

Media Release

May 28, 2008

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 University of Western Ontario medical students during the week of June 2 - 5, 2008.

Coordinated by the South Western Ontario Medical Educational Network (SWOMEN) at the University of Western Ontario, Rural Discovery Week 2008 will allow medical students to experience a clinical setting and see first-hand the type of practice and issues facing both rural doctors and their patients. The SWOMEN Rural Discovery Week is an innovative program designed to encourage new physicians to practice in rural and under-serviced areas upon completion of their training.

Many Elgin County physicians and health care workers participate in the week to provide an interesting and enjoyable experience for the medical students. This year, students will spend time in the STEGH Emergency Department, Operating Room, and Diagnostic Imaging department; will shadow STEGH specialists; and spend time at family doctors' offices in St. Thomas, Aylmer and at the West Elgin Community Health Centre, throughout the week.

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 June 2, at 10:00a.m. - Medical students will be taking a tour of the hospital. (Reporters can report to the Info Desk at the East Entrance and ask to page Cathy Fox who will connect them with the medical students on their tour.)

Tuesday June 3, at 5:00-7:00p.m - St. Thomas-Elgin Health Recruitment Partnership will be hosting an event for the medical students at #1 100 Southgate Parkway.