CFPC Celebrates Top 20 Pioneers of Family Medicine Research in Canada

(August 7, 2015, Mississauga, ON) The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) is pleased to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of its Section of Researchers. To acknowledge this important milestone, and recognize those health professionals who have dedicated their work to family medicine research, the College will honour the Top 20 Pioneers of Family Medicine Research in Canada for their respective contributions to advancing health care in Canada and around the world.

“While there are many worthy candidates for this honour, 20 researchers have been selected who meet the criteria of what it means to be a pioneer within their respective fields of work,” says CFPC President, Garey Mazowita, MD, CCFP, FCFP. “These pioneers have demonstrated the value of research that is informed by doctor-patient relationships, continuity of care, community and population connections, and commitment to teaching - the very attributes that family doctors bring to Canadians on a daily basis.”

“We are proud to celebrate the Top 20 Pioneers – and all family medicine researchers – for their important work,” says CFPC Executive Director and CEO, Francine Lemire, MD CM, CCFP, FCFP, CAE. “I commend the Section of Researchers for their dedicated work to advocate for family medicine research since 1995. Collectively, they have created a community of practice in family medicine that has inspired health professionals to work together, learn from one another, and make positive advancements to the discipline of family medicine and family practice.”

Top 20 Pioneers of Family Medicine Research in Canada (in alphabetical order) and areas in which they are recognized for being a pioneer in family medicine research:

Dr Marie-Dominique Beaulieu, University of Montreal, Montreal, Quebec
Recognized for her dedication to family medicine research and its promotion while serving as President of the CFPC, department chair, and other leadership roles

Dr Richard Birtwhistle, Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario
Recognized for his work with the Canadian Primary Care Sentinel Surveillance Network (CPCSSN), a pan-Canadian network of practitioners with electronic medical records (EMRs)

Dr Ian Cameron (retired), previously with Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia
Recognized for his recounting of history to influence present day practice (“storytelling” and “oral influence” in medicine)

Dr Earl Dunn (posthumous recognition), previously with University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario
Recognized for his leadership in bringing telemedicine to Canada; he is remembered as the “Father of Telemedicine in Canada”
Dr Richard Glazier, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario
Recognized for his work using health administrative data at the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences (ICES)

Dr Marshall Godwin, Memorial University, St. John’s, Newfoundland
Recognized for his research on hypertension treatment in community settings in Canada – a condition that is affecting an increasing number of Canadians

Dr Stefan Grzybowski, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia
Recognized for his research on delivery of health services to people living in rural and remote communities

Dr Carol Herbert, Western University, London, Ontario
Recognized for being among the first female family physician researchers to promote family medicine research as Dean of a Canadian medical school (Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry at Western University)

Dr Brian Hutchison, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario
Recognized for his use of simulated office patients as an innovative research methodology

Dr Janusz Kaczorowski, University of Montreal, Montreal, Quebec
Recognized for his use of cities as the unit of randomization, specifically with the Cardiovascular Health Awareness Program (CHAP)

Dr Michael Klein, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia
Recognized for his research in childbirth and maternal health, and specifically his work on routine episiotomies

Dr Michel Labrecque, Laval University, Quebec City, Quebec
Recognized for his research in men’s health, specifically his research on vasectomies and their procedures

Dr France Légaré, Laval University, Quebec City, Quebec
Recognized for her research with decision aids and how they can be used in practice

Dr Ann Macaulay, McGill University, Montreal, Quebec
Recognized for her development of community participatory research methods for research on diabetes with the Indigenous Mohawk population in Canada

Dr Vivian Ramsden, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Recognized for her community participatory research as a Registered Nurse and research director in a department of family medicine

Dr Walter Rosser, Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario
Recognized for his research with Practice Based Research Networks (PBRNs) and research in non-university affiliated practices such as with Ambulatory Sentinel Practice Network (ASPN)
Dr Janet Smylie, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario
Recognized for her work with, and personal investment in, the health care of Indigenous communities in Canada

Thames Valley Family Practice Research Unit (TVFPRU), Western University, London, Ontario
Collectively nominated for their early embrace of interdisciplinary research:
Dr Martin Bass (posthumous recognition) – Contribution as a family physician with quantitative research expertise
Dr Judith Brown – Contribution as social worker with qualitative research expertise
Dr Ian McWhinney (posthumous recognition) – Contribution as a family physician philosopher with an outstanding ability to describe the practice of family medicine; fondly remembered as the ‘Father of Family Medicine in Canada’
Dr Carol McWilliam – Contribution as an EdD Doctorally Prepared Nurse and expertise as a qualitative researcher
Dr Moira Stewart – Contribution as an epidemiologist with quantitative research expertise

Dr Ross Upshur, University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario
Recognized for his research in public health and his use of a variety of research methodologies and approaches from a broad range of disciplines

Dr Gail Webber, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario
Recognized for her use of rigorous research methodology in remote areas of developing countries

About the CFPC
The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) represents more than 34,000 members across the country. It is the professional organization responsible for establishing standards for the training and certification of family physicians. The CFPC reviews and accredits continuing professional development programs and materials that enable family physicians to meet certification and licencing requirements and lifelong learning interests. It also accredits postgraduate family medicine training in Canada’s 17 medical schools. The College provides quality services, supports family medicine teaching and research, and advocates on behalf of family physicians and the specialty of family medicine.

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