30, 2020.

Provincial Planning table: led by Matt Anderson, CEO of Ontario Health, the provincial table continues to provide direction to the regional planning tables on a variety of issues. The Health Command table continues to deploy rapid supports to long-term care homes. The government has announced the transfer of the management of several long-term care homes to hospitals in the last several weeks. On May 29, the government announced the expansion of the next phase of testing as well as case management and contact tracing. A new Emergency Order on pandemic pay was issued on May 30 which restricts the scope of pandemic pay to be applicable to only eligible workplaces and employees as defined by the government.

The government has announced a new **case and contact management strategy** to test, trace and isolate cases of COVID-19. The government's enhanced strategy focuses on strengthening and standardizing case and contact management by ensuring that all new cases and their close contacts are identified early, contacted quickly, investigated and are followed up daily for up to 14 days. The strategy also supports public health units with up to 1,700 additional staff from Statistics Canada. The strategy also includes improving technology tools by modernizing the integrated Public Health Information System through the implementation of a new custom-built COVID-19 case and contact management system. And the government will be launching a voluntary App to alert Ontarians when they have been exposed to COVID-19.

Ontario Health has developed new recommendations on the use of **multi-bed ward rooms and patient placement in ward rooms** as hospital plan for ramping up scheduled surgical and procedures work. The recommendations have been adapted for the provincial context and provide guidance on physical and spatial infection prevention and control measures that should be implemented in a progressive manner with the goals of ensuring the safety and protection of staff and health care workers. The recommendations include:

- Maximizing the number of private and semi-private rooms with dedicated washrooms
- Wherever possible, four-bed rooms should only be occupied by two patients
- Additional private/semi-private space should be explored for additional capacity
- With the guidance of hospital IPAC programs, patients who are infected with the same organism may be placed in multi-bed ward rooms
- Monitor patient flow, emergency department capacity and access to care for non-COVID activity before utilizing multi-bed ward rooms
- If multi-bed ward rooms are necessary, enhancements to IPAC standards should be considered.

East Planning table: led by Renato Discenza, I continue to participate on the Tuesday/Thursday planning calls for the east region. Recent meetings continue and the focus has been on operational readiness checklist and ramp up surgical and procedures plans locally and across the region. This forum provides us with an opportunity to seek clarification, obtain additional information, and provide input into a number of the provincial planning initiatives.

SE Leads Planning table: Cynthia Martineau from the SE LHIN and I continue to co-lead a table comprised of a that includes critical care, infection control, emergency medicine, bioethics labs and diagnostics, public health, pharmacy, tertiary/non-urgent services, and hospital operations and assessment centres. A local and regional hospital CEOs table is also in place to address issues that arise from the lead tables.

6. Innovative Research Advancing Understanding of COVID-19

The Southeastern Ontario Medical Organization is funding six new projects to help fight the global pandemic. Modifying existing antiviral drugs for better outcomes and revealing the mechanisms of a mysterious blood clotting syndrome are among six new COVID-19 research projects being pursued by researchers and clinician scientists at Kingston Health Sciences Centre (KHSC), Kingston General Health Research Institute (KGHRI), and Queen's University. The research is supported by funding totalling \$670,000 from the SEAMO.

The list of funded projects is below:

Stephen Archer and Victor Snieckus - Synthesis and preclinical testing of novel small molecule therapies for COVID-19

Currently no drugs have been proven effective in randomized clinical trials for treating the severe respiratory effects of COVID-19. Drs. Archer (Medicine) and Snieckus (Chemistry) are confronting this challenge on two fronts. Firstly, they will modify existing antiviral drugs to improve their metabolism and efficiency and reduce their toxic side effects. On a second front they have identified that SARS-CoV-2 kills cells and may impair oxygen sensing by damaging mitochondria in lung cells. They will explore a novel mitochondrial pathway to combat the "happy hypoxemia" (low oxygen without appropriate shortness of breath), which characterizes COVID-19 pneumonia, and to prevent cell death by protecting mitochondria from SARS-CoV-2. Sussex Research Inc. (Ottawa) is collaborating in the antiviral drug synthetic work and dissemination of the results.

Paula James and David Lillicrap - Coagulopathy: Understanding and Treating a Novel Entity

Drs. James (Medicine) and Lillicrap (Pathology and Molecular Medicine), leading researchers in clinical and molecular hemostasis, are studying the links between COVID-19 coagulopathy, an unexplained and potentially fatal blood-clotting syndrome associated with SARS-CoV-2, and von Willebrand Factor (VWF), a blood clotting protein. They are collaborating with researchers at St. Michael's Hospital (Toronto) and Vermont Medical Center who are studying the effects of the blood thinner heparin on COVID-19, which has been shown in preliminary research to help these patients. The role of VWF in this disorder has not yet been studied, and the KHSC and KGHRI researchers aim to gain better understanding of the mechanisms of VWF in COVID-19 coagulopathy, potentially leading to the development of new treatments.

