CFPC Announces 2011 Family Physicians of the Year

BACKGROUND

Recognizing Excellence

Since 1972, The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) has honoured family physician members who exemplify the guiding principles of family medicine with the Family Physician of the Year awards. In 1996 the award was named after Dr. Reg L. Perkin, Executive Director of the CFPC from 1985 to 1996.

This year’s outstanding Family Physicians of the Year - one from each Canadian province - are recognized for excellence in family medicine by providing exceptional personal care to their patients, sharing their knowledge and insights with their colleagues and with physicians in training, and giving back to their communities.

The 2011 Family Physicians of the Year demonstrate the rich diversity of family medicine. They are teachers, researchers and clinicians. They care for patients in private offices and clinics, nursing homes and hospitals, and community health centres. They work in big cities and small rural communities. They provide care for new born infants, elderly patients and all age groups in between.

The national award recipients are nominated by their peers, other health care colleagues, community leaders and patients, and provincial Chapters of the CFPC. All applications are reviewed and approved by the CFPC’s Honours & Awards Committee and Research and Education Foundation.

2011 Recipients

Marjorie Docherty MD, CCFP, FCFP

British Columbia

“I am honoured and humbled that my love of medicine, passion for family practice, teaching, and patient care has been recognized by my peers with this award.”

Dr. Marjorie Docherty from Kelowna, British Columbia, is recognized for her outstanding contribution to family medicine and for teaching medical students and residents, with whom she has instilled her famous words of encouragement, “It takes as long as it takes.”

A native of Scotland, Dr. Docherty graduated from the University of Aberdeen. She completed her postgraduate training in internal medicine, obstetrics, and paediatrics before immigrating to Canada in 1985. Dr. Docherty received her Certification in family medicine in 1989 and became a Fellow in 2002.
Dr. Docherty’s family medicine career began at the Slave Lake General Hospital. In 1988 she moved to British Columbia and joined the Kelowna General Hospital. Throughout her 22 years there, Dr. Docherty has helped develop many programs, including the program for Rural Family Practice Residency. She has served as Head of the Department of Family Practice and is currently Clinical Professor at the University of British Columbia. She has received several teaching awards including the Dr. Peter Grantham award for Teaching Excellence.

Today, Dr. Docherty’s practice focuses on obstetrics, paediatrics, mental health, and women’s health issues and promotes physician wellness and medical education to physicians and their partners. Currently, she is President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia.

In her spare time, Dr. Docherty enjoys spending time with her husband, Henry—who is also a family physician—and their three children Gavin, Claire, and Aidan. She also likes to travel, play golf, and go hiking with her dog.

Leonard Wade MD, CCFP
Alberta

“Rural family medicine has allowed me to build long-lasting, solid relationships with my patients and their families. I have had the privilege of working with a wide variety of health professionals and medical conditions that have expanded my passion for family medicine. I can’t imagine practicing any other type of medicine.”

In recognition of his unsurpassed commitment to his patients, their families, and his community, Dr. Len Wade, a rural physician from Vulcan, Alberta, is acknowledged as an outstanding family medicine mentor and leader.

After completing his medical degree at the University of Calgary, Dr. Wade received his Certification in family medicine from the College of Family Physicians of Canada in 1987. In addition to managing a busy rural family practice, Dr. Wade serves as Chief of Staff at the Vulcan Community Health Centre and was Medical Director of the Vulcan and District EMS services for over 20 years.

Dr. Wade was an early participant in his local Primary Care Network, helping to promote preventive medicine, increase access for patients, and improve coordinated patient care in Alberta. As a mentor to medical students and residents, he demonstrates that the needs of the patient must come first. He is quick to accommodate patients with special needs, providing home visits for those who are not well enough to travel.

An active voice in the Vulcan community, Dr. Wade participates in several medical committees including the Vulcan and County Recruitment and Retention Committee. He is also the Vulcan representative for the Medical Advisory Committee for the Department of Rural Medicine at Alberta Health Services.
Dr. Wade is a vocal proponent for healthy living. He recently joined a humanitarian organization in Kenya. He travels there each fall to provide health care in remote, underserved community clinics.

Dr. Wade enjoys spending time with his wife, Barbara, and their three children—Katie, Brendan, and David. He keeps fit through biking, skiing, and mountaineering.

