



The College of  
Family Physicians  
of Canada

Le Collège des  
médecins de famille  
du Canada

*Strength in Study  
L'étude est notre force*

## News Release ❖ Communiqué

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### CFPC Awards Family Docs for Advancing the Profession in Practice, Research and Teaching

(Calgary, AB, October 30,, 2009) – Four distinguished Canadian family doctors are being recognized today for their distinct achievements in family medicine, research and teaching.

“The CFPC is proud to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of family medicine leaders in our country,” said CFPC President, Dr. Sarah Kredentser. “Their passion and dedication to advancing family medicine contributes greatly to ensuring high standards of care for our patients. Advances in family medicine research and teaching are equally essential to provide strong resources for the future of family medicine in Canada. I commend this year’s award recipients for their tremendous achievements. Their respective accomplishments make significant and positive impacts to the quality of healthcare in our country.”

#### 2009 CFPC Major Award Recipients

##### **The Honourable Dr. Carolyn Bennett, PC, MP, CCFP, FCFP, Toronto, ON**

##### **Recipient of the W. Victor Johnston Award**

*This award honours the memory of the late Dr. W. Victor Johnston, the CFPC’s first Executive Director (1954 – 1964). Award recipients are renowned Canadian or international family physicians who have made an outstanding leadership contribution to the discipline of family medicine in Canada or abroad.*

The Honourable Dr. Bennett is the recipient of the distinguished W. Victor Johnston Award in recognition of her leadership in Canadian healthcare. First elected to the House of Commons in 1997 and representing the Toronto riding of St. Paul’s, she has dedicated significant effort to numerous healthcare initiatives including serving as Vice Chair of the Standing Committee on Health and her current role as the Health Critic for the federal Liberal Party.

In December 2003, in the wake of the SARS epidemic, Dr. Bennett became Canada’s first Minister of State for Public Health. During this time she set up the Public Health Agency of Canada, appointed the first Chief Public Health Officer of Canada and oversaw the establishment of a true public health network through which all 13 Canadian jurisdictions would be able to plan together in protecting the health of Canadians. Dr. Bennett passionately drove the process to establish the Public Health Goals for Canada in 2005.

Prior to her election, Dr. Bennett was a practicing family physician and founding partner of Bedford Medical Associates in Toronto. She was President of the Medical Staff Association of Women’s College Hospital and Assistant Professor in the Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Toronto.

**Media inquiries may be directed to Lynne Steele, Office of the Hon. Carolyn Bennett, P.C., M.P., M.D.  
Ottawa: 613-995-9666; Toronto: 416-952-3990**

##### **Dr. Richard Ward MD, CCFP, FCFP, Calgary, AB**

##### **Recipient of the Jean-Pierre Despins Award**

*This award, named in memory of the late Dr. Jean-Pierre Despins, CFPC President (1995-1996) and Chair of the CFPC Board of the Research and Education Foundation (1999-2000), is presented annually to honour a CFPC family physician member who has been identified as an outstanding advocate and public spokesperson for family medicine and/or family physicians and their patients. They are individuals who have presented family practice issues to the public and/or other audiences, and have demonstrated many of the qualities which defined and were greatly valued by Dr. Despins including statesmanship, leadership, diplomacy, courage of conviction, sense of humour, compassion and consideration of others.*

Dr. Richard Ward is an enthusiastic and passionate spokesperson for family medicine, and advocate for comprehensive family practice. Over the last year and a half, Dr. Ward has served as President of the Alberta College of Family Physicians. During his term he has worked extensively in promoting family medicine with governments, media, medical schools, Alberta Health Services and the Alberta Medical Association.

Dr. Ward is a community based family physician working in a multi disciplinary clinic which provides comprehensive care to 15,000 patients. He is a Clinical Associate Professor at the University of Calgary, Faculty of Medicine.

Dr. Ward has been involved with the CFPC at a national and provincial level in continuing professional development committees, the Family Medicine Forum Advisory Committee, and Annual Scientific Assembly Planning Committees. Recently he developed and hosted a series of family physician forums as well as a full-day session for Alberta physicians, medical students, government representatives and other stakeholders to collaboratively address current family medicine issues.