David Maslove and Michael Rauh - COVID-19 and the Genetics of Mortality in Critical Care

Drs. Maslove (Medicine) and Rauh (Pathology and Molecular Medicine) are part of an international genetics study examining why some patients are affected more severely by COVID-19 than others. They will be looking at the genomes of patients admitted to intensive care units across Ontario and then comparing them to those of a healthy control population. Using advanced computing techniques, they will be able to look at hundreds of thousands of subtle genetic variations across the population, to determine which of these are associated with outcomes. Knowing more about these variations will lead to new strategies for fighting the virus.

Martin Petkovich, Jacob Rullo and Martin tenHove - Coronavirus infection of the ocular mucosa to model infection and systemic immunity

Drs. ten Hove (Ophthalmology), Rullo (Ophthalmology), and Petkovich (Biomedical & Molecular Sciences) are studying local and systemic immune responses to SARS-CoV-2 infection using a physiological model that will examine how the virus infects the mucosal layer of the eyes. They will also determine the efficacy of administering a vaccination via this route to see if it generates systemic immunity against coronaviruses, and then use these results to study how the disease progresses in vaccinated and non-vaccinated models.

Robert Siemens and Charles Graham - The Role of BCG-induced innate immune memory in the protection against coronavirus. Countries that use the vaccine Bacillus Calmette Guerin (BCG) to prevent tuberculosis show lower rates of coronavirus infection than those who do not. Intriguingly, this vaccine has also been used to successfully treat bladder cancer. Drs. Siemens (Urology) and Graham (Biomedical & Molecular Sciences) believe that BCG enhances the body's innate immune system. Their research aims to understand the immune-system mechanisms that lead to these protective benefits, and whether this vaccine could be used to protect against SARS-CoV-2, the coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

Stephen Vanner and Premeet Sheth - The application of metabolomics to enhance detection of COVID-19 and predict disease severity: A proof-of-principle study

Drs. Vanner (Gastrointestinal Diseases Research Unit) and Sheth (Pathology and Molecular Medicine) will use specialized mass spectrometry to study the metabolites found in nasopharyngeal (upper throat) samples of COVID-19. Their aim is to identify the unique signature of these tiny molecules, compared to other causes of respiratory infections such as the common cold.

This metabolomic signature holds promise as a more sensitive, rapid and accurate identifier and predictor of the severity of the disease than current methods. It will also enable future studies on COVID-19 detection, prediction of disease severity, and virus identification in asymptomatic individuals.

These projects are examples of research confronting COVID-19 being undertaken within the Kingston and Queen's community. The Vice-Principal (Research) also recently announced the first round of results for the Rapid Response competition, fund and support research projects that will contribute to the development, testing, and implementation of medical or social countermeasures to mitigate the rapid spread of COVID-19.

7. Ontario Hospital Association – New Hospital Finances Advisory Panel

The OHA recently announced the creation of a new panel, chaired by OHA Board Chair Altaf Stationwala, with the first meeting taking place on Friday, June 5. COVID-19 will continue to present extraordinary challenges for hospitals and timely financial support will be critical to ensure the sustainability of hospitals and the health system through this time. The new panel will provide advice to the OHA on matters concerning hospital financial stability and potential changes to funding methodologies. Represented on the panel are the CFOs with the University Health Network, Trillium Health Partners, St. Joseph's Healthcare in London and Unity Health Toronto and the CEOs from Health Sciences North, Almonte General and Carleton Place Memorial Hospital, Sinai Health System in Toronto.

8. Out of Country Travel Restriction Reminders for KHSC Staff

While I appreciate that members of the MAC receive Incident Command's regular COVID-19 updates, I wanted to draw attention to this in my report as the province has recently announced that health care workers who return to work and who have traveled outside the province within the last 14 days can continue to work with specific precautions if they are critical to operations. As you know, this new requirement has also been built into the screening questions and it applies to all staff, physicians, residents, learners and volunteers, along with vendors and contractors.

As we all get ready for summer vacations, we want to ensure that everyone understands these new requirements. If a member of your department answers 'yes' to the question 'have you traveled outside of Canada in the last 14 days' – the individual will be provided with a mask and instructed to notify their manager of the travel history; report for work under "work isolation" precautions (wearing a mask at all times); self monitor for the onset of symptoms including twice daily temperature checks for 14 days after returning to Ontario. If symptoms develop, staff must promptly remove themselves from their work area and notify Occupational Health, Safety and Wellness.

An email to: COVIDrtwadjudication@kingstonhsc.ca to provide the following additional travel information will be required:

- Date and location of travel
- Details of activities (e.g. public/group settings, any PPE worn, practices followed, proximity to known COVID-19 cases)
- Unit/department and manager's name
- Contact number

9. Media Report

The Q4 media report is appended.

Respectfully submitted



David R. Pichora
President and CEO