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FACULTY OF
MEDICINE
ALUMNI
PUBLICATION

SPRING 2024

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SPRING 2024

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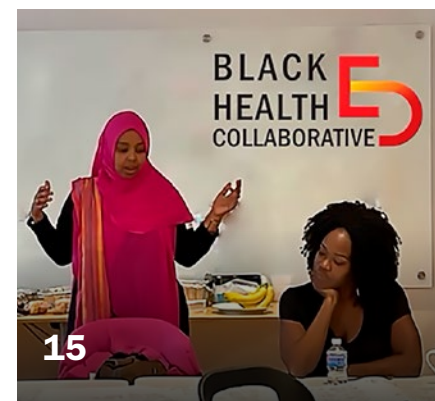
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We recognize that African Nova Scotians are a distinct people whose histories, legacies and contributions have enriched that part of Mi'kma'ki known as Nova Scotia for over 400 years.



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Welcome from Dean Anderson



*David Anderson (MD '83)
Dean, Faculty of Medicine*

Much has happened since the last alumni publication in the fall, with lots of exciting developments in the Faculty of Medicine.

In October we celebrated the Dalhousie Medicine Gala at the Halifax Convention Centre. It was wonderful to see such an incredible turnout at the event, the first we have hosted in four years. The weekend also featured an awards dinner for the Dalhousie Medical Alumni Association where we recognized six worthy recipients, and the Dr. Fred Barton Visiting Scholar & Lecture in Ethics in Medicine. Thanks to the organizers and all who attended the weekend's events.

I'm pleased to share that on January 5, 2024, we welcomed the first class of 24 students to the Master of Physician Assistant Studies Program (MPAS). Announced in 2023, the MPAS is the first of its kind in the Maritime Provinces, and this two-year program provides students with the skills, knowledge, and training required to increase access to care and make a significant contribution to the health and wellbeing of Nova Scotians. You can learn more about the MPAS on page 7.

Planning continues on the Cape Breton Medical Campus (CBMC), which will begin accepting students in 2025. The CBMC will be uniquely focused on family medicine training and rural health with the expectation that most graduates will become family physicians addressing the needs of Cape Breton residents and other rural Nova Scotians. Dalhousie Senate recently approved the rural applicant pathway for CBMC, paving the way for qualified students with lived experience in rural Nova Scotia communities to receive their medical education at the Cape Breton Medical Campus.

A warm welcome goes to Dr. Julie Copeland, who began her tenure as our new Senior Associate Dean, Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick (DMNB) on January 15, 2024. Dr. Copeland has joined us from Western University, where she was the postgraduate director and an associate professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry. I very much look forward to collaborating with Dr. Copeland to ensure we are providing our New Brunswick learners with the very best medical education, and ample opportunities to support the distributed communities in their home province. Under her leadership, I am confident the campus is well positioned for future success.

On May 28, it was my great pleasure to celebrate the years of hard work and accomplishments of the Class of 2024 at the Faculty of Medicine convocation. I offer my sincere congratulations to the students for all they have achieved. We can't wait to see what these new alumni do next!

Over the summer I look forward to joining several classes for their reunions. I always enjoy connecting with our alumni as they look back on their time at Dalhousie. Our alumni are graduates of one of the best medical schools in the country, and we rely on your talent and energy to preserve the health of the communities we serve. Thank you for all that you do to create a stronger and more equitable health system.

Dr. David Anderson (MD '83)
Dean of Medicine

Farewell from Dr. Forbes



*Dr. Cindy Forbes (MD '85)
President, Dalhousie Medical
Alumni Association*

Dear Alumni colleagues and friends,

As I near the end of my term as President of the DMAA, I am thankful for having had the opportunity to be part of an organization whose underlying goals are those of connecting, inspiring and supporting our alum and learners.

In the past, VOX MeDal has been one important way of reaching our many members worldwide to keep them updated on what's happening at the Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine and to share stories of the many achievements and successes of our alumni.

With the adoption of a new Vision and Mission statement last Fall, we felt it was time to give our flagship publication a new name that would reflect our refreshed vision and values. We reached out to our alumni community for input, suggestions, and a final vote—and DalDocs came out on top!

Thank you to everyone who voted, and especially to Dr. Allan Purdy (MD '74) who submitted the name for consideration. The DMAA represents all graduates of Dalhousie's Faculty of Medicine—not just those with an MD or PGM, but the basic scientists and researchers who graduate with an MSc, PhD, and now, MPA from within the walls of the Tupper. DalDocs represents us all.

Now for our newest alumni—I would like to congratulate the Class of 2024! We all look forward to following your contributions to health care and medical research in the years to come.

During my tenure as President of the DMAA, I've had the chance to reflect on the important role that Dalhousie Medical School has played in my life, my community, and worldwide. I remain very proud to be an Alum of the Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine and see an exciting future ahead.

I'd like to thank the Board directors of the Dalhousie Medical Alumni Association who volunteer their time, the Alumni Engagement Manager, Elizabeth Conrad, and a big shout out to Dean David Anderson who remains a very enthusiastic supporter of the work of the DMAA.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as President of the association.

Dr. Cindy Forbes (MD '85)
President, DMAA

News from New Brunswick



Dr. Julie Copeland
Senior Associate Dean,
Dalhousie Medicine
New Brunswick

As we reflect on the 2023-2024 academic year, and my first at Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick, I am proud of all that has been accomplished.

On May 10, 2024, the DMNB community had the pleasure of hosting our annual Launch Ceremony at the Imperial Theatre in Saint John, celebrating the Class of 2024. It was a momentous occasion as we recognized their relentless pursuit of excellence over the years and wished them well in their residency training. I'm thrilled to say that 66 per cent of our graduates will be returning to pursue residency programs in Atlantic Canada, with 48 per cent in New Brunswick, ensuring they continue to make an impact on the lives of patients in the province.

At the beginning of the 2023-2024 academic year, we welcomed our first class of 40 medical students to DMNB, an increase of 10 seats. As of July, we will welcome two new family medicine residents in Saint John, two new integrated family medicine-emergency medicine residents to Sussex, and two new family medicine residents in Miramichi. These expansions reflect DMNB's success in training world-class physicians dedicated to serving our New Brunswick communities.

We're proud to celebrate the accomplishments of our colleagues. Dr. Lisa Sutherland, Assistant Dean Student and Resident Affairs, received the CAME Certificate of Merit Award, while Pam Bourque, who retired last summer from her position as Chief Operating Officer, was honored with the AFMC Administration Award. Congratulations to both Dr. Sutherland and Pam on these tremendous honours.

In May, we hosted our inaugural Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship Dalhousie (LICD) Retreat in Shediac, New Brunswick. It was a wonderful couple of days of learning and growth around this incredibly successful training program for our third-year medical students.

In research, DMNB continues to thrive across various domains. Under Dr. Thomas Pulinikunnil, the Discovery Science Research Group received a CFI-IF award and Dr. Petra Kienesberger was presented with the Roberto Bolli Young Investigator Award. Dr. Daniel Dutton's Health Services Research and Population Health Group excelled in pharmacoepidemiology research, and has engaged with the new NB Institute for Population Health team.

Much has changed since we welcomed students in September. Most notably, three exceptional leaders, Dr. Jennifer Hall, Dr. Robert Boulay, and Pamela Bourque, completed their leadership appointments in 2023. Their dedication and tireless efforts have reshaped the medical education landscape in New Brunswick, and served as an inspiration to all those who follow in their footsteps, myself included.

I am honoured to continue Dr. Hall's legacy, and am confident with the support of newly appointed Assistant Dean, Clerkship, Dr. Daniel Smyth, Chief Operating Officer, Susan Layton-Crossman, and Director of Operations, Melissa Budd, along with the rest of the DMNB team, we will continue to be one of the best distributed educational experiences in Canada.

Dr. Julie Copeland, Senior Associate Dean,
Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick

2023 DMAA Alumni Recognition Awards

We're proud of everything that our alumni have accomplished.

Whether they've made national contributions to clinical practice, shown a strong level of commitment to family practice, maintained an exceptional lifelong career, or demonstrated exceptional care and commitment within the first couple of years of their career—our alumni are consistently working to make an impact in our communities and our health system.

The DMAA Alumni Recognition Awards not only recognize these outstanding achievements in research and clinical practice, but they also showcase the contributions that are made to the students and the community.

Congratulations to the 2023 recipients, who were presented their awards during a celebration at the Halifax Convention Centre on October 12, 2023.

Alum of the Year



Dr. Bob Abraham (MD '87)

Since 1968, Dal Med has celebrated retired and active physicians who have made unique and international contributions to clinical practice, teaching, or research throughout their careers. Over the years, the Alum of the Year recipients have been internationally recognized, published, and members of national professional and academic societies.

Dr. Bob Abraham epitomizes the relentless pursuit of excellence. He has received accolades as a mentor, teacher, and researcher, and is an

internationally recognized speaker and visionary in his field. His unwavering commitment to innovation led him to co-found ABK Biomedical. As CEO, he raised millions in grants and investment and pioneered the development of revolutionary image-guided cancer treatments. As Canadian Association for Interventional Radiology President and Chair of the RCPSC Radiology Examination, his innovative thinking and dedication to excellence, equality, and fairness resulted in transformative organizational changes. He is an ardent advocate and volunteer for social causes. His journey embodies the power of vision, perseverance, and determination, leaving an indelible mark on medicine and the world at large driven by his unyielding passion to improve people's lives.

Young Alum of the Year



Dr. Trudy Taylor (MD '02)

DMAA first presented this award in 2002 to recognize Dalhousie Medical School graduates who make significant contributions to a medical school or their community in the first two decades of their career. The work can be in clinical practice, teaching, research, or public service.

Dr. Trudy Taylor contributed to undergraduate medical education in the position of unit head early in her medical career, then transitioned to Program Director for the

Adult Rheumatology training program at Dalhousie.

Nationally, she has been a longstanding member of the Specialty Committee for Rheumatology at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons and active member of the Canadian Rheumatology Association. She is the current Vice President of the Canadian Rheumatology Association and will take over the role of President in the upcoming year.

Dr. Taylor has been recognized for her excellence in medical education locally and nationally, including by receiving the Department of Medicine Excellence in Medical Education award twice, the Outstanding Faculty Resident's Choice Award for the Department of Medicine, the Faculty of Medicine Excellence in Education Award, and the prestigious Association of Faculties of Medicine in Canada (AFMC) Clinical Teacher Award.

Exceptional Service Award



Dr. Orlando Hung (MD '88)

The Exceptional Service Award was first presented at the inaugural meeting of the DMAA in 1958. Since then, DMAA has honoured a senior alum who is highly respected in their field, with an outstanding career and level of service in the practice of medicine.

