

Beyond the Waiting Room: The Future of Unscheduled Healthcare



Dr. Eddy Lang
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Emergency Medicine

Wednesday, October 21
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

3C00 (3rd floor of Centennial Hall)
University of Winnipeg,
515 Portage Avenue

Canada's system of unscheduled healthcare—emergency departments, urgent care, primary care and increasingly virtual care—has become the safety net for a health system struggling with access, capacity and continuity. Emergency departments now sit at the intersection of nearly every major challenge facing Canadian healthcare: an aging population, workforce shortages, hospital crowding, diagnostic complexity, inequitable access and rising public expectations. Yet these pressures also create an extraordinary opportunity to redesign how Canadians receive care when and where they need it.

This 2026 Laird Lecture will explore what the future of unscheduled healthcare could look like—and why it may be dramatically different from the system we know today. Drawing on three decades of experience in emergency medicine, health-system leadership, evidence-based medicine, and guideline development, Dr. Eddy Lang will examine how artificial intelligence, digital health, and new care models could fundamentally change the patient's journey.

The presentation will be followed by a lunch and networking opportunity.



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