



For immediate distribution

Dr. MORRIS MARKENTIN RECEIVES Dr. Dennis A. Kendel Distinguished Service Award

SASKATOON, December 4, 2018 – During a special awards banquet held on November 30th, 2018, the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan presented Dr. Morris Markentin (see attached biography), an inner city Saskatoon-based family physician with a special interest in addictions and infectious diseases, with the prestigious *Dr. Dennis A. Kendel Distinguished Service Award* for outstanding contributions to physician leadership and to physician engagement in quality improvements in health care in Saskatchewan.

According to Dr. Brian Brownbridge, President of the College Council, “Dr. Markentin is a leader and visionary dedicated to his field of practice. He has freely given countless hours of his time to provide care and develop dedicated services for an at-risk, vulnerable and marginalized segment of the population. It gives Council great pleasure to present this award to a physician who endeavors to provide such a positive influence on the quality of healthcare dispensed to patients.”

“I am both humbled and honoured to accept this award. It is a privilege to be able to practice medicine and to serve the people of Saskatchewan. My patients and team members continue to teach me and push me to do better - for that I am grateful. I do not do this work alone. I have great respect for Dr. Kendel, and it truly is an honour to receive this - it was totally unexpected,” said Dr. Markentin.

Dr. Markentin holds several positions of leadership among multiple healthcare organisations but prefers to lead by example. He has personally led fundraising efforts for the establishment of transitional housing of HIV patients by Sanctum Care Group, a group he co-founded. As one co-nominator, Lisa Clatney, Executive Director of the Saskatoon Community Clinic, states: “Morris is a passionate and tireless advocate for the clients he works with. He ‘gets’ social determinants of health, and how history and colonization, residential schools, Sixties scoop, etc., have had lasting impacts and intergenerational trauma in many of the patients he works with. He advocates and lobbies to all levels of the government to ensure that appropriate resources are directed, and redirected to our vulnerable and at-risk populations, many of whom don’t have a voice to speak up.”



Photo: Dr. Morris Markentin, 2018 recipient of the Dr. Dennis A. Kendel Distinguished Service award, and his wife, Joan, were both present for the ceremony.



The Dr. Dennis A. Kendel Distinguished Service Award was named in honour of Dr. Dennis Kendel, who retired in 2011 after a long career as Registrar of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan. Past recipients are Dr. Werner Oberholzer and Dr. Nelly Helms (2012), Dr. Marilyn Baetz (2013), Dr. William Albritton (2014), Dr. Ryan Meili and Dr. Mark Wahba (2015), Dr. Corrine Jabs (2016), and Dr. Susan Shaw (2017).

24 PHYSICIANS RECEIVE AWARD FOR 40 YEARS OF SERVICE

To further complement Friday's award presentation, a twenty-four (24) recipients were honoured with **Senior Life Designation 2018** (for having held a license to practice medicine in Saskatchewan for a cumulative total of 40 years) for their lifelong contribution, as per the Medical Profession Act.

These are **Dr. Deirdre Andres, Dr. Joan Baldwin, Dr. Linda Baker, Dr. Malcolm Banks, Dr. Joe Chin, Dr. Donald Cockcroft, Dr. Alanna Danilkewich, Dr. Neil Devitt, Dr. Micheal Dickson, Dr. Anne Doig, Dr. Vernon Hoepfner, Dr. James Irvine, Dr. David Kemp, Dr. Ronald Kostyniuk, Dr. Estanislao Maciel, Dr. James McHattie, Dr. Michael Montbriand, Dr. Abraham Ninan, Dr. Lorne Pilot, Dr. Kulwant Rai, Dr. John Reilly, Dr. John Shewchuk, Dr. Victor Thackeray, and Dr. Margaret Tysdal.**



Above: 13 physicians were able to join the ceremony to receive their Senior Life Designation award. Front Row, L – R: Dr. D. Cockcroft, Dr. A. Doig, Dr. M. Tysdal, Dr. A. Danilkewich, Dr. N. Devitt. Back Row, L-R: Dr. Brian Brownbridge (CPSS Council President), Dr. A. Ninan, Dr. L. Pilot, Dr. D. Kemp, Dr. J. Irvine, Dr. L. Baker, Dr. J. Shewchuk, Dr. J. McHattie, Dr. V. Hoepfner, Dr. Karen Shaw (CPSS Registrar).

Biographies for the Senior Life Designation recipients listed in the photo are attached.