Dr. Orlando Hung has had a profound impact on Dalhousie University, beginning first as an award-winning pharmacy student in 1976 and then as an inspirational medical student, and anesthesia resident. After a two-years leave as a research fellow in clinical pharmacology at Stanford University, he returned home to Dalhousie to begin his formidable career as an anesthesiologist, pharmacologist, educator, researcher, and inventor.

Dr. Hung is internationally renowned as a leader in the specialty of anesthesiology. An ingenious and innovative thinker, his most recent invention is the FIVA-Flow™ monitor device which aids in safe administration of IV fluid by monitoring and alerting clinicians and nurses. He has also made significant contributions to the field of advanced airway management in assisting the development of Airway Management Guidelines for the Canadian Society of Anesthesiologists.

Family Physician of the Year Award



Dr. Michelle Dow (MD '87)

Each year, we recognize a family physician who consistently makes a significant contribution to his or her medical practice and community. The Family Physician of the Year Award was initiated in 2007 to recognize the impact of small-practice and rural physicians. We highlight family physicians who provide extraordinary medical care, set an exceptional example in the practice of family medicine, teach medical students and residents, and advocate for the health of their community.

Dr. Michelle Dow is a dedicated medical practitioner to her patients and her community. She has been a leader in establishing a collaborative community health centre to provide care for the residents of Clare and surrounding areas. Over the years, she has also provided ongoing mentorship to the new physicians recruited at the Clare Health Center.

Dr. Dow has provided leadership at her clinic as medical director as well as to the broader medical community with her DoctorsNS positions (president 2016-2017; MAMG 2018-2022). She is a preceptor to new physicians with the longitudinal integrated residency program from South West Nova. This has provided recruitment opportunities for new physicians to join the Clare team and provide ongoing care within the community. She is currently in a TIPTOP transition with a former resident who will eventually take over her practice.

Resident Leadership Award

Family Medicine including Enhanced Skills Program



Dr. Sarah Mader (MD '21)

Instituted in 2020, this award recognizes a Dalhousie Medical School resident in a Family Medicine or Family Medicine Enhanced Skills program who has demonstrated outstanding leadership. Areas of leadership could include but are not limited to advocacy, research, community engagement, mentorship of students and/or other residents, or administration. Nominees must be in a residency program at the time of nomination to be eligible.

Dr. Sarah Mader is an exemplary physician who is well respected by her resident colleagues as well as her Dal Medicine colleagues. Beyond her chief resident position, she has taken on a pivotal role in simulation training with Dalhousie's Longitudinal Integrated Clerks. She has run monthly simulation sessions with the medical students and is also working on a local guide to the LIC here in Cape Breton. Dr. Mader has a keen interest in Primary Maternity Care and was able to organize a local ALARM course in Cape Breton. She is helping to reshape primary maternity care delivery locally as she plans to stay and practice in the area. Dr. Mader has been passionate about maternity care delivery to First Nation communities, and often ensures culturally responsive care is delivered in this setting.

Resident Leadership Award

Royal College Specialties & Subspecialties



Dr. Courtney Gullickson (MD '19)

Instituted in 2020, this award recognizes a Dalhousie Medical School resident in a Royal College Specialty or Subspecialty program who has demonstrated outstanding leadership in their field. Areas of leadership could include but are not limited to advocacy, research, community engagement, mentorship of students and/or other residents, or administration. Nominees must be in a residency program at time of nomination to be eligible.

Dr. Courtney Gullickson has been an outstanding resident leader since she started her pediatrics residency at Dalhousie three years ago. Her leadership skills have been most notable over the past year during her tenure as MarDocs President. Dr. Gullickson was the lead resident during contract negotiations and was able to secure a new deal that has directly improved resident wellness and educational opportunities as well as developed a new program that has provided fresh meals for residents on call. Dr. Gullickson has also undertaken several positions behind the scenes, including as a member of the Resident Doctors of Canada board of directors, the PGME Dean selection committee, and the PGME committee, to name a few.



Shaping the Future of Health Care

Dalhousie University's Master of Physician Assistant Studies Program

Dalhousie University's Faculty of Medicine has recognized the inaugural class in its groundbreaking Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) program at a special stethoscope ceremony.

Announced in 2023, this two-year program is the first in the Maritimes and provides students with the skills, knowledge, and training required to help them increase access to care and make a significant contribution to the health and wellbeing of Nova Scotians.

Marking the beginning of their journey into medicine, inaugural MPAS class members received their stethoscopes at an event where Dr. Kim Brooks, President and Vice-Chancellor of Dalhousie University, presided. The Honourable Brian Wong, Nova Scotia's Minister of Advanced Education, Elder Ann LaBillois, faculty, staff, and family and friends were also in attendance at the February 15, 2024 ceremony.

"The Master of Physician Assistant Studies has come at a critical time when the health-care needs of Nova Scotians

have never been greater," said Dr. Brooks. "By providing a new pathway for health-care professionals to serve their communities, it is our hope that this program will help alleviate some of the burdens faced by our health-care system and ensure that patients receive the care they need."

What is a physician assistant?

Physician assistants (PAs) are medical professionals capable of providing a wide range of health-care services under physician supervision. Originating in the United States in the 1960s, the first class of PAs in the Canadian Forces Medical Services graduated in 1984. Physician assistants have proven themselves invaluable assets in delivering safe, efficient, and quality health care.

Physician assistants can perform tasks ranging from patient assessment and diagnosis to treatment planning and surgical procedures, emerging as essential members of the health-care team.

Diwan Minocha, co-class president of the Class of 2025, is interested in how physician assistants can be a vital addition to an increasingly successful health-care system and

Members of the MPAS Class of 2025

plans to work in Nova Scotia upon graduation.

"The integration of physician assistants should be extremely positive on the health-care system especially in rural areas," says Minocha. "The whole idea is to extend the scope of the physician to alleviate the strain on the health-care system as much as possible."

The MPAS program at Dalhousie University is designed to provide students with comprehensive training in all aspects of clinical medicine. Through rigorous coursework and hands-on clinical experience, students will gain proficiency in pharmacology, surgical procedures, patient care, and more.

One of the distinguishing features of the program is its emphasis on practical training through clinical rotations in diverse health-care settings. From primary care clinics to emergency departments, students will have the opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills in real-world scenarios, preparing them for the challenges of modern health-care practice.

A Surreal Ceremony

The stethoscope ceremony recognized the significance of the first class of MPAS students and how they will positively contribute to the health-care system in Nova Scotia.

"We have all worked very hard and come from very diverse backgrounds so receiving a stethoscope solidifying the fact that we are all going to be practising PAs in two years is surreal," says Minocha.

The Dartmouth General Hospital Foundation donated the stethoscopes, which Minocha said the whole class appreciated.

"We could not be more grateful for this contribution from the Dartmouth General Hospital Foundation," he says. "I would also like to thank the Nova Scotia Government, Nova Scotia Health, Dalhousie University, and so many others who have worked tirelessly to get this program off the ground, and to welcome the first class of physician assistants in Atlantic Canada. I could not imagine the work that has gone into ensuring the success of this program, and of the students."

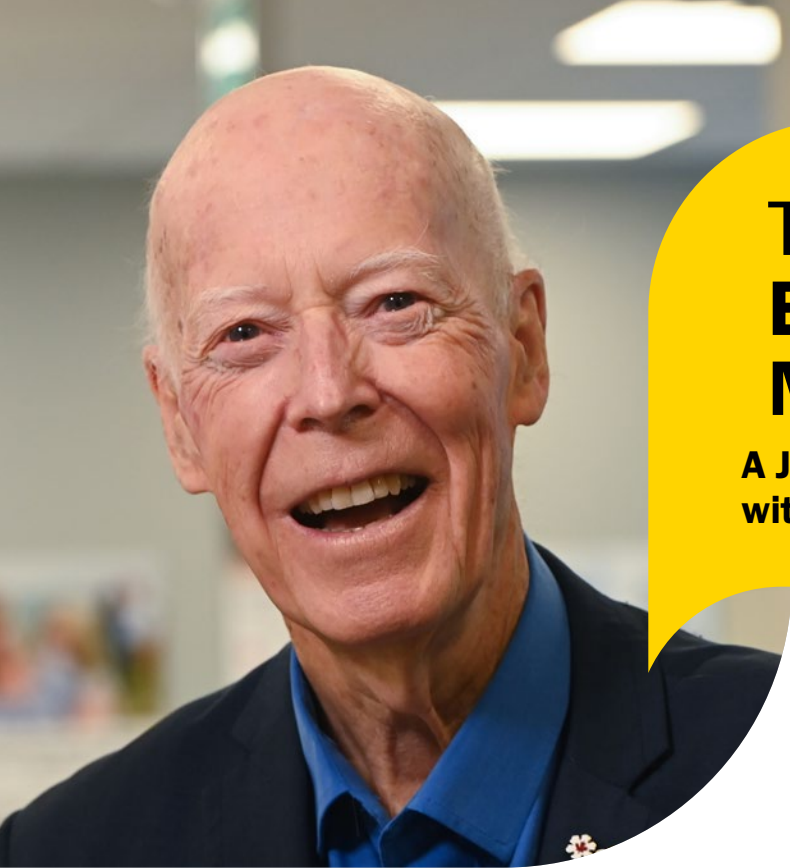
Reflecting our communities

To ensure the physician assistant student body reflects the communities its members will serve, the Faculty of Medicine worked hard to ensure the equitable admission of Indigenous and African Nova Scotian people, who have historically faced barriers when applying to programs in the medical school. The new Indigenous Admissions and Black Learners Admissions pathways will increase admissions of these underrepresented groups, which in turn, will improve the health of Black and Indigenous communities in the province.

The MPAS program is currently accepting applications for the second cohort, beginning in January 2025.

▼ Diwan Minocha (second from left), co-class president of the Class of 2025, receives his stethoscope at a special ceremony on February 15, 2024





The Heart of Emergency Medicine

A Journey of Transformation
with Dr. Ron Stewart

Dr. Ron Stewart (MD '70) has built his legacy of innovation and transformation in the dynamic world of emergency medicine, where every moment counts.

A visionary whose contributions have reshaped the landscape of emergency care, Dr. Stewart's journey from practicing family medicine in Neil's Harbour, a small outpost community of Cape Breton, to his tenure as Nova Scotia's Minister of Health, has made him the embodiment of dedication and service.

Dr. Stewart's career spans over 50 years and across North America. From becoming the first medical director within the Los Angeles paramedic program to signing on as the founding Head of the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh, it was amidst the frenetic energy of emergency medicine that his passion for revolutionizing healthcare took shape.