J. Stewart McMillan MD, CCFP, FCFP

Saskatchewan

“I feel very humbled to receive an award named in honour of Dr. Reg Perkin. I have the privilege of knowing Dr. Perkin and appreciate how proud he is of family physicians, how hard he strived to enhance training standards and improve the role of family physicians in Canada’s health care system, and the sense of pride he instilled in family doctors for their work and service to patients.”

Dr. Stewart McMillan is recognized by his peers as a natural leader, an expert in interpersonal dynamics, and a committed family physician dedicated to providing the highest quality of family medicine.

Born in Glasgow, Scotland, Dr. McMillan completed his medical degree at the University of Glasgow. In 1989 he received his Certification in family medicine from the College of Family Physicians of Canada and became a Fellow in 1994.

Dr. McMillan manages a busy private family practice in Regina, Saskatchewan, and is Clinical Assistant Professor with the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan. In recent years, Dr. McMillan was a Palliative Care Medical Consultant and Head of the Department of Family Medicine of Regina Qu’Appelle Health Region. He is Past President of the Saskatchewan Medical Association, the Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons, and the Medical Council of Canada.

Dr. McMillan served as Chair of the Saskatchewan Task Force on High Cost Drugs, the Saskatchewan Task Team on Surgical Waiting Lists, the Quality Assurance Co-ordinating Committee with the Pasqua Hospital and Wascana Rehabilitation Centre, the Health Services Utilization and Research Commission, and the Health Quality Council of Saskatchewan. Dr. McMillan was a board member and Chair of Regina Palliative Care Inc.

In his spare time, Dr. McMillan enjoys playing golf (his childhood passion), gardening, travelling, and spending time at the family cottage with his wife, Cheryl, and their two sons: Alick, and his wife Deanne; Christopher, and his wife Suzanne and their children Carson, Connor, and Addison.
Joanna Maier MD, CCFP

“*My career as a family physician has been exceptionally rewarding. I enjoy the continuity of care that family practice provides and I appreciate the trust that my patients place in me over the years. It is fulfilling to have had a positive impact on individuals, families, and on my community during my years in Brandon.*”

Dr. Joan Maier is acknowledged for her outstanding dedication to her family practice and extensive work with medical students and residents.

A graduate of the University of Manitoba, Dr. Maier received her Certification in family medicine from the College of Family Physicians of Canada in 1986. The same year, she moved to Brandon, Manitoba where she continues to work at the Western Medical Clinic.

Dr. Maier is Chief of the Department of Family Practice at Brandon Regional Health Centre and Medical Director of the Dinsdale Personal Care Home. Her areas of specialty include acute and chronic care, palliative care, in-patient care, low-risk obstetrics, newborn and pediatric care, and surgical assisting.

Among her several teaching roles, Dr. Maier is a preceptor and lecturer at the University of Manitoba, preceptor for the Medical Licensure Program for International Medical Graduates, and site lead and preceptor for the Family Medicine Enhanced Distributed Education Centre for the training of family medicine residents and senior medical students. She was awarded the Undergraduate Teaching Award from the University of Manitoba in 2007 and was the recipient of the Gary Beazley Family Medicine Educator Award in 2010.

Dr. Maier serves on several committees, including the Medical Nursing Liaison Committee at Brandon Regional Health Centre. Since 2002, she has been involved with the Physician Recruitment and Retention Committee at the Brandon Regional Health Authority.

In all of her work, Dr. Maier is supported by her two children, Catherine and Cameron; her mother, Kay; and her brother, Ron, who is also a physician.

Philip Hébert MD, PhD, CCFP, FCFP

“*Practicing family medicine, one recognizes that we all have the same basic needs and interests in being treated with respect and dignity. Honour, humility, and humour are the bridges that connect physicians with patients and their families. I am proud to be part of a tradition of medicine that strives for excellence in these areas.*”

A passionate family physician, medical ethicist, preceptor, and author, Dr. Philip Hébert is recognized for his dedication to family medicine and his many contributions to medical ethics, teaching, and research.
Dr. Hébert completed his medical degree at the University of Toronto in 1984 and his residency in family medicine at McMaster University. In 1986 he received Certification in family medicine from The College of Family Physicians of Canada and became a Fellow in 2001.

A dedicated clinician at the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre Family Practice Unit for 22 years, Dr. Hébert provided exemplary medical care to emotionally vulnerable war veterans and other geriatric patients. During this time, he also mentored residents and physicians in medical ethics.

Dr. Hébert is Professor with the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Toronto, Chair of the Sunnybrook Research Ethics Board, and Bioethics Consultant for the Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. In 2010, Dr. Hébert retired from patient care but remains involved in medical ethics research and family medicine teaching.

