

MEMO

To: All Staff, Professional Staff, Learners and Volunteers

From: Dr. Rhonda Crocker Ellacott, President and CEO, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre; CEO, Thunder Bay Regional Health Research Institute

Date: February 14, 2022

RE: **Vice President, Medical and Academic Affairs**

I am pleased to announce that **Dr. William Harris** has accepted the position of Vice President (VP), Medical and Academic Affairs, effective February 14th, 2022.

In this position Dr. Harris will be a member of the Senior Leadership Council, and will report to the President and CEO. In this role, Dr. Harris will provide medical leadership in support of the hospital's mission, vision, values and Strategic Directions while planning high-quality clinical services, and overseeing program / service specific performance objectives. In addition, Dr. Harris, will guide the advancement of academics and learning, supporting education advancement and collaboration with academic partners to drive service excellence and performance of clinical programs – in collaboration with the team.

The VP Medical and Academic Affairs, oversees the Medical Leadership structure assigned in the dyad model of Program / Service teams and ensures that medical oversight occurs collaboratively with administrative leadership to monitor overall quality, safety and performance of clinical programs.

Dr. Harris has been serving as Interim EVP of Medical Affairs since April 12th, 2021, providing exceptional leadership and guidance during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. He is a valued member of the Senior Leadership Council and the Incident Management Team. Dr. Harris has served as Chief of Surgery since 2018 and continues to practice as a General Surgeon since 2006. He has provided care for patients across Northwestern Ontario through locums at La Verendrye, Riverside Health Care (since 2020) and Endoscopy Procedures at Marathon Hospital (2008-15).

Dr. Harris' esteemed educational background includes earning his M.D. Doctor of Medicine (Honours) from the University of Toronto, F.R.C.S [C] Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons, General Surgery from Master University, Master of Public Health from Harvard University, and his ERCP Fellowship from McMaster University.

Please join me in congratulating Dr. Harris on his appointment.