Reflecting on the theme of transformation in healthcare, Dr. Stewart shares insights drawn from a lifetime of experience. "Transformation is an ongoing process," he remarks, emphasizing the dynamic nature of healthcare delivery. "It is shaped by lived experience, by what's current in society, in our environment, and by learning."

The grassroots of emergency medicine

Building the foundation of emergency medicine, Dr. Stewart, alongside his colleagues, navigated uncharted territories,

turning challenges into opportunities for innovation. A specialty no one really wanted to take on, Stewart felt pulled to emergency medicine. "The unknown calls to me," he says.

As one of the early architects of paramedicine, Dr. Stewart's leadership paved the way for groundbreaking advancements in trauma care and pre-hospital emergency services.

He does acknowledge now that ignorance may have been bliss when it came to the early days of developing new programming. "We were at the grassroots of emergency medicine, and we—maybe luckily—didn't realize we were in the thick of it until I look back now," he says. "We didn't know enough to be scared, we just did it. Problems became opportunities and with the help of mentors and colleagues along the way, we were forced to come up with fresh ways to problem solve."

An enduring legacy

Dr. Stewart's tenure as the Nova Scotia Minister of Health from 1993 to 1996 further underscored his commitment to affecting systemic change, culminating in the establishment Emergency Health Services (EHS), the province's paramedicine organization—a testament to his enduring legacy.

Honored as a "Hero of Emergency Medicine" by the American College of Emergency Physicians and recently elevated within the Order of Canada, Dr. Stewart's accolades are evidence of his impact on the field. Yet, true to his humble nature, he attributes his achievements to the mentors and colleagues who shaped his journey.

On March 14th, Dr. Stewart was elevated in the Order of Canada at the Companion level—the highest tier of this great honour. Remembering his first induction to the Order in 1993, Dr. Stewart recalls how proud his family was of him. "My mother and sister cried," he says. "They were so excited to be at the ceremony in Ottawa."

This time around, Rideau Hall, which awards the Order of

Canada, will celebrate Dr. Stewart locally, at a special ceremony at the Nova Scotia Lieutenant Governor's House. "What an honour," he says about the tribute. "The people in my life that have allowed me to achieve this—I remember them, and they are getting this award with me."

The student becomes the teacher

For Dr. Stewart, education stands out as a cornerstone of his legacy. With a dedication to training the next generation of healthcare professionals, he has championed innovative curriculum development, empowering paramedics and physician assistants with the skills needed to navigate the complexities of emergency care.

In 2017, Dr. Stewart made a \$1.3 million pledge to emergency medicine research at Dalhousie University. His commitment to giving back to his alma mater confirms his belief in the transformative power of philanthropy. Inspired by the legacy of his mother—a steadfast supporter of medical research through Dalhousie's Molly Appeal—Dr. Stewart's generosity continues to fuel advancements in healthcare education and research.

Reflecting on his legacy, Dr. Stewart defers the spotlight to the countless individuals who have shaped his journey, including his mentor Dr. Robert Scharf.

Dr. Stewart was heavily influenced by Dr. Robert Scharf, an orthopedic surgeon who was so distressed about the state of emergency medicine in the 1950s and 1960s that he gave up his medical practice to improve emergency departments and train physicians and non-physicians.

Dr. Scharf became the Director of the Emergency Department in Halifax and Dr. Stewart became his disciple.

"I remember showing up at the emergency department wearing my white coat and carrying my black bag and I was terrified," recalls Dr. Stewart. "He met me with a textbook in one hand and an X-ray in the other and said, 'What do you think?' while pointing to a white spot on the film. I stood there mumbling and he says, 'You're right! It's tuberculosis. Now, you'll never forget what TB looks like.'"

Dr. Scharf taught with innovative questions and came up with the answers with you, Dr. Stewart says. "I never forgot those moments and when it came my time to be a teacher, I followed in his footsteps."

Dr. Scharf even followed Stewart to Los Angeles, at his invitation, to work as Director of Residency at the University of Southern California Medical Centre, the same hospital he worked at. "We became friends, and I was at his bedside at

the end," says Dr. Stewart. "Ultimately, I hope to have had the kind of impact on people that he did."

A life's work

From the bustling halls of the USC Medical Centre in Los Angeles to the corridors of Dalhousie University, Dr. Stewart's goal has always been to make positive change.

"There's no Band-Aid or dose of medicine that can solve some of the challenges in our healthcare system," he says. "We need to look at whole people, whole systems—and that's my life's work."

Physician, teacher, advocate, and change-maker are just some ways to describe Dr. Ron Stewart. In him, we find not only a pioneer of emergency medicine but a guiding light whose legacy continues to illuminate the path toward a healthier, more resilient future. Dr. Stewart's passion for transformation continues, inspiring generations to come.

- 1942 ● Born in Sydney Mines, Nova Scotia
- 1970 ● Graduated from Dalhousie Medical School
- 1970-72 ● Practiced medicine in Neil's Harbour, Nova Scotia
- 1972-78 ● Emergency Medicine Residency, USC Medical Centre, California
First medical director in the Los Angeles paramedic program
- 1978 ● Head of Emergency Medicine, University of Pittsburgh
Medical director for the Department of Public Safety of Pittsburgh
Founded the Center for Emergency Medicine of Western Pennsylvania to advance emergency care, research and training
- 1987 ● University of Toronto Faculty Member
Established a pain and trauma research lab
- 1998 ● Dalhousie University Faculty Member
- 1993-96 ● Nova Scotia Minister of Health
Devised and implemented the Emergency Health Services (EHS) and central 911 dispatch system in use today
Created first Tobacco Control Division within Ministry of Health
- 1993 ● Officer, Order of Canada
- 2006 ● Order of Nova Scotia Inductee
- 2004-09 ● Director of Medical Humanities, Dalhousie University
Created Music-in-Medicine Program
- 2008 ● Named Hero of Emergency Medicine by American College of Emergency Physicians
- 2023 ● Elevated to Companion of the Order of Canada

From Doctor to Doctorate

Dr. Gary Ernest (MD '80) has sights set on health care transformation



Dr. Gary Ernest (MD '80) is back in school to tackle physician burnout. After more than four decades of practicing family medicine in Liverpool, Nova Scotia, he knows a thing or two about building and maintaining a healthy work-life balance.

In 2023, Ernest was honoured with the prestigious Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal for his service to physicians and the public as President of Doctors Nova Scotia in the pre-pandemic and early pandemic periods. Now, he's channeling his professional experiences into an Executive Doctorate in Business Administration (EDBA) program to help address the challenges facing the strained medical system across the country and to find solutions that will help transform health care for both providers and patients.

East coast calling

Originally from Montreal, Dr. Ernest found his way to Halifax after visiting a friend who was in his first year at Dalhousie Medical School. He attributes a warm Maritime welcome to his decision to study at Dalhousie. "I was fortunate in that I was accepted to more than one med school," recalls Dr. Ernest. "The people that I would encounter were just so friendly. I thought, this would be a really nice place to come."

Dr. Ernest's fondest memories of his time at Dalhousie Medical School include Euphoria!, intramural sports, and—

most importantly—meeting his wife. But the overall comradery with his classmates is what sticks out for him the most.

"It was a group of people where everybody was very friendly," recalls Ernest. "Everyone accepted each other readily and were mutually supportive."

He graduated with the MD Class of 1980, completed his family medicine residency in 1982, and moved to Liverpool where he has practised ever since. He has held various leadership roles in healthcare organizations, including Doctors Nova Scotia, the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia, and the Canadian Medical Association.

An advocate for family medicine

These days, Dr. Ernest is practicing three days a week at Queens Family Health as part of a collaborative team consisting of seven family physicians, three family practice nurses, two nurse practitioners, one pharmacist, and one social worker. This dynamic clinic provides the opportunity to include in-hospital care and emergency department shifts at Queens General Hospital into his practice.

Queens Family Health is also a Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine Distributed Learning Site, and Dr. Ernest recognizes the value of teaching medical students and family practice residents at the clinic.

"The quality of teaching they get is excellent because you've got a group of family doctors who are tremendous and are very committed to teaching," explains Ernest. "And they are very committed to the welfare of the learners."

While being a rural family doctor presents challenges, Dr. Ernest ultimately believes that it is a very rewarding type of practice.

He says that his career in Liverpool has given him a breadth of experience and has allowed him to be fully engaged in all facets of his patient's lives, something that he considers a privilege.

"It's so rewarding, plus it also helps you to do your job better," states Ernest, "because when you know the family, and you know their background, their social circumstances, their personalities—it lets you be more effective at what you're doing."

Next role in health care leadership

For aspiring family medicine practitioners, Dr. Ernest advises aligning practice with personal interests and maintaining balance to prevent burnout—which is the subject of his dissertation for his EDBA.

When asked why he is pursuing additional education at this stage of his career, when many of his classmates are retiring, Dr. Ernest simply stated that he was still interested.

He thrives on challenges and staying busy, and believes the longer he can keep working, the better.

"What I've noticed—without any doubt whatsoever—is that the people who age the best are the people who keep working," explains Ernest. "Whether it's for income or volunteer work, as long as it's stimulating to them, as long as they enjoy it, and as long as they can control their hours, those are the people I've noticed who age the best—physically and mentally."

After he graduates from the EDBA program in 2025, Dr. Ernest plans to use his education to work on the multitude of challenges that come with healthcare transformation.

"It's an issue that is front and center on everyone's agenda," explains Ernest. "It has become increasingly clear over time that although our healthcare system has many excellent qualities, there are aspects of it that need to change in order to cope with current and future demands."

Dr. Ernest looks forward to being part of the solution, and so far, he says it's been an exciting ride.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE

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Dal Med alum shares **passion for building community** through volunteerism



Medical school wasn't a foregone conclusion for Dr. Angela Ridi (MD '03).

Dr. Ridi says she "hedged her bets" during her undergraduate degree at McGill University by majoring in biochemistry and minoring in finance. Born and raised in Cape Breton, Dr. Ridi always felt like Halifax was her second home and she had a strong connection to Dalhousie. Whether it was to earn an MBA or an MD, Dr. Ridi knew she wanted to attend Dal to pursue graduate studies. In the end, she decided on medicine.

Dr. Ridi, who has a long-standing interest in French language and culture, applied for the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship (since renamed) in France at the same time she applied for medical school. "Luckily for me, I was granted both opportunities," Dr. Ridi says. "But then I had this difficulty: I had to make a choice." Dr. Ridi wrote to the Dean of Dalhousie's Medical School at the time, Dr. Margaret Casey, explaining her Rotary Club opportunity and requesting a deferral. Dr. Casey agreed.