*The mission of the **College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan** is to serve the public by regulating the practice of medicine and guiding the profession to achieve the highest standards of care. It currently issues licenses to over 2500 physicians and surgeons in the province, as well as over 1800 corporate permits.*

-30-

Source:

Caro Gareau
Communications Officer || *Agente des communications*
College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan
1 306 667-4638 or 1 306 244-7355
communications@cps.sk.ca
www.cps.sk.ca



Dr. Dennis A.
Kendel
Distinguished
Service Award

2018

Dr. Morris Markentin is a Saskatoon-based family physician who practices in the fields of Addictions Medicine and Infectious Diseases. Working primarily out of inner city Saskatoon, he is involved in a leadership role for a host of programs and organizations in multiple communities, teaching students, providing care for patients and advocating for better services to marginalized populations. Some of these include the Saskatoon Community Clinic, the Prince Albert Hepatitis C Clinic, and the Methadone Assisted Recovery Program in Saskatoon.



As Dr. Peter Butt, an addictions specialist and associate professor at the College of Medicine who helped nominate him, wrote: “He is a comprehensive care Family Physician who practices in the inner city of Saskatoon, integrating HIV, AIDS, Hepatitis C and Opioid Agonist Therapy into a complex and challenging practice. He is very passionate about providing care to those who are often marginalized, as well as a tireless advocate for improving service capacity and quality.”

Dr. Markentin has been the Medical Manager of the Provincial Opioid Agonist Therapy Program, formerly the Methadone Program, at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan for several years now, helping to establish the standards and guidelines for methadone prescribing in Saskatchewan.

He has served and continues to serve on several local, provincial and national boards, including more recently the Opioid Advisory Committee, the Canadian Society of Addiction Medicine, and two SMA committees. In his “spare time”, he is also an examiner for the Medical Council of Canada.

Ms. Julia Bareham, Pharmacist Manager for the Prescription Review Program has worked on several initiatives with him, including the Opioid Agonist Therapy Program and conferences. She explains, “While Dr. Markentin contributes significantly through his administrative roles, he humbly prefers not to be seen as someone who directs others, but as someone who leads by example. He models excellence in his clinical practice [even during] the calls he receives in the middle of the night (of note, he is accessible 24-7 to ER physicians when they require his assistance to manage a patient receiving methadone),

and [his visits] to the hospital to check on his patients, or even the number of tasks in the EMR that never seem to decrease. [...] Few physicians would commit to not only identifying the gaps and be willing to speak about what is not working, but actually develop the vision and concrete proposal and blueprint for a possible solution.”

Dr. Peter Butt, adds: “Providing high quality services to a complex care population requires clinical excellence. Dr. Markentin has developed expertise in not only comprehensive Family Medicine but also infectious disease and addiction. He is medical manager at our Detox centre, prescribes Opioid Agonist Therapy and counsels people struggling with Substance Use Disorders. He integrates this work with HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C treatment, in a community with the highest rate of HIV in the country. 70% of the HIV is transmitted by IV drug use. Rapport and a trusting relationship are absolutely essential to meeting marginalized people where they are at and engaging them in care. Integration of Infections Disease and Addiction care is also essential. His leadership in this area extends to providing satellite Infectious Disease clinics in underserved regional communities, promoting access to care throughout the province, advocating for a more robust provincial response, and supporting community-based research. He has also improved access to Opioid Agonist Therapy in detox, consistent with national guidelines but not a typical part of current practice.”

In his volunteer work, he is a co-founder of the not-for-profit Sanctum Care group, Sanctum (a transitional care home and HIV hospice) and was instrumental in the development of the Beehive (Saskatchewan’s first transitional apartment for people living with HIV), Hart (the HIV/AIDS Response Team) and Sanctum 1.5., Canada’s first HIV prenatal care home.

He has undertaken the “Sanctum Survivor” street challenge on more than one occasion, living on the street for 36 hours at a time in an attempt to understand first-hand the daily challenges faced by the homeless.

Lisa Clatney, Executive Director of the Saskatoon Community Clinic, says: “Morris is also a passionate and tireless advocate for the clients he works with. He ‘gets’ social determinants of health, and how history and colonization, residential schools, Sixties scoop, etc., have had lasting impacts and intergenerational trauma in many of the patients he works with. He advocates and lobbies to all levels of the government to ensure that appropriate resources are directed, and redirected to our vulnerable and at-risk populations, many of whom don’t have a voice to speak up.”
