



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**April 27, 2026**

### **Welcoming a New Physician to the Community, Strengthening Primary Care and Emergency Care**

LISTOWEL/WINGHAM, ON, April 24, 2026 –

Dr. Arooba Talat will be joining the Listowel Clinic FHO as a Family Physician and will also support care through a regular rotation in the Emergency Department at Listowel Memorial Hospital, beginning July 1, 2026. Dr. Talat's recruitment is a joint effort of the Listowel Wingham Hospitals Alliance (LWHA), the Listowel-Wingham and Area Family Health Team (LWA FHT), and the Listowel Clinic Family Health Organization (Listowel Clinic FHO).

Dr. Talat obtained her medical degree in Pakistan and brings a strong foundation of international medical training. She has been part of LWHA's recruitment pipeline since 2022, when she completed a medical observership in both Listowel and Wingham before being accepted into a Family Medicine Residency. She later matched to and completed her Family Medicine residency through Western University's Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, training at the Hanover site and completing her program in September 2025.

Over the past six months, Dr. Talat has been providing locum coverage in both the clinic and Emergency Department, giving her an opportunity to experience practice in the community before choosing to join permanently. Now living in Listowel with her family, Dr. Talat says the decision reflects both her commitment to full-scope family medicine and her appreciation for the community itself.

"I am very happy to be joining this community in a permanent way," said Dr. Talat. "My earliest experiences in Listowel and Wingham made a strong impression on me. Over time, working in both the clinic and the Emergency Department confirmed that this is the kind of community where I want to build my practice and care for patients over the long term. My family and I feel very fortunate to be making our home here."

Dr. Talat's recruitment is especially meaningful in a rural healthcare environment where physicians willing to practise across both primary care and emergency medicine are increasingly difficult to recruit.

"Recruiting physicians who are committed to broad, community-based practice is essential to the future of rural healthcare," said Esther Millar, President and CEO of LWHA. "Both primary care and Emergency Department coverage are critical services in our community, and physicians who support both are becoming more difficult to recruit as many choose narrower or more specialized practice. We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Talat and proud that this recruitment reflects years of relationship-building, learner engagement, and thoughtful planning."

Stacey Ash, Chair of the LWHA Board of Directors, said the recruitment is also a reflection of the organization's long-term commitment to supporting medical learners and building strong local training pathways. She noted:

"This is a very positive milestone for LWHA and for the communities we serve," said Ash. "Research consistently shows that medical learners often choose to practise where they train, which is why early engagement is so important. LWHA has built a strong learner program for medical students and residents, and Dr. Talat's decision to join us permanently is a powerful example of how those efforts can lead to meaningful recruitment success."

"We are very pleased to welcome Dr. Talat to our community and to the clinic team. Her decision to practise in both primary care and emergency medicine reflects the kind of full-scope, community-focused care that is so important in rural communities. This recruitment is also a strong example of what can happen when learners are welcomed early, supported well," said Robin Spence-Haffner, Executive Director of the Listowel-Wingham & Area Family Health Team.

Over the past two years, across both Listowel and Wingham, LWHA has recruited three new primary care physicians and two specialty physicians who provide hospital services. LWHA continues to see learner engagement as a vital part of its recruitment strategy. The organization provides learning experiences for both medical students and medical residents and is now entering its third year of participation in the Family Medicine Residency Program through Western University's Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry. LWHA will celebrate its first graduate in summer 2026. Over the past two years, Listowel and Wingham have collectively provided elective learning experiences for 75 medical learners.

As part of this transition, through a random selection process, Dr. Talat will assume care for approximately 500 of Dr. Seary's patients. Letters will be mailed later this week to notify the patients who will be transitioning to Dr. Talat. The remainder of Dr. Seary's patients who live within the clinic's geographical area will be assigned to Dr. Adineh and Dr. Arjoon. These patients will be contacted directly to schedule an initial appointment. This transition will begin immediately in order to support Dr. Seary's upcoming departure and will not wait until July 1. Patients are kindly asked not to call the clinic regarding physician assignment. Patients who are affected by these changes will receive a letter or direct contact from the clinic with next steps.

Individuals in the community who do not have a family doctor or nurse practitioner are encouraged to register with Health Care Connect, Ontario's program to help connect people with primary care. Registration is available online or by calling 811. People in need of interim local access to primary care may also book through the Unattached Care Clinic by calling 519-291-4511. Health Care Connect registration is available online or by phone through the province.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Talat to the community.

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### **About the Partners:**

#### **Listowel Wingham Hospitals Alliance**

The Listowel Wingham Hospitals Alliance (LWHA) brings together Listowel Memorial Hospital and Wingham & District Hospital, serving communities across North Perth, North Huron, and surrounding regions. LWHA is committed to delivering high-quality, patient-centred care and strengthening healthcare close to home through partnerships and physician recruitment.

#### **Listowel-Wingham and Area Family Health Team**

The Listowel-Wingham and Area Family Health Team is a not-for-profit organization funded by the Ministry of Health that provides primary care services through a team of professionals, including nurse practitioners, nurses, social workers, pharmacists, and

dietitians. This team focuses on chronic disease management, health education, and disease prevention, and merged in 2021.

**Listowel Clinic FHO (Listowel Clinic Family Health Organization)**

The Listowel Clinic FHO (Listowel Clinic Family Health Organization) is a group of family physicians in Listowel who work collaboratively to provide primary care to their patients. They work closely with the Listowel-Wingham and Area Family Health Team (LWA FHT) to give patients access to a broader range of services.