The intersection of physiology and pharmacology

"I started back to school in 1999 and at that time Dalhousie was a leader in what was called 'problem-based learning' and moving away from a strictly didactic platform," Dr. Ridi explains. "We would call them 'paper patients'; you'd get all the [patient] details on paper and then discuss within your small group." Each group was led by a facilitator, Dr. Ridi says, either a clinical faculty member, researcher or a practitioner.

One of Dr. Ridi's facilitators, Dr. Patricia Livingston, invited students to shadow her or her colleagues and learn about the field. "I realized that [anesthesiology] was a good balance for me in terms of thinking and doing," Dr. Ridi says. "The intersection, to really geek out, of physiology and pharmacology was a great fit for me."

Staying connected to Dal

These days, Dr. Ridi is a practicing clinician in St. John's, NL, who sits on the board of the Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society and undertakes some teaching through Memorial University's medical school.

Dr. Ridi, who is affiliated with several postsecondary institutions, says Dal is the one she feels most strongly connected to. "I've been in many post-secondary institutions around the world, from France to Quebec to Cape Breton and Ontario... but my connection is with Dalhousie," she says, adding that she's stayed connected to her alma mater by reading VOX MeDal and Dal alumni emails.

When one of those emails included a call for new members to join the board Dalhousie Alumni Association (DAA), Dr. Ridi thought it would be a good chance to give back. She joined in fall 2023, and says a highlight so far has been sitting on the selection committee for Dal's flagship alumni awards, the Aurum Awards.

Teamwork and building community

The DAA is not Dr. Ridi's only volunteer experience; during medical school she got involved with the Canadian Federation of Medical Women, and she has been with the Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society since 2014, becoming the provincial representative for Newfoundland and Labrador in 2016. "I'd never really considered the business of the organization before," she says. "From a management point of view, but also from a scientific or advocacy point of view...I really enjoy it."

Dr. Ridi is also a board member at her children's school, where she was chair of a committee that was tasked with creating a back-to-school plan during the pandemic. She found the work a great exercise in connection, and says it was extremely rewarding. "It makes life worthwhile in terms of being in touch with your children's school, and not just my children, but the community of children that are there, and getting to know the teachers."

She is quick to point out that the committee worked together to implement measures that allowed their kids to get back to school safely. Teamwork, Dr. Ridi asserts, is foundational to her professional and personal success. She credits her supportive partner for helping her balance a hectic schedule and demanding profession with volunteer work and parenting. "It's a real team effort," she says.



Legacy Donor **JEAN GRAY**

Faculty of Medicine

"Without financial assistance, I wouldn't have been able to afford my education"

Leader. Advocate. Mentor. Inspiration. **Dr. Jean Gray, CM (LLD'05)**, Professor Emeritus, Medical Education, Medicine, and Pharmacology at Dalhousie University, is renowned worldwide for her pioneering work in clinical pharmacology, women's health and the promotion of women in medicine.

Yet Jean's stellar career might have taken an entirely different trajectory, had it not been for the financial support that funded her university education.

After the death of her Canadian Army father in 1956, money was tight. Jean's mother fought long and hard for her to qualify for educational benefits from Veterans' Affairs. Meanwhile, the top student applied for every scholarship available.

"Without financial assistance, I wouldn't have been able to afford my education," says Jean. Later, as a professor, Jean saw her own students struggle to manage the costs of medical school.

So in her estate, Jean is creating a permanent source of support for future medical students. Through a life insurance policy that names Dalhousie as the owner and beneficiary, she has established a scholarship, named for a beloved aunt.

"My financial advisor pointed out that any gift left in my will would be taxed off the top once it goes through probate," she explains. "The proceeds of the life insurance policy, however, will go directly to Dalhousie, meaning the funds can be put to work for the students right away."

"And by saving on taxes, I'll be leaving a larger gift," adds Jean.

Learn more about leaving a legacy.

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Equity in Medical Education

Black Health Primer aims for inclusive healthcare



The health needs and experiences of Black Canadians are vastly underrepresented in medical and health sciences curricula.

With Black Canadians making up 3.5 per cent of Canada's total population, excluding and misrepresenting their experiences is highly problematic and negatively affects the health of Black populations across the country.

Led by Dr. OmiSoore Dryden here at Dalhousie, and Dr. Onye Nnorom from the University of Toronto, a community of Black scholars and practitioners is committed to changing this.

Established in 2019 by Drs. Dryden and Nnorom, the Black Health Education Collaborative (BHEC) is working to transform medical and health professional education with the goal of improving the health of Black communities across Canada. With representation from various institutions throughout the country, BHEC aims to dismantle anti-Black racism in healthcare while creating change within health education to equip professionals to provide accurate, culturally safe, and culturally informed care.

Dr. Dryden, who is the James R. Johnston Chair in Black Canadian Studies, and Dr. Nnorom, Assistant Professor at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health and the Temerty Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto, and the Black Health Theme Lead for the Temerty Faculty of Medicine, connected in early 2019 as the only two Black theme leads in Canadian medical schools.

"At that time, having the Johnston Chair in Black Canadian

Studies housed in the Faculty of Medicine was a notable thing in medicine," recalls Dr. Dryden. "When Dr. Nnorom and I had our first meeting we asked ourselves, 'how are we going to intervene in medical schools around Black health? How are we going to support medical learners?'"

Knowing they needed to make a difference in education, the idea for the Black Health Primer was borne.

Supporting Black health

The first of its kind in Canada, the Primer took shape in the summer of 2019. Drs. Dryden and Nnorom were struggling to get faculties of medicine to engage in conversation about the idea when the pandemic hit, and the murder of Mr. George Floyd happened in Minnesota. Suddenly, conversation and support around Black lives and Black health became of interest and the two Black health leaders found themselves at many tables discussing the need for, what at the time they were calling Black medical education on Black health, systemic anti-Black racism, and structural white supremacy.

They sat down with their respective deans, Dr. David Anderson at Dalhousie, Dr. Trevor Young at the Temerty Faculty of Medicine, and Dr. Adalsteinn Brown at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health. In 2021, the three schools provided them with a million dollars in funding, allowing them to hire staff, engage in research, create committees, and hire writers and medical education pedagogical specialists. It was during these discussions that BHEC was formalized.

"We thought we should name it the Black Health Education

◀ *Members of the Black Health Education Collaborative discuss the Black Health Primer*

Collaborative and really look across healthcare," says Dr. Dryden. "And we began our early work with the Medical Council of Canada (MCC) to push to have Black learning objectives included for all medical learners."

Four years later, the MCC is in the process of approving the Black Health Learning objectives, and the BHEC is preparing to launch the Black Health Primer, something Dr. Nnorom says is desperately needed.

"Even though Black people have been on this land for centuries, and anti-Black racism has been a driver of health inequities, physicians and other healthcare providers have had little or no training about Black communities in Canada," she says. "Sadly, they have had little guidance on how to provide better quality, anti-racist care. Our modules provide this training for practitioners and trainees across the country."

The Black Health Primer incorporates the research and scholarship that has been completed on Black health and anti-Black racism and consolidates it into a course for medical and health students, faculty, and educators. Available across Canada in English, with the French version available later this year, the Black Health Primer is a multi-module online resource that seeks to advance knowledge in and promote dialogue about the critical issue of anti-Black racism and its impact on health. Throughout the course, learners will gain knowledge to support the unlearning of anti-Black racism and learning racially just practices and competencies that improve the health of diverse Black communities.

"We wanted to make sure that we were focusing on Africentric and culturally affirming care to amplify competent anti-racist practice and make sure that we are working collectively to decrease the health disparities that exist in African Nova Scotian and Black communities," says Dr. Dryden. "It's greater training around anti-racist healthcare, and that is about building professional capacity, and also about shifting healthcare systems."

A race-conscious approach to learning

Health metrics show that Black, Afri-Indigenous, and Indigenous communities have the worst health outcomes in the country. This is directly connected to the continued impacts of colonialism and slavery. Unfortunately, prevailing healthcare practices, grounded in the misconception that Blackness constitutes a distinct race and implies inherent biological deficiencies, persistently contribute to heightened mortality rates, delayed diagnoses, denied treatment, and inferior health outcomes.

BHEC and the Black Health Primer hope to shift the narrative by moving to a race-conscious approach, which means understanding the social and structural determinants of health. This method of learning will allow for interventions into the reasons why Black health outcomes are so poor.

Progress at Dalhousie

Here at Dalhousie, a concerted effort has been made to respond to the healthcare needs of diverse communities in our region. In the last few years, with the addition of an admissions pathway for Black learners, an academic lead in Black Health, updated undergraduate curriculum with increased lectures on Black health, paired with the ongoing work of PLANS (Promoting Leadership in Health for African Nova Scotians), progress has been made. But there is more to be done.

Dr. Dryden suggests Black health should be added to all levels of medical education and supports the work of Dr. Leah Jones, the Academic Director of Black Health, to increase the focus on African Nova Scotian and Black communities for Rural Week, which sees medical students travel to distributed learning sites throughout the Maritimes to spend a week observing rural physicians at work.

"Thanks to the dedication of Dr. Jones, great strides are being made in the Faculty of Medicine, but we need to make sure that students are prepared to work in African Nova Scotian and Black communities. As Dr. Jones' has argued, they need those skills, and this is part of preparing them to land in rural spaces which is currently missing."

Central in medical education

Dr. Dryden says that anyone involved in medical education, from medical students and residents to teachers and supervisors, and preceptors and tutorial leaders, should enroll in the primer.

"The Black Health Primer is the thing that needs to be central in medical education across the country. So just as they would do a block learning on neurology, or they do block learning on metabolism, they would complete a block on Black health."

The number of Black health leaders in medical faculties nationwide is on the rise. Tasked with creating a curriculum focused on Black Health, many of these leaders are physicians lacking formal training, expertise, or scholarship in this specific subject. Dr. Dryden is hopeful the Black Health Primer will alleviate this burden.

The Black Health Primer, available to individuals and institutions, launched March 21, 2024, on the BHEC website.

Bringing WORLDS Together



Investing in our future

When we invest in the future of healthcare — medical students, researchers, and vital infrastructure — we are investing in our future wellbeing; for our communities, our families and friends, and ourselves.

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Investing in the next generation of doctors and researchers, cutting-edge training facilities, and transformational research will ensure Dalhousie leads the way for a better future.

Discover how:

dal.ca/worlds-together

Bringing Worlds Together: The Faculty of Medicine's Plans for Transformational Change

Inspiring Future-Ready Leaders

Dalhousie's Faculty of Medicine attracts some of Canada's best students, physicians, and medical researchers, and we are committed to inspiring future-ready leaders.