Dr. Hébert is the author of Doing Right: A Practical Guide to Ethics for Medical Trainees and Physicians, a book that is highly regarded throughout Canada and considered instrumental in education.

He is a recipient of the Canadian Medical Association’s Dr. William Marsden Award in Medical Ethics and has received several research grants from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

In his spare time, Dr. Hébert enjoys drawing; gardening; travelling; and spending time with his wife, Dr. Victoria Lee (a geriatric psychiatrist), and their sons, Matthew and Neil.

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**Johanne Blais MD, CCFP, FCFP**

Quebec

“It is a great honour to be presented with this award by the CFPC - an organization in which I have been very involved, and one that I have always been proud to belong to. Receiving the award provides me with great encouragement and inspiration to continue my passion for family medicine.”

Dr. Johanne Blais from Boischatel, Quebec, brings her passion for research and communication to her family medicine career.

A graduate of Laval University, Dr. Blais began her family medicine career at the Unité de médecine familiale in Gaspé, Quebec. She received Certification in family medicine from the College of Family Physicians of Canada in 1991 and Fellowship in 2000.

In 1994, Dr. Blais returned to Quebec City where she focused on women’s health issues at community health centres. She enjoys teaching as Clinical Professor with Laval University’s Faculty of Medicine. She also oversees the kinesiology internship program at the Centre hospitalier universitaire de Québec with Hôpital Saint-François d’Assise. In 1998, Dr. Blais served as president of the Quebec College of Family Physicians.
Dr. Blais promotes health and wellness through online features, regional media, and her successful blog. She has participated in 13 research projects, authored 17 publications, and has written three books on women’s health during different stages of life.

Dr. Blais’s commitment, energy, and passion have earned her several awards of distinction including Médecin de Coeur et d’Action, presented by the Association des médecins de langue française du Canada. She received the Helios Award from Laval University’s Department of Family and Emergency Medicine in 2008 and was named Femme de mérite 2010.

In her personal time, Dr. Blais enjoys many outdoor activities such as jogging, skiing, biking, and hiking, but also enjoys reading books, going to wine tastings, and spending quality time with her husband, Alain.

Michel Landry MD, CCFP, FCFP

“\textit{It is an honour for me to receive this award. Our training program is inspired by the values of the College. That is, to train the family physicians to be able to meet the needs of the francophone communities of our province. I, therefore, accept this award in recognition of the success of our program with the remarkable involvement of each of the persons involved. I would also like to thank my wife, Judy for her unconditional support.}”

Dr. Michel Landry is nominated by his colleagues and medical residents for his outstanding commitment to family medicine and unwavering dedication to teaching family medicine.

A graduate of the University of Sherbrooke, Dr. Landry received his Certification in family medicine from the College of Family Physicians of Canada in 1987 and was awarded Fellowship in 2002.

Currently, Dr. Landry maintains his own family practice as part of the Unité de médecine familiale teaching clinic in Dieppe, New Brunswick, and is involved in the care of nursing home patients at the Villa du Repos in Moncton.

Since 1998, Dr. Landry has directed the New Brunswick Francophone Family Medicine Training Program and the University of Sherbrooke Family Medicine Unit. During his tenure he has worked to see many rotations achieve accreditation from the University of Sherbrooke and the Collège des médecins du Québec in all francophone regions of New Brunswick. His efforts have enabled students and residents to complete their entire two-year family medicine residency training in New Brunswick.

Dr. Landry has served many years with the New Brunswick Medical Society. Recently, he undertook a research project on the relationship between the training, recruitment, and retention of physicians, and established a methadone program for a First Nations Health Clinic, where he continues to work with patients with addictions.
Dr. Landry enjoys playing both golf and tennis and watching movies. He and his wife, Judy (a registered nurse who works part-time at his clinic), enjoy travelling to visit their daughters Kerri and Crystal.

Shelagh Leahey MD, MCFP

"I am honoured to be selected by my colleagues for this award. I always felt the need to live up to the high expectations of being a family physician, so this achievement provides great inspiration for the rest of my medical career. I am very grateful and deeply humbled."

Dr. Shelagh Leahey, from Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, is celebrated for her outstanding contributions to her family practice and for leadership within her community.

A graduate of Dalhousie Medical School, Dr. Leahey moved to Yarmouth in 1976. Her practice included in-patient care, emergency care, obstetrics, and palliative care services.