**Media inquiries for Dr. Ward may be directed to the Alberta College of Family Physicians at 780-488-2395.**

### **Dr. Tom Elmslie MD, CCFP, FCFP, Ottawa, ON**

#### **Ian McWhinney Family Medicine Education Award**

*This award, named in honour of Dr. Ian McWhinney, the first Professor and Chair of a Canadian University Department of Family Medicine, (University of Western Ontario, 1968 to 1987), is presented to an outstanding family medicine teacher deemed by his/her peers to have made a significant contribution to family medicine education.*

Dr. Elmslie is a Professor in the Department of Family Medicine at the University of Ottawa and a member of the teaching group at the Bruyere Family Medicine Centre.

Dr. Elmslie is recognized with this distinguished award for his leadership in family medicine education in Canada and high standards for teaching at all levels. He has developed and advanced ground-breaking work in professional development, bringing Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM) to medical students, family medicine residents and practicing physicians. Dr. Elmslie has chaired the CFPC PEARLS Committee (Pearls exercise, Pearls –CE and Pearls for Residents programs) and since 2001, in collaboration with the Centre for Health Evidence, has been involved in the development of the CFPC's new online ePearls Desktop which provides evidence-based practice reflection exercises designed for self-directed and point of care learning to enhance a family doctor's practice. In 2005 he chaired the Alternative Route to Certification Working Group and has been actively involved since its launch in April 2008. Since 2002, Dr. Elmslie has been Executive Director of the Foundation for Medical Practice Education's Practice Based Small Group (PBSG) Learning Program which has grown to over 5,000 family physician members from across Canada.

Dr. Elmslie has contributed greatly to medical curriculum development, pilot projects and disseminating new knowledge in peer reviewed journals as well as national and international presentations. Overall he is recognized for advancing the educational excellence of family medicine in Canada.

**Media inquiries may be directed to Dr. Elmslie at [telmslie@bruyere.org](mailto:telmslie@bruyere.org)**

### **Dr. Stefan Grzybowski, MD, CCFP, MCISc, FCFP, Vancouver, BC**

#### **Family Medicine Researcher of the Year**

*This award recognizes a family medicine researcher and CFPC member who has made original contributions to research and knowledge building for family medicine in Canada. The contribution may encompass any aspect of family medicine research from clinical to health services to education. This award has been designed to honour a family medicine researcher who has been a pivotal force in the definition, development and dissemination of concepts central to the discipline of family medicine.*

Dr. Stefan Grzybowski is a family physician researcher and Professor at the University of British Columbia's Department of Family Practice. Previously he practiced for twelve years on the Queen Charlotte Islands/Haida Gwaii and then 10 years in inner city Vancouver. As the co-principal investigator of the Rural Maternity Care New Emerging Team, Dr. Grzybowski's current research focuses on the study of rural maternity care. He is also committed to building research capacity in family medicine through developing clinician investigators. He co-directs the Michael Smith Foundation's BC Rural and Remote Health Research Network which builds rural research capacity.

Thanks to Dr. Grzybowski's research which has demonstrated that good outcomes are possible through obstetrical services in rural communities, many women are able to receive the care they need in their own communities at critical times in their lives, without leaving their homes, families and social support systems behind.

**Media inquiries for Dr. Grzybowski may be directed to Stephanie Fredo, CFPC Research Dept at [sfredo@cfpc.ca](mailto:sfredo@cfpc.ca)**

The award presentations are made by Dr. Sarah Kredentser, CFPC President as part of the College's Convocation Ceremony during the annual Family Medicine Forum held this year in Calgary, Alberta.

**ABOUT THE COLLEGE OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS**

The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) is the voice of family medicine in Canada. Representing over 22,000 members across the country, it is the professional organization responsible for establishing standards for the training, certification and lifelong education of family physicians and for advocating on behalf of the specialty of family medicine, family physicians and their patients. The CFPC accredits postgraduate family medicine training in Canada's 17 medical schools.

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(disponible en français)