By investing in student support and state-of-the-art training facilities, we are ensuring that more students have access to exceptional medical education, and that they become highly skilled, collaborative medical professionals, ready to improve the health and well-being of our communities.

1. Investing in Students

By increasing financial support to Dal medical students—particularly those who want to practise in the Maritimes—we will help address the physician shortage in our region. The average medical school graduate amasses more than \$160,000 of debt throughout the course of their studies and this will only increase as we increase our number of students and existing funding is spread further. This factor greatly impacts their decisions about what and where they practise upon graduation. With the help of our donors, the Faculty of Medicine is

committed to removing financial barriers to medical education. We will focus on increasing financial support for students from underrepresented and equity-deserving groups, and those wanting to practise in rural areas of the Maritimes.

2. Simulation Training Facilities

Innovative, specialized skills training and experiential learning opportunities are critical to produce highly skilled doctors. Clinical simulation has become an essential tool in medical education and plays a crucial role in providing safe learning experiences, which lead to improved patient outcomes and more collaborative health-care teams. This type of learning ensures students graduate with the expertise and skills required to perform complex, life-changing, and life-saving procedures. This campaign will enable Dalhousie's Faculty of Medicine to expand its simulation-based training and testing facilities at the Halifax campus and enrich simulation capabilities at health facilities across the Maritimes where health professionals are training in clinical settings that were not designed for education.

Engaging in High-Impact Research

Dalhousie medical researchers are solving the health challenges impacting people in our region and around the world. Medical research changes and saves lives. Not only can it provide faster diagnoses, better treatments, and enhanced quality of life, but it also influences the health, wellness, and economic prosperity of our communities. Research is an integral part of Dalhousie Medical School’s mission to advance the quality of health and health care in the Maritimes and beyond.

1. Transformational Research Investments & Graduate and PhD Studentships

The Maritime region is home to Canada’s fastest-aging population, the highest rates of age, obesity, and inactivity-related chronic disease, as well as some of the highest rates in Canada of a variety of cancer types. Strategic investments in Dalhousie’s nationally and internationally leading researchers will accelerate groundbreaking discoveries with impacts here and around the world. Our researchers are curing cancer, drastically reducing deaths and morbidity from heart attacks and strokes, and helping people age well at home. Dalhousie boasts medical research excellence in the areas of inflammation, immunity, infectious diseases, and vaccinology (I3V), neuroscience (including Alzheimer’s and mental health), and genomics in medicine, to name a few. This campaign aims to support our leading research teams by investing in people, infrastructure, and research programs.

2. Biomanufacturing Infrastructure

Dalhousie’s Biomanufacturing Infrastructure is Atlantic Canada’s missing pathway for health innovation. This specialized, small-scale GMP biomanufacturing facility, with highly skilled personnel who can help bring medical research from the lab to the clinic, will enable Maritime-born medical breakthroughs to transform health-care outcomes regionally and globally. By investing in critical infrastructure and health research ecosystems, this campaign priority will bring research discoveries to fruition, enabling small-scale first-in-human clinical trials—leading to new vaccines for current and future deadly illnesses, new personalized cancer treatments, targeted therapies for rare diseases like cystic fibrosis, and more. Biomanufacturing facilities of this type are rare across Canada and do not yet exist anywhere in Atlantic Canada.

3. Digital health data research

Digital health data research has the potential to transform the health sector by answering key questions about our health, risk



factors, and disease, and by supporting clinicians in delivering the best care in the most affordable way. Traditional approaches to health data storage, management, and analysis can result in health-care systems that are inefficient and less effective, leading to slower access to care, poor patient experiences, duplicated work, and increased costs. Health-care systems in the Maritimes are particularly vulnerable to these stressors, as our population is demographically older and sicker, and our system has been slower to embrace digital data advances. Campaign support will fund interdisciplinary collaborations with the Faculty of Computer Science and our health authority and government partners, helping us work together toward solutions like the “One Person One Record” medical information system for Nova Scotia. Support for research chairs and trainees will enable critical development of common platforms to link and share health data across institutions and the region.

Lifting Our Communities

Dalhousie University is committed to playing a leading role in the development of an equitable and inclusive model of health care, delivered by diverse, highly qualified health professionals that better serve the needs of all our communities. The Faculty

of Medicine strives to improve health in the Maritimes in ways that exceed the traditional roles of educating physicians and conducting leading-edge research. Our intentions include examining and redefining the Faculty’s relationships with equity-deserving communities and catalyzing systems change.

1. Indigenous Medical Education and Research

Indigenous perspectives and lived experiences are vital to create an inclusive and fully representative health-care system. The Faculty of Medicine recognizes that Mi’kmaw, Wolastoqiyik, Peskotomuhkati, and other Indigenous people face unique and unjust barriers in their journeys to medical school. We also acknowledge there are similar barriers to conducting Indigenous-led and Indigenous-governed health research that will positively impact the health outcomes of Indigenous people. With campaign support, we will expand Keknu’tmasiek Ta’n Tel Welo’ltimk— We are Learning How to be Well (KW)—our program aimed at increasing the number of Indigenous medical professionals in our region. It focuses on community engagement, student recruitment, and wraparound support during and after medical school. Additionally, the Faculty will invest in research positions and other supports to

facilitate Indigenous research priorities led by Indigenous researchers, communities, and organizations.

2. African Nova Scotian Medical Education and Research

Nova Scotia is home to the largest population of Black communities in Canada. Dalhousie needs to lead the way in providing education and research for these important and historic communities. African Nova Scotians and other equity-deserving populations often face worse health outcomes than the general population and are underrepresented in the medical health professions in our region. A lack of diversity in health care and health research intensifies health disparities for racialized people.

This campaign will enable us to expand programs that support Black learners aspiring to a career in a health profession. It will also provide support for Black and African Nova Scotian researchers at Dalhousie, which is essential for catalyzing systems change and improving health care access. Dalhousie is committed to providing culturally welcoming and collaborative environments, mentorship, and other research resourcing. Investing in health research that is focused on improving health outcomes for Black patients is critical.



Dalhousie Medical School offers **innovative leadership elective** to residents

Nurturing the next generation of healthcare leaders

A new initiative at Dalhousie aimed at nurturing the next generation of healthcare leaders is empowering residents with invaluable skills in health and academic leadership.

The leadership elective is a four-week rotation for residents in any specialty and year of study that allows them to explore essential skills in healthcare and academic leadership, from managing change and processing emotion, to effective communication, recognizing implicit bias, becoming an effective coach, and addressing racism, discrimination, and conflict in the workplace.

Dr. David Bowes, Assistant Dean, Postgraduate Medical Education, developed the elective. Postgraduate Medical Education Curriculum Specialist Jenny Acuna and Evaluation Specialist Dr. Cindy Shearer co-lead the initiative.

“In medical school and residency, there’s increasing recognition of the importance of leadership skills and training,” says Dr. Bowes. “It’s very important to have physicians who are trained in leadership to improve educational and healthcare systems.”

Dalhousie first offered the elective as a pilot in the fall of 2022. After an enthusiastic response from the first cohort of residents, the leadership elective has become a permanent offering for postgraduate learners.

“We have to engage physicians in leadership and give them the tools that they need to be successful,” says Dr. Bowes. “The hope is that we’re going to be graduating trainees who are more engaged in leadership and able to change the world.”

A comprehensive learning experience

Residents participating in the elective receive a comprehensive learning experience, incorporating classroom-based workshops and leadership-based projects. Their projects have included:

- Developing a multidisciplinary solid tumour clinic at the IWK Health Centre;
- Revising resident wellness programming;
- Assessing the impact of virtual healthcare on emergency department visits;
- Amplifying transgender and gender diverse perspectives of youth in Nova Scotia; and
- Developing and evaluating a nurse-led clinic for elective egg freezing.

The support and collaboration of sponsors make the program possible, including Doctors NS, MD Management, and Scotiabank, who are committed to enriching the leadership journey of Dalhousie residents. Additional funding from donors interested in this important work will enrich the program and ensure more residents have access.

This year, thanks to Doctors NS, residents received the added benefit of professional coaching, delivered by non-physicians. This unique and highly valuable experience provides residents with feedback on their strengths and weaknesses and offers opportunities and solutions for improvement.

Dr. Courtney Gullickson, a practicing pediatrician and recent Dalhousie graduate, completed the leadership elective last year. With previous leadership experience, and a strong interest in the area, she saw the elective as an incredible opportunity for dedicated time in the curriculum to focus on skill development and to connect with other residents also engaged in leadership.

“I believe that leadership skills are used daily by physicians regardless of whether you hold a formal leadership position,” says Dr. Gullickson. “These are skills that we use to advocate for patients, navigate difficult conversations on the wards, and work within interdisciplinary teams.”

Dr. Gullickson says the elective also allowed time to reflect on physician wellness both on a systems level, and a personal level. She encourages residents to participate, even if they do not see themselves as a leader.

“I think every single resident could benefit from this elective and it’s a unique experience in the residency journey,” she says. “It acts as a great pause for reflection and is an opportunity to learn a new skillset that you can then apply to your clinical life.”

A visit from the General

Although she has already completed her time in the program as a resident, Dr. Gullickson recently returned to emcee an especially important leadership elective session.

On a Tuesday afternoon in October, leadership elective residents, along with 80 others, gathered in the Tupper Medical Building at Dalhousie to hear from the Lieutenant-General the Honourable Roméo A. Dallaire. The author, public speaker, leadership consultant, international advisor, former Canadian senator, and founder of the Dallaire Institute for Children, Peace, and Security is perhaps best known for his courage and leadership as Force Commander with the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda during the 1994 genocide.

General Dallaire, whose service earned him the Order of Canada, spoke with both humility and humour as he addressed the resiliency of healthcare professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the importance of serving as physicians.

“You are entering a service to other human beings,” said General Dallaire. “Do not expect people to say, ‘Thank You.’ You will experience hurt, but that’s part of it. You are part of the process to make revolutionary changes.”

For an hour and a half, General Dallaire shared stories and anecdotes from his celebrated military career, and drew parallels between military and medicine, both critical areas of service. His firsthand accounts of managing complex and high-pressure situations, making critical decisions, and remaining resilient in the face of overwhelming adversity, proved not only inspirational but also highly instructive.

General Dallaire underscored the indispensable connection between effective leadership, resilience, and personal well-being.

“Survive and thrive, and take control of the decision-making process,” General Dallaire encouraged the residents. “There is no better time to serve than now.”

