

MEDIA RELEASE

Committed to Patient-Centred Care

North East LHIN Recognizes Dr. Jennifer Jocko as Healthy Change Champion

January 4, 2018 -- Dr. Jennifer Jocko has a strong connection to Northeastern Ontario. She was born in North Bay, raised in Mattawa, and went to school in Sudbury. She loves the region – and is passionate about serving the people who live in it.

A registered nurse in the Northeast for 10 years, Dr. Jocko decided to pursue a career as a physician. She attended medical school at McMaster University, and completed her obstetrics and gynecology (OB/GYN) specialty training at the University of Ottawa. In 2014, she joined the team at Health Sciences North. For the last year and a half, she has also been the Regional Cervical Screening and Colposcopy Lead for the North East Local Health Integration Network (NE LHIN). In addition, she is a consultant specialist at the Shkagamik-Kwe Health Centre where she has a weekly half-day clinic – and she has a monthly rural outreach OB/GYN clinic on Manitoulin Island. Dr. Jocko holds an Assistant Professor position at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, and is an active member of several medical societies.

For her commitment to women's health and patient-centred care, Dr. Jocko has been named a North East LHIN Healthy Change Champion.

“Dr. Jocko not only makes herself available to patients – she reaches out to them,” said Kate Fyfe, Interim CEO, North East LHIN. “She makes a point of helping to create a positive experience for the patients she serves. She is a role model in improving patient-centred care and the NE LHIN is so pleased to recognize her for her work.”

Dr. Jocko says her ultimate goal, in everything she does, is to put the patient first.

“I listen to my patients, discuss options, and educate them about those options,” said Dr. Jocko. “We work together towards a plan.”



**Dr. Jennifer Jocko, Gynecologist (OB/GYN),
Greater Sudbury.**

Dr. Jocko treats a long list of OB/GYN patients – who speak highly of her compassionate approach to care.

“Dr. Jocko was so calming and professional,” said one patient. “When I went to her for a colposcopy procedure, I was anxious, but she took the time to thoroughly explain the procedure to me and address my concerns.”

Dr. Jocko’s special interests include high-risk obstetrics, advanced laparoscopy, cervical cancer screening, and First Nations women’s health. She sits on the Aboriginal Women’s Health Committee for the Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) – and she has joined the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists’ (ACOG) planning committee for the 5th International Indigenous Women’s Health Meeting, to be held in New Mexico in March 2018.

“I believe in improving access, providing good quality, specialized care to First Nations women and women in rural and remote areas.”

Dr. Jocko intends to continue to provide the best possible care to the people of Northeastern Ontario. She and her business partner have been working to improve access to fertility services for women in the North East. They also plan to open a Northeastern Ontario Women’s Health Network Clinic in Sudbury by early 2018, with the aim of providing imaging and laboratory services for patients.

“It has always been my dream to provide one-stop shopping for women’s health,” said Dr. Jocko. “Living in the North does not need to mean unequal access to quality health care.”

Background Information – Healthy Change Champion Award:

- **Who is Eligible?** North East LHIN health service providers, employees and volunteers of providers, as well as, health care leaders, community leaders, and other Northerners who are contributing to building a stronger health care system in the North East.
- **What kind of work does the NE LHIN Healthy Change Champion recognize?** Those who are transforming the health care system so that it becomes more patient/client-focused, integrated, and easier to access. These are people or organizations who are reaching out to others in the course of their work to improve the system. Their work may be small or large in scope, but it’s significant in that it is making a difference in people’s lives.
- **Who can nominate?** Any Northerner can suggest a Healthy Change Champion. We just ask that you tell us in one or two paragraphs why you believe the person or organization deserves this recognition. Send your nomination to engagingwithyou@lhins.on.ca or 555 Oak Street East, Third Floor, North Bay, ON, P1B 8E3.
- **How are they picked?** Nominees are reviewed by our senior team. Consideration is also given to individuals and organizations advancing the care for special population groups within the North East LHIN including seniors, Aboriginal/First Nations/Métis, and Francophones.

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