



NEWS RELEASE

From Halton Healthcare

For Immediate Release

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Halton Healthcare Hosts Staff Event to Share Emotional, Social and Ethical Challenges Faced by Healthcare Workers

Halton Healthcare is one of the first community hospitals in Canada to host 'Schwartz Rounds' for its staff and physicians on the topic of *'The Impact of Patient Death: How to Move Forward'*. Hosted earlier this month, the Rounds were delivered in a panel discussion format.

The Rounds provide a multidisciplinary forum where caregivers discuss difficult emotional and social issues that arise in caring for patients. The Schwartz Centre for Compassionate Healthcare is leading the movement to bring compassion to every patient-caregiver interaction with the goal of improving caregiver-patient relationships. Schwartz Rounds were developed by the Boston-based Schwartz Centre and have been implemented in over 500 organizations throughout the world.

"Healthcare is demanding work that can have an impact on staff well-being. When it comes to caring for our patients, we are guided by our values of compassion, accountability and respect in all we do," said Denise Hardenne, President and CEO, Halton Healthcare. "We are pleased that staff who attended the first Round indicated that it helped them to feel more open in expressing their thoughts and feelings with their colleagues which in turn helps us to be more empathetic and understanding toward both our patients and co-workers," she said.

"We had a great turnout with 175 Allied Health staff, physicians, nurses and non-clinical staff in attendance," said Dr. Stephen Chin, Chief of Hospital Medicine, Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital and co-chair of the organizing committee. "These Rounds were made possible through Halton Healthcare's innovation grants program with support from our Kailo wellness program and Oakville's hospitalist physicians. We are now working on hosting future Rounds within our two other community hospitals," he added.

Halton Healthcare's Kailo wellness program helps to support the well-being of staff, physicians and volunteers while embracing a body, mind and spirit approach to health.

"Our wellness program offers a number of programs and services to help reduce stress and maintain good health," said Louisa Nedkov, Kailo lead and co-chair of the organizing committee. "The Rounds provide an opportunity to share similar experiences internally, encourage difficult conversations about real challenges in a safe environment and improve our connections for our collective health and wellness."

The next Schwartz Rounds are scheduled in December 2018.

About Halton Healthcare's Innovation Grants Program

- Halton Healthcare has made 'Innovation' one of its three key strategic priorities as outlined in its strategic plan *Pathway 2020*. An Innovation Fund has been established to support innovation within our organization. The grants are intended to support our shared vision of providing "Exemplary patient experiences, always" while demonstrating our *Transformation Through Innovation*.

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About Halton Healthcare:

Halton Healthcare is a healthcare organization comprised of three community hospitals - Georgetown Hospital, Milton District Hospital and Oakville Trafalgar Memorial Hospital and several community programs and services including: Burlington Dialysis Centre, Oakville Hospital Footcare & Orthotic Centre, Georgetown Diabetes Program, one-Link, and North Halton Mental Health Clinics. Together we provide healthcare services to nearly 400,000 residents in the communities of Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville. Halton Healthcare has been recognized for its best practices in a number of patient safety and patient care initiatives.

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