Improving patient care

The presentation marked the end of the leadership elective for the second cohort of residents. Dr. Bowes is eager to build on the success of the first two years and hopes the work he is doing will make a difference.

“It takes a lot of people to make the system better,” says Dr. Bowes. “But to be part of that and to introduce things that are going to improve physician training—that has clear impacts on patient care, and ultimately, on how the health system functions.”



Euphoria! Past & Present

Four of the members of the Class of 1970 recently assembled to recall the birth of the first-ever EUPHORIA! During their 4th year of Medical School, then called a "Clinical Clerkship," MD '70 came up with the bright idea of presenting a variety show to celebrate their extracurricular talents, and possibly leave a legacy at their alma mater.

The four in the photo you see were the moving forces behind the plan. Class President Dan Reid met with the Class Presidents of Years 1, 2, and 3 to invite their classmates to enter the "show" and produce a skit or performance which would possibly have them win the inaugural EUPHORIA! trophy. In fact, he met with whole classes in Tupper Theatre A to persuade them to join a fun filled night of entertainment. All accepted.

Prior to these meetings, Reid convened a special Class '70 meeting as a proper name for the show was needed. Several suggestions including Borborygmus and Tenesmus were voted down as being too "explosive". By a unanimous vote EUPHORIA! won and has lived to this day, fifty-five years later.

The beginnings of a benefit

Reid also took on the role of Master of Ceremonies for the show which was held in the auditorium of the "new" Student Union Building on the Studley Campus—the McInnes Room. Incidentally, classmate Rod McInnes is the son of the honoured namesake of the room, who had served many years as Chair of the Board of Governors of Dalhousie.

Ron Stewart, at the time also President of the Medical Students Society, threw his usual enthusiasm into the role of producer and general backstage organizer of the show. He really made the show come together and in fact oversaw ticket sales for the event which resulted in an over capacity crowd in the McInnes Room. Among the crowd were four

◀ *Four of the founding fathers of Euphoria! Photo taken on the occasion of Ron Stewart's induction to Companion of the Order of Canada at Government House, Halifax, in March 2024. From left to right: Drs. Mike Banks, Terry Higgins, Ron Stewart, and Dan Reid. Classmates of 1970.*

faculty members he'd recruited to be judges for the "acts" and as well special seating for then Dean Chester Stewart and other department heads.

Ron also arranged for any surplus from ticket sales to be donated to the Foster Parent Plan. Alas, due to an unfortunate accident resulting in the destruction of a musician's double bass, and the purchase of a new replacement, only \$23.00 profit was made.

A role for everyone

Mike Banks, an accomplished piano player, was appointed Musical Director for the show. Not only did he assemble a small but able group of musicians, but he led MD '70 in their skit of music and laughs. He composed a song of our beloved Professor of Bacteriology (Infectious Diseases), Dr. van Rooyen. A very renowned and internationally acclaimed academic, Dr. van Rooyen wowed us all with his knowledge of this developing area of medicine and science—claimed he had a hand in the development of Penicillin.

The song delivered by Mike with Bill Stanish "singing" the role of Mrs. van Rooyen was a riot. At the song's conclusion, Professor van Rooyen and his wife left the auditorium... it turned out that he'd forgotten his hearing aids and hadn't heard a word.

Terry Higgins performed a skit that was both ingenious and hilarious. From a dramatically draped tunnel through which a live birth, narrated by Higgins in vivid sports-reporter style, delivered himself clad in a diaper and a Timex watch which "kept on ticking." His many maneuvers as he passed through the tunnel—accentuated by his very long skinny arms and legs—brought gales of laughter from the crowd.

At the end of the evening the four judges decided the winning Class was the Second Years whose skit featured a ballet with tippy-toed, crinoline slip-clad classmates cavorting over the stage to world class formal music. It was a hoot. They were awarded the inaugural EUPHORIA! trophy. Not so sure they didn't bribe the judges. Not so sure the trophy still exists.

A legacy half a century later

Graciously, MD '71 (under their class President Vonda Hayes), continued the show the following year and so it has become an annual event ever since. To help in its ongoing production the Class of 1970 established THE EUPHORIA ENDOWMENT

FUND. This helped sustain the show until its popularity and success over the years became self sustaining.

In fact, since moving into the Rebecca Cohn Auditorium many years ago, the show has raised thousands of dollars which are annually donated to various charities in the Maritime Provinces. As a result the EUPHORIA! endowment was re-structured in the early days of Dr. Tom Marrie's Deanship at Dal (he too being a Class'70 member) to support the students Research In Medicine (RIM) Program.

Fifty-five years ago, born of humble beginnings and low expectations, there is no doubt that the essence of EUPHORIA! has been woven into the fabric of DAL MEDICINE and the lives of its graduates. The bringing together of classmates in the spirit of fun and comradery in a single event has most graduates citing EUPHORIA! as the most unforgettable memory from their Dal Med experience.

What a legacy! Bravo, Class of 1970.

▼ *A scene from the 2024 Euphoria!*



Euphoria! impresses crowds, judges

54th annual event was hosted February 17, 2024, to sold out crowds

Crowds flocked to the Dalhousie Arts Centre as Dalhousie medical students took to the stage for the 54th performance of Euphoria! to raise funds for Chroma NB, a non-profit organization that provides support for 2SLGBTQIA+ people in the Saint John Region.

Every year since 1969, Dalhousie Medical School students have hosted the variety show, with funds raised going to a charity of their choosing. All four classes face off, showcasing their amazing artistic, theatrical and musical talents, for bragging rights and the coveted Euphoria! trophy.

With planning led by VP Internal Affairs for the Dalhousie Medical Student Society (DMSS), Mara McNeil (Class of 2026), and supported by a dedicated team consisting of Euphoria! co-chairs, members of the DMSS, and the social committee, Euphoria! 2024 saw nearly 250 medical students participate in the high-energy evening. The students, who are extremely eager to participate, often begin planning their performances well before

the academic year even begins, spending countless hours writing scripts, practicing dances, building sets, and developing media.

The Med 1s kicked off the festivities with a witty spoof on the Hunger Games, blending humor with poignant reflections on the journey to medical school. The Med 2s dazzled with their homage to the 80s, their infectious energy igniting the stage with vibrant dance numbers, nostalgic tunes, and a journey that followed a young Dean Anderson through various medical specialties.

Amidst cheers and applause, the Med 3s whisked the audience away with Dr. Frizzle and the Magic School Bus on a trip through the human body, with incredible choreography and impressive vocals. And the Med 4s, with a poignant glance towards the future, explored futuristic medicine and their specialty training with a journey through time, and a performance that was a touching tribute to their years at Dalhousie.

Judges Drs. Jack Rasmussen, Tiffany O'Donnell, and Bruce Crooks faced a difficult decision, but ultimately named the Class of 2026 (Med 2s) victorious. Their energy in their dance performances, engaging plot, and incredible collaboration between Dalhousie Medicine Nova Scotia and Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick earned them the trophy for 2024.

It was an unforgettable evening of celebration for all those involved, with more than \$43,000 raised in support of Chroma NB.

▼ Second year medical students, including a young Dean Anderson realizing that hematology is the best specialty, during their Euphoria! performance. (Photo: Timothy Richard)



Dal Med Alumni, we need your help!

Promoting Leadership in health for African Nova Scotians (PLANS) aims to increase representation of African Nova Scotians in the health professions – including medicine. This initiative is strongly supported by our dean and faculty, but we need the support of Dalhousie's Black medical alumni to truly make an impact.

Do you self-identify as Black or of African descent?

Please provide [your information here](#), then share the form with other Dal Med Alumni who self-identify as Black or of African descent.

Timi Idris, Program Manager PLANS
Dr. Leah Jones, Academic Director, Black Health
plans@dal.ca | 902.399.4793

It is important to have black and African Nova Scotian representation in healthcare so that our healthcare system can better reflect the diversity of the population it serves.

"Being from North Preston, the largest black community in Canada, I know firsthand, that mental illness does not exclude the black community. However, as I near the end of my 5-year residency training in psychiatry, I cannot help but reflect on the small number of Black patients I have had the honour to help and/or treat over the years.

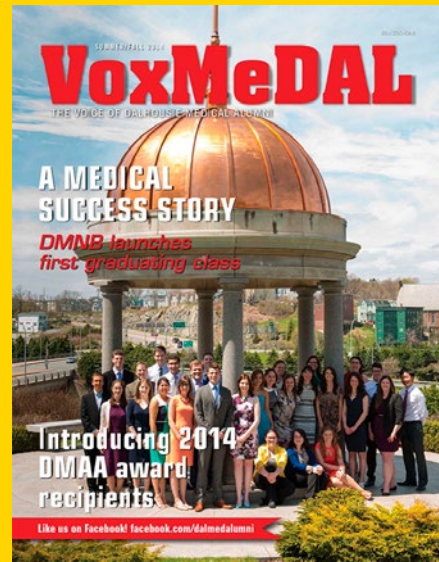
My hope for the future of medicine in Nova Scotia is that I will one day be "one of many" black physicians working in Nova Scotia as opposed to "one of few" and that this may translate to enhanced medical education that acknowledges diverse perspectives and the contributions of diverse leaders and scholars in the field, the rebuilding of trust between the healthcare system and black community, improved access to care, and improvement in health outcomes."

— Dr. Cinera States (MD '17)



DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY

Promoting Leadership in Health
for African Nova Scotians



2014



2019



2020

It Only Took A Few Minutes...

Renaming VOX MeDal by Dr. Allan Purdy (MD '74)

In the fall of 2023, an online message from the DMAA announced that Vox MeDAL will retire from being our association's banner on our publication. It began in 1969 and lasted several decades—and there were times in the remote past when it almost went out of paper publication because of lack of financial support, but certainly not because of alumni indifference.

The truth is that the DMAA and the VOX MeDal came about at a magical time in the history of our Medical School. The official opening of the Tupper Building, a Centennial project of Canada and Nova Scotia occurred in the summer of 1967. The Tupper building was opened to a new class of students in 1968. I was a member of the first class of medical students to come into the new building that year. We had the most amazing facilities, labs, and lecture theatres. We also had a wonderful clinical and basic science faculty and a new curriculum.

A special Organ Transplantation Seminar occurred shortly after we entered medical school. Sir Peter Medawar was invited to give a major talk on *The Cell*, and it was a masterful presentation. He was thought by some to be the foremost biologist of his generation and a Noble Prize laureate for his work in Physiology. All of this probably helped many of us new medical school students develop an insatiable curiosity about the journey we were about to take.

