



May 27, 2010
For Immediate Release

UWO Medical Students to Visit STEGH

St. Thomas, ON – The St. Thomas Elgin General Hospital (STEGH) and the St. Thomas Elgin Health Recruitment Partnership are pleased to host eight first-year undergraduate medical students from the Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry from May 31-June 3, 2010.

Coordinated by the South Western Ontario Medical Educational Network (SWOMEN) at the University of Western Ontario, Rural Discovery Week 2010 will allow medical students to experience a clinical setting and see first-hand the type of practice and issues facing both rural physicians and their patients. The SWOMEN Rural Discovery Week is an innovative program designed to encourage new physicians to practice in rural and under-served areas upon completion of their training.

“We are delighted to be given the opportunity each year to entice new medical students with the idea of practicing medicine in a rural community hospital such as St. Thomas Elgin General. It is a great week for the students to have an opportunity to see the delivery of healthcare firsthand while they work along side our experienced team of physicians,” explains Dr. Nancy Whitmore, VP Medical Affairs / Chief of Staff.

Many Elgin County physicians and health care workers participate in the week to provide an interesting and enjoyable experience for the medical students. Throughout the week, students will spend time at STEGH in the Operating Room, Laboratory, Diagnostic Imaging Department, Chemotherapy Unit, and Emergency Department; will shadow STEGH specialists of Internal Medicine, Pathology, and Orthopaedics; and will spend time at family physicians’ offices in St. Thomas, Aylmer and at the West Elgin Community Health Centre.

In September 1997, rural experiences and education for all medical students were incorporated into the new undergraduate medical curriculum at the University of Western Ontario, beginning with first-year medical students and extending throughout their medical school training.

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For more information contact:

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Photo Opportunities

Monday May 31, at 10:00a.m. - Medical students will be taking a tour of the hospital.
(Reporters can report to the Medical Library on the first floor and join the group as they head out on a tour.)