In recent years, her leadership was paramount to the successful development of the new Ocean View Family Practice in Yarmouth, which serves patients who were previously without a family physician. This medical centre provides a new model for health care delivery in Nova Scotia and supports efforts to recruit more physicians to the district. Dr. Leahey continues to serve as the centre’s Medical Administrator and mentor to international medical graduates.

Dr. Leahey has served with Doctors Nova Scotia for 24 years, including five years on its Executive. Since 2003, she has been the Continuing Medical Education Coordinator at Dalhousie University, and was President of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Nova Scotia from 2008 to 2010. She has participated on the Board of Cancer Care Nova Scotia and held a variety of positions with the South West Nova District Health Authority.

Dr. Leahey attributes her professional success to her mother, Marjorie—who keeps her laughing and “in her place”—her three brothers, three sisters, and 17 nieces and nephews. In her spare time, Dr. Leahey enjoys travelling, photography, and cooking healthy, gluten-free gourmet meals for her family and friends.

Peter Hooley MD, CCFP

"To me, being a family physician is much more than a job; it’s a calling, a passion, and a central part of my life. Every day we have the great responsibility and privilege of partnering with individuals and families to guide them in their health and well-being."

Dr. Peter Hooley is recognized by his patients and peers as an outstanding family medicine mentor in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island (PEI). He graduated from Dalhousie University
in 2006 and received his Certification in family medicine from the College of Family Physicians of Canada in the same year.

Dr. Hooley practices family medicine at the Parkdale Medical Centre in Charlottetown and is Associate Professor with the Department of Family Medicine at Dalhousie University and Memorial University in Newfoundland.

With a special interest in addiction medicine, Dr. Hooley is an active member of the Canadian Society of Addiction Medicine. His other key area of interest is sports medicine, so his role as attending physician for the PEI Rockets hockey team is a perfect opportunity to pursue his professional interest while supporting his hometown community. Dr. Hooley is also a member of the Medical Society of PEI Negotiation Committee, an organization that addresses both physicians’ abilities to provide quality health care and related factors such as workload and continuing medical education.

Dr. Hooley has been the recipient of numerous academic awards throughout his career, from the 2004 Lourdes Embil Prize for the top medical student in cardiovascular research to the Family Medicine Preceptor of the Year Award in 2010 from Dalhousie University’s Department of Family Medicine.

Dr. Hooley enjoys playing golf and hockey. He is also a great cook, preparing healthy, gourmet meals from his vegetable and fruit gardens for his wife, Melissa, and their two children, Jack and Elise.

Robert T. Miller MD, CCFP, FCFP
Newfoundland and Labrador

“I am very humbled to receive this award. I have always strived to do what I thought was right in my commitment to family medicine, through my work with the medical students and university, and at the College. I have focused my teaching and dedicated my family practice to a patient-centred context of care, teaching medical students that they need to understand the life of the person in order to provide the appropriate care.”

Dr. Robert Miller is recognized for his outstanding commitment to his patients and faculty through his work in St. John’s, Newfoundland.

A graduate from The University of Western Ontario, Dr. Miller completed his internship at the Royal Columbian Hospital in Westminster, British Columbia. He received Certification in family medicine in 1977 and Fellowship in 1991. After ten years as a rural family doctor in Ontario, Dr. Miller moved to St. John’s and became Assistant Professor in the Discipline of Family Medicine at Memorial University of Newfoundland.

Currently, Dr. Miller is a family physician with the Family Practice Unit at the Health Sciences Centre in St. John’s. His areas of specialty include obstetrics, sexual health, mental health care, and sports medicine. He is recognized as a strong mentor and leader at Memorial where
he is Assistant Dean of Continuing Medical Education, Program Director of Family Medicine, and serves on numerous committees.

Dr. Miller is an instructor and committee member with the CFPC’s Advanced Life Support in Obstetrics Committee and a member of the National Association of Canadian Chairs of Family Medicine. He previously participated with the CFPC’s Exams Committee and the National Committee on Continuing Medical Education. He has served on several task forces and committees such as the Oxycontin Task Force in Newfoundland and the National Advisory Committee for the Foundation for Medical Practice Education. Dr. Miller is married to Dr. Cheri Bethune, who is also a family physician, and has five children: Rory, Shane, Meghan, Clare, and Maris. They are very proud grandparents of Kate, Bryanna, and Jules.

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Family Physicians of the Year Website: http://fpoy.cfpc.ca

(aussi disponible en français)

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