Over decades, the DMAA was vigorously supported by its members and VOX MeDal was truly the Vox or Voice of our Association. I felt a certain sadness about it moving on to a new title but understood the need for change. Looking carefully at the name, I wondered, what would it take to preserve the link of Medicine and Dalhousie. MeDAL was the secret.

One could drop the Vox and keep it as MeDAL or DalMed but that would limit its future possibilities in a world where instant electronic communications and documents were the preferred methods of involving our alumni and its purposes. I thought about it over a few minutes, and it just popped into my brain. DalDocs. It captured the essence of who we are in the DMAA and would continue to speak on our behalf. It had a colloquial connotation, with the use of Docs, and allowed for the opportunity to include more Docs than just physicians. Our basic science and research colleagues, too.

DalDocs

*Dalhousie's Faculty of Medicine
Alumni Publication*

DMAA has a new voice and communication tool. It represents the over 10,000 current alumni which now includes physicians trained at Dal, physicians who went to other medical schools and then did postgraduate work here, and now, after a recent decision, by our uniquely independent DMAA Board, there will be PhD and some MSc members, probably future Docs, on board. We of course welcome all new members.

Finally, if we can wrap our heads around how expansive and multifaceted our medical school has become in recent years—with many changes in education, clinical care, and leading research—then we can continue over the next century or more, to represent our alumni goals. As we advance and adapt to change, we will continue to support what is important in the world of healthcare education for the people who entrust us with their care.

That magic for me began decades ago. It continues to this day and has made me proud of what has been done here and around the world by our alumni. So much of who we are is still embedded in our medical school.

R. Allan Purdy MD '74, FRCPC, FACP, FAHS

Professor of Medicine (Neurology)

Department of Medicine, Dalhousie University

About Dr. Allan Purdy



Member of the DMAA

May 1974 to Present

Silver Shovel Award

Professor of the Year, chosen by graduating class

1989

Silver Shovel Award

Professor of the Year, chosen by graduating class

1991

Vice President of the DMAA

1995–1996

President of the DMAA

1996–1998

*Graduation Dinner came to be created;
included new grads and their family*

DMAA Alumnus of the Year Award

2004

Why I Give: Dr. Jennifer Moore (MD '86)

For more than 30 years, Dr. Jennifer Moore (MD '86) has been making annual gifts to Dalhousie, mainly in support of the Faculty of Medicine. She hopes her gifts are helping to make medical education more affordable, and that this will lead to an increase in the number and diversity of practicing physicians.



"I remember working summers during my studies to make ends meet," says Dr. Moore. "I'm sure it's more challenging now and that many students probably don't even think about applying. I want to get more individuals going to medical school who otherwise might not have that opportunity, whether because of barriers related to cost or because they come from backgrounds that have been underrepresented in medicine."

Dr. Moore decided to start giving to Dalhousie shortly after she graduated. "It seemed like the right thing to do, even if it was fairly minimal," she says. "The university provided me with the skills, knowledge, and encouragement to become a physician and start my own practice. It also gave my husband, Peter (Borwein), his first academic job as professor in the department of mathematics. Dalhousie has had a big impact on my life." That connection has deepened significantly over the years; two of Dr. Moore's daughters are also Dalhousie alumni.

"There are lots of ways you can help, even if you start small, that can really make a difference over time."

In 2022, Dr. Moore was inspired to make a special gift to Dalhousie through the Fill the House Seat Campaign. She did so in memory of Peter, who passed away in 2020 from complications related to multiple sclerosis. The opportunity to have a seat in his name at the Joseph Strug Concert Hall resonated with her.

"I'd been looking into different things and remembered all the times we went to the Arts Centre," Dr. Moore says. "We had so many positive memories, so I decided to support the campaign with a chair for persons with disabilities."

As Dr. Moore prepares to retire from her practice in BC, she is also reflecting on more ways to continue her legacy of giving to Dalhousie. She hopes that, by sharing her story, she can inspire other alumni to think about how they can give.

"I think people often feel like they have to give a certain amount before they can be comfortable doing so," Dr. Moore says. "But there are lots of ways you can help, even if you start small, that can really make a difference over time."



Alum Publication: *Bummer* by Dr. Marcus Burnstein (MD '79)

Dr. Marcus Burnstein (MD '79), a leading colorectal surgeon at one of Toronto's busiest hospitals, has published a new book on anal health.

In *Bummer: What You Need to Know About Anal Health*, Dr. Burnstein brings matters of anal health out of the shadows to dispel myths, enlighten, explain, and reassure.

In simple, clear language, Dr. Burnstein, an associate professor of surgery at the University of Toronto, describes how the anus works and reviews the causes, prevention, and management of common ailments.

Dr. Burnstein is a past program director for the University of Toronto Residency Programs in Colorectal and General Surgery, past chairman of the Royal College Specialty Committee for Colorectal Surgery, and past president of the Canadian Society of Colon and Rectal Surgeons. The DMAA spoke with him to learn more about his new book and career.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR BOOK AND WHY YOU CHOSE TO WRITE IT

The official answer is that I have over 40 years experience taking care of patient's colon, rectal, and anal problems, and there are no signs that my practice is slowing down. Anal problems are common, most are curable and many are preventable. And anal diseases don't get enough press. There is insufficient information out there for patients.

Perhaps a more truthful answer is that during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, I was around the house a lot, and

my wife told me to find something to do. So, I began writing *Bummer*. I have been fortunate to have lots of positive feedback.

WHO IS THE INTENDED AUDIENCE? WHAT ARE SOME OF THE GOALS YOU'RE HOPING TO ACHIEVE WITH THE BOOK?

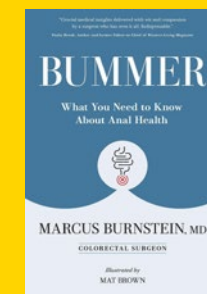
Patients with gastrointestinal health problems, as well as individuals with an interest in GI health. This book is intended for the lay person and I have tried to make it accessible, easy to read, a little entertaining, as well as informative. Family practice colleagues and trainees may also find it helpful; anal pathology is often not well-taught in medical school and may be neglected in CME activities.

IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU WOULD LIKE PEOPLE TO KNOW ABOUT THE BOOK?

The motivation behind publishing this book is to get information about anorectal disease out there, and to provide information about what to expect when seeing a colorectal surgeon like myself. There is fear and embarrassment associated with anorectal complaints, and I hope that *Bummer* helps to reduce these.

HOW DID YOU GET INTO MEDICINE AND WHY DALHOUSIE MEDICAL SCHOOL?

Runs in the family. My father was MD Class of '52, my brother Matthew was MD '83. It was during my rotating internship at the Toronto Western Hospital in '79-'80 that I caught the surgery bug. My preparation at Dalhousie made me a competitive applicant for the Toronto General Surgery Program. I did additional training in Colorectal Surgery at the Lahey Clinic in Boston before returning to the faculty at Dal in 1986. I was on the faculty at Dal from '86 to '92. I was given the opportunity to be the General Surgery Program Director in '89, reporting to Associate Dean Dr Jean Grey. This experience prepared me for subsequent roles as Program Director of the General Surgery and Colorectal Surgery residency programs at the University of Toronto.



Available for purchase on [amazon.ca](https://www.amazon.ca)

Class Notes

1960s

Dr. Peter House (MD '68) retired in Vancouver, on May 31, 2023, after 55 years in Family Practice.

1970s

Dr. Ron Stewart (MD '70), retired Department of Emergency Medicine faculty member, has been named a Companion of the Order of Canada.

Dr. David E. Swee (MD '75) installed as 232nd President of the Medical Society of New Jersey.

Dr. Michael J. Fleming (MD '78) is retiring after over four decades of dedicated service.

1980s

Dr. Preston Smith (MD '81) has been named the University of Prince Edward Island's first Dean of Medicine, as of April 1, 2024.

Dr. Patricia Dauphinee-Bentley (MD '85) retired from family practice in Parrsboro, Nova Scotia.

Dr. Burton McCann (MD '88) received an Award of Merit from the Canadian Board of Occupational Medicine for, "exemplary contributions in encouraging the study, improving the practice and elevating the standards of Occupational Medicine throughout Canada".

1990s

Dr. Ken Rockwood (PGM '91) was honoured with the 2023 Medal of Honour in recognition of his outstanding contributions to his field by The Health Research Foundation (HRF) of Innovative Medicines Canada (IMC).

Dr. Gaynor Watson-Creed (MD '99) was reappointed Associate Dean, Serving and Engaging Society, for a second five-year term, effective August 2023.

Am I Ableist?

Addressing Disability in Medical Education

In collaboration with community advocates and disability scholars, Dalhousie medical learners Marihan Farid, Abbey MacLellan, and Zach Ford created and published a resource that invites people to reflect on ableist views and disability theory within medicine.

[Click here](#) for more information, and to read the book

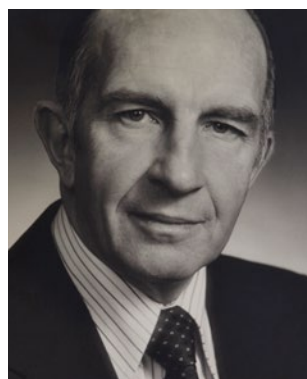


In Memoriam

The DMAA acknowledges the passing of our alumni and faculty with sincere sympathy and gratitude for their contributions to medicine. If you know of anyone to note in this section, please contact medical.alumni@dal.ca.

DR. EDWARD ROSS (MD '69) passed away on September 22, 2023	DR. EDWARD RAFUSE (MD '61) passed away on November 26, 2023	DR. THOMAS HYDORN (MD '86) passed away on February 13, 2024
DR. TRIBHUVAN BHARGAVA (PGM '67) passed away on October 18, 2023	DR. MICHAEL EVANS (MD '86) passed away on November 28, 2023	DR. PETER BLACKIE (MD '66) passed away on February 13, 2024
DR. ALLAN WILKIE (MD '95) passed away on October 19, 2023	DR. ROBERT LAWTON (MD '50) passed away on December 8, 2023	DR. BRIAN MANN (MD '72) passed away on February 15, 2024
DR. LEONARD O'NEIL (MD '72) passed away on October 21, 2023	DR. IRWIN NUDELMAN (MD '58) passed away on December 13, 2023	DR. ERIC COGSWELL (MD '62) passed away on February 19, 2024
DR. ROLAND SAXON (MD '63) passed away on October 24, 2023	DR. M HARRIS (MD '61) passed away on December 21, 2023	DR. ROLF-DIETER NEU (MD '73) passed away on February 27, 2024
DR. JIM WICKWIRE (MD '57) passed away on October 25, 2023	DR. MARK SADLER (MD '77) passed away on December 26, 2023	DR. WAYNE HOWARD (MD '72) passed away on March 5, 2024
DR. GORDON FERGUSON (MD '80) passed away on October 26, 2023	JOHN CARROLL (MSC '80) passed away on January 4, 2024	DR. MATTHEW LANDRY (MD '03) passed away on March 10, 2024
DR. YASMINE DAVID (PGM '70) passed away on October 28, 2023	DR. ROSE JOHNSTON (MD '80) passed away on January 24, 2024	DR. DANIEL GILLIS (MD '53) passed away on March 27, 2024
DR. TERRY ROHLAND (PGM '78) passed away on November 15, 2023	DR. FRANK DUFF (MD '57) passed away on February 5, 2024	DR. ROBERT BROWN (MD '63) passed away on March 27, 2024
DR. GREGORY ROY (MD '75) passed away on November 16, 2023	DR. CARL ABBOTT (MD '59) passed away on February 8, 2024	DR. MIECZYSLAW KULESZA (PGM '75) passed away on March 29, 2024
DR. INDIRA ANANDAKRISHNAN (PGM '87) passed away on November 21, 2023	DR. HANFORD G BRACE (MD '68) passed away on Feb. 11, 2024.	DR. ALBERT PROSSIN (MD '55) passed away on April 9, 2024
		DR. KIMBERLEY NIX (MD '18) passed away on May 8, 2024

Dr. Fred Barton Visiting Scholar & Lecture in Ethics in Medicine



In the Fall of 2023, the Faculty of Medicine's Department of Bioethics presented the inaugural **Dr. Fred Barton Visiting Scholar & Lecture in Bioethics**, bringing Columbia University's Harriet

A. Washington to Halifax for an engaging presentation titled "The Erosion of Consent: Implications for Health Care Providers."

As a medical ethicist, Ms. Washington has a unique and courageous voice. While telling individual stories, she deconstructs the politics around medical issues, depicts scientific racism and paints a disturbing portrait of medicine, race, sex, and the abuse of power.

Ms. Washington also makes the case for broader political consciousness of science and technology, challenging audiences to re-interpret established paradigms in the history of medicine.

Her book *Medical Apartheid* won the 2007 National Book Critics Circle Award for Nonfiction, and her latest work, *Carte Blanche: The Erosion of Medical Consent* is an exposé of the U.S. medical-research system.

Following the lecture, Dalhousie faculty members Dr. Gaynor Watson-Creed, Associate Dean, Serving & Engaging Society, Dr. Naila Ramji, Maternal-Fetal Medicine Specialist, and Dr. Everett Chalmers, Regional Hospital (New Brunswick) and Assistant Professor of Obstetrics & Gynecology, held an inspired panel discussion and Q&A session.

Remembering Dr. Fred Barton

Dr. Frederick Barton (MD'41) practised family medicine from 1941 to 1948 before pursuing post-graduate training in general surgery in Halifax and Toronto. He completed his fellowship in surgery from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in 1951, and from the American College of Surgeons in 1952.

Dr. Barton had a distinguished medical career. He practised surgery at the Halifax Infirmary from 1951 to 1982 and was Chief of its medical staff for 21 years. During his tenure, Dr. Barton helped guide the transition of the Infirmary from a private hospital to a teaching hospital affiliated with Dalhousie.

Dr. Barton was active in medical education. He helped redesign, modernize, and forge change in the content and delivery of the curriculum at Dalhousie Medical School, and served as editor of the beloved alumni magazine, *VOX MeDal*.

Dr. Barton had an abiding interest in medical standards, in medical justice and fairness, and in physician professionalism. His guiding motto was, "competence and compassion."

We remember him for his unfailing courtesy, refined manner, good humour, and dedication to his patients and his profession.



Save the Date

Dr. Fred Barton Visiting Scholar & Lecture in Bioethics

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2024 | THE WESTIN HOTEL

Melissa McCradden: Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Ethics in Health Care

Bringing Back the Breakthrough Breakfast Celebrating Innovation and Philanthropy

In an exciting revival, Dalhousie University's Faculty of Medicine is proud to announce the return of the Breakthrough Breakfast!

This series of events, designed to celebrate groundbreaking research and innovation, promises to deliver stimulating mornings of learning, networking, and advancing medical science over breakfast.

The incredible outcomes at the Faculty of Medicine would not happen without the time, training, expertise, and dedication of Dalhousie's researchers and educators. At the Faculty of Medicine, we are proud of the work they are doing and the impact it has on the healthcare system, our economy, and most importantly, the health and well-being of Maritimers, Canadians, and people all around the world.

Medical research is a powerful economic driver, creating jobs and promising business opportunities, while training the people and attracting the investment that is building a knowledge-based economy in the Maritimes. Bringing innovation to the forefront of all we do is key to ensuring opportunities abound here at home.

About the Breakthrough Breakfast Series

Each installment of the Breakthrough Breakfast series will highlight a different area of medical research, featuring esteemed researchers at the forefront of their fields.

From immunity and vaccinology to cardiac research and cancer, brain diseases and mental health, to healthy aging and frailty, the series spans a diverse spectrum of crucial medical topics. Each event will feature a panel of researchers, graduate students, patients, or community members who have contributed to or benefited from groundbreaking research.

Bringing together these high-impact researchers, strategic partners, business leaders, government representatives, and key community influencers, the Breakthrough Breakfast Series is an opportunity to hear about the real work happening behind the scenes in labs, clinics, and biomanufacturing facilities across the Dal Medicine community.

We have curated each event to provide attendees with an opportunity to learn about the world-leading medical research occurring at Dalhousie. In Ted-Talk style presentations, researchers will share insights into their latest projects, advancements in their field, and future possibilities. Attendees will be able to engage with experts, ask questions, and gain a deeper understanding of medicine's critical issues.

Fostering Connections and Collaboration

The Breakthrough Breakfast series is not only about knowledge-sharing but also about fostering connections. Attendees have the chance to meet like-minded individuals, healthcare professionals, and researchers. By creating a platform for collaboration, the event aims to strengthen the bonds between the academic community and the broader public.

Future Events

The Breakthrough Breakfast series is more than an event; it is a celebration of our collective power to drive change. Join us in supporting groundbreaking research and shaping the future of medical innovation.

Together, let's make each breakfast a stepping stone towards a healthier and more informed world.

Join us on June 18th for Pioneering Possibilities in Cancer Research.

Upcoming Events

June 18 – Pioneering Possibilities in Cancer Research

Future Topics: Healthy Aging, Cardiac Research, Family Medicine, Genomics and Mental Health & Brain Diseases

Learn more about Breakthrough Breakfast events at medicine-advancement.dal.ca/news-events/events



45th Reunion Recap Dal Med '78

The Dalhousie Medical School Class of '78 had its 45th-year reunion at the Algonquin Resort in St. Andrews, NB, on September 8-10, 2023, with 29 classmates and 15 partners attending. This is the ninth reunion for the Class of '78, which has met every five years since graduating.

Friday night, a Meet and Greet reception with wine and hors d'oeuvres on a rooftop garden at the Algonquin started off the weekend. It was a beautiful, warm evening, with an air of excitement and happiness as we greeted each other.

The next morning, we met for a traditional English Breakfast buffet, followed by an update on our successful Class of '78 Bursary Fund. We have raised \$500,000, the most of any class, thanks to the philanthropy of Bruce Walmsley. Bruce asked us to consider Dal Med as a beneficiary in our wills. Thanks again to Rob Burris for suggesting the development of this bursary and Rob, Pam Forsythe, and Bruce Walmsley for the continued oversight.

After this, a video message from Dean Anderson to our class led to five educational topics conducted by Jane Barlow, Jackie Evans, Brian Horseman, Pat Killorn, and finally, Anna Timmel. The talks were informative, inspirational, unique, humorous, exploratory, honest, personal, and moral. And despite our age, no one fell asleep.

Saturday afternoon was free for our classmates to explore St. Andrews and its attractions, run, hike, or relax by the pool.

We reconvened that evening for a Steakhouse Social buffet. Anna Timmel developed a classmate slide show that ran in the back of the venue throughout the evening. The food and wine were excellent, and continuous chatter and laughs filled the air.

Our weekend ended the following day with a farewell Hipster Breakfast buffet.

The weekend reunion was amazing. The ambiance of goodwill and love we have for each other was palpable and heartwarming. Everyone was happy and energized. Many hugs, moist eyes, and promises to meet again concluded our reunion.

The Class of '78 looks forward to our 50th-year reunion in 2028, probably back in Halifax. We welcome you all, near and far, with open hearts.

SAVE THE DATE

2024 DMAA Alumni Events

IN HALIFAX

ALUMNI RECOGNITION AWARDS
NOVEMBER 1

DAL MED GALA
NOVEMBER 2

DEAN'S RECEPTION,
FALL REFRESHER
NOVEMBER 29

2024 Reunions

MD 1974

Pre-Internship 50th Anniversary

September 6-9, 2024 | Algonquin Resort, St. Andrews NB

Organizer: Ed Doherty dohertyed8@gmail.com

MD 1974

Post-Internship 50th Anniversary

September 26-28, 2024 | Halifax

Organizer: Kevin Robbins kthomasrobbins@gmail.com

MD 1979 45th Anniversary

November 28, 2024 (Fall Refresher Weekend)

Cambridge Suites, Halifax

Organizer: Vance Logan vancehlogan@gmail.com

MD 1986 38th Anniversary

August 9-10, 2024 | PEI

Organizer: David Wood cdwood@dal.ca

MD 1994 30th Anniversary

June 14-16, 2024 | White Point Resort, NS

Organizer: Krista Burchill kburchil@maine.rr.com

MD 1999 25th Anniversary

October 4-6, 2024 | Halifax

Organizer: Sheri-Lee Samson sherisamson@yahoo.ca

MD 2008 15th Anniversary

(Postponed)

TBC | TBC

Organizer: Shannon Curtis curtis.shannon@gmail.com

MD 2014 10th Anniversary

TBC | TBC

Organizers: Mike MacDonald mikej_macdonald@hotmail.com

Mary Beth Bissell mary.beth.bissell@dal.ca

Dal Alumni Benefits Program

Take advantage of discounts and special offers from local, national and international providers (including Dalhousie Alumni owned businesses!) on everything from hotels and restaurants to local alumni-owned businesses and more.

Signing up is
easy and free!

[Click here](#) to get started



Questions?

Email alumni.benefits@dal.ca to learn more.

Please note that you must be a Dalhousie graduate in order to take part in this program.

DALALUMNI
benefits program



DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY



DALHOUSIE
UNIVERSITY

MEDICAL ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION