



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.*

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Source:

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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.”

Dr. Linda Baker



Originally from Saskatoon, Dr. Linda Baker is proud to have called rural Saskatchewan home for over 40 years. After practicing first in Nipawin and Wakaw, she moved her family medicine practice to Rosthern in 1995, where she has been since. She is a clinical teacher at the U of S, teaching externs, clerks and residents, and impressing upon them the need for capable, conscientious caregivers. She also served on the College's "Complaints Committee" (now the Quality of Care Advisory Committee), from 2001 to 2014.

Some of her favourite memories revolve around births. Back before ultrasounds were common, she was called to deliver for a colleague's patient when he had left on vacation just that day. Imagine her surprise when this tiny 4-pounder plopped out and she felt the mother's abdomen, revealing another baby still inside. Fortunately, without any available backup, the second twin also delivered without difficulty. She remembers fondly seeing these sisters grow and develop and succeed in school. Then, there was the night she had to remove a retained placenta. She was so thankful that the late Dr. Ernie Schmidt had guided her through this process as an intern. "There is no more strange sensation than the contracting uterus clamping down over your hand as you accomplish the task," she recalls. "Good mentors teach concepts that can be called on years later."

Dr. Baker is married to Gerry Swab, an engineer/farmer. They have 2 children: Michelle, a tenured professional librarian in the medical library at Memorial University in Newfoundland, and David, a family doctor practicing in and around Vancouver, BC. As a family, they enjoy and perform music and were able to sing quartets at their local nursing home.

Dr. Baker is president of the Sask Valley Music Festival Committee and the Station Singers of Rosthern. She is heavily involved in her church and in retirement, volunteers at the local foodbank and the MCC Clothes Basket.

"You know you are getting old when you deliver the children of the children you delivered."

Senior Life Designation is awarded to physicians who have been licensed on a form of postgraduate licensure in Saskatchewan for a cumulative total of 40 years*.

Senior Life designation is honorary only. It conveys no right to practise medicine in Saskatchewan, to hold office or to vote.

A physician may concurrently hold Senior Life Designation and another form of licensure.

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Senior Life Designation

November 30

2018



An Award Presented by
the Council and the College

2018 Recipients

In recognition of 40 years of fully licensed practice of medicine in the Province of Saskatchewan

Tonight's Recipients:

Dr. Linda Baker
Dr. Donald Cockcroft
Dr. Alanna Danilkewich
Dr. Neil Devitt
Dr. Anne Doig
Dr. Vernon Hoepner
Dr. James Irvine
Dr. David Kemp
Dr. James McHattie
Dr. Abraham Ninan
Dr. Lorne Pilot
Dr. John Shewchuk
Dr. Margaret Tysdal

Additional Recipients for 2018:

Dr. Deirdre Andres
Dr. Joan Baldwin
Dr. Malcolm Banks
Dr. Joe Chin
Dr. Micheal Dickson
Dr. Ronald Kostyniuk
Dr. Estanislao Maciel
Dr. Michael Montbriand
Dr. Kulwant Rai
Dr. John Reilly
Dr. Victor Thackeray

*Service with the Canadian and/or Allied forces and postgraduate training after registration are included.

Dr. Donald Cockcroft



Dr. Don Cockcroft is a respirologist with a keen interest in allergies, especially those that cause asthma.

With a background in chemistry from UBC, he obtained his medical degree there in 1970 and went on to complete a rotating internship at Santa Clara Valley Medical Centre, in San Jose, California, USA. He returned to Canada in 1971 for Internal Medicine and Allergy Immunology residencies at Royal Victoria Hospital in Montreal. In 1974, he moved to Vancouver for a respiratory residency at St. Paul's Hospital, then back east from 1975 to 1977 to complete a Respiratory Allergy research fellowship, at McMaster University. In 1975, he received his fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada in Internal Medicine and remains eligible for fellowships in Allergy/Immunology and Respiriology. Dr. Cockcroft moved to Saskatchewan in 1977 and has been a professor at the University of Saskatchewan since then.

His most significant career achievement was the novel and important identification in 1976-77 that lung allergen challenge increases airway hyper-responsiveness (i.e. it truly induces asthma). His hard work has not gone unnoticed: he was inducted into the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences in 2012. He was also presented with the University of Saskatchewan Distinguished Professor Award in 2018.

In his spare time, Dr. Cockcroft enjoys growing and breeding prize-winning lilies and is the proud owner of a Labrador Retriever. Every winter, he also enjoys building a huge ice castle in his front yard.

"Helped advance respirology by identifying that the lung allergen challenge induces asthma."

Dr. Alanna Danilkewich



Dr. Alanna Danilkewich (MD '75 - Uof S, CFPC, FCFP), completed her course work towards a Masters of Family Medicine at UWO. She practiced full scope Family Medicine with enhanced skills in Anesthesia and Obstetrics in Prince Albert. In 1978 she did a locum for Dr Louis Christ, the first Department Head of Family Medicine; This launched her career as a Professor of Family Medicine. Her duties included clinical work, teaching and research.

Over the last forty years, Dr Danilkewich has dedicated her life to medical education and mentorship of Saskatchewan students. She has held many medical education leadership positions, some of which include Program Director 1996-2006 then Department Head of Academic Family Medicine 2010-2016. She taught many students and residents across several healthcare disciplines. She was instrumental in the implementation of the Rural Family Medicine Training Program in 2000 and the Family Medicine Research program in 1990. She encouraged many young women to pursue a career in medicine or science. She chaired the first Gender Issues Committee in the College of Medicine, was elected to the CMA's first Gender Issues Committee, and helped edit the goals and objectives of the MCC Qualifying Exam making them gender friendly. She received the Teaching Excellence Award (2007) and the YWCA Woman of the Year Award (1993) for Leadership in Women's Health. She has held many leadership positions outside of the University of Saskatchewan, some of these include CFPC chair of the National Physician Survey which gathered statistics on Physician's work, and life balance, Deputy Registrar and Chief Examiner for the Medical Council of Canada part 2 exam, President of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada, and Saskatoon council representative for the CPSS 2006-2012.

Knowledge translation through lectures and writing include many articles and one book titled, A Handbook on Sensitive Practice for Health Practitioners: Lessons from Adults Survivors of Sexual Abuse. At present she is a member of the Cochrane International Living Systematic Review Network.

In her spare time, she enjoys gardening, gourmet cooking, antiques, ballroom dancing and travelling – she recently returned from a trip to Russia during the FIFA World Cup in soccer.

"I have been blessed with a great husband and family, many friends and colleagues, great teaching patients and learners, good health, and more. I try to 'pay it forward' and hope that I inspire others to do the same."

Dr. Neil Devitt



Dr. Neil Devitt practiced in Regina with Radiology Associates for his entire career. His training includes an M.D. at the University of Western Ontario, a Rotating Internship at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton, and a Certificate of Registration from the Medical Council of Canada in 1973. He completed a residency at the University of Manitoba, and in 1977, he obtained his certification from the Royal College of Physicians of Canada (Diagnostic Radiology). In 1978, became a member of the American Board of Radiology.

Since 1977, Dr. Devitt has performed a range of General Radiology duties in both private office and hospital settings, covering rural and urban populations, including the Plains Health Centre from 1980 until closure; Pasqua Hospital and Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region (RQHR). He has been consultant to the Allan Blair Memorial Clinic and has held teaching and leadership positions. He continues to hold a position as Clinical Associate Professor with the University of Saskatchewan.

Leadership roles include President of the Medical Staff, Plains Health Centre 1982-1983; President of the Saskatchewan Division of Canadian Association of Radiologists 1983-1984; Director of Department of Radiology, Pasqua Hospital from 1988 to 1998; Department Head of Radiology, RQHR, from 2000 to 2008; and Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Medical Imaging to the Saskatchewan College of Physicians and Surgeons 1985-1989.

Born in Biggar, Saskatchewan, Dr. Devitt chose to return to Saskatchewan to pursue his career. He is an enthusiastic supporter and collector of the visual arts.

"As a Diagnostic Radiologist, his special interests have included ultrasound, CT, invasive procedures, and oncology."

Dr. Anne Doig



Dr. Anne Doig (MD '76, CCFP '78, FCFP '94, LL D (Hons) '13) was in full time clinical practice at City Centre Family Physicians in Saskatoon from July 1, 1978 to June 30, 2018. As a Clinical Associate Professor in the U of S department of Obstetrics, Gynecology and Reproductive Sciences, she was recognized for excellence in teaching by Saskatoon City Hospital and by the Association of Professors of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. Doig is an original contributor to the Advances in Labour and Risk Management (ALARM) program of the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada.

Anne Doig served her profession in many capacities, including long service to the SMA and the CPSS, and is a Past President of the CMA. She was a member of the Board of Directors of STARS and was the medical advisor to the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency's population health division, supporting the breast cancer screening program and assisting in the development and launch of the prevention program for cervical cancer and the screening program for colorectal cancer. Dr. Doig also served on the Boards of Directors of Saskatchewan Blue Cross and Canada Health Infoway.

Dr. Doig received many awards for her service, including an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the U of S. She is an active volunteer and contributor to her community and to her church. She has a lifelong interest in music and the arts and is a member of the U of S Community Chorus. She chairs the Board of the Saskatoon Symphony Society and was recently elected to the U of S Senate. She served for many years on the Boards of swimming associations. She received Swimming Canada's President's Award (2003) and both a Sask Sport Volunteer Award and a Saskatchewan Centennial Leadership Award in 2005. As a Level V official, Anne Doig volunteers at local, provincial and national swim competitions. Dr. Doig has six adult children and two grandchildren.

"I've looked after multiple generations and the extended family members of patients that have been with the practice for years. I know someone's family history because I have lived it with them, not just 'taken the history.'"

Dr. Vernon Hoepfner



A specialist in Respiratory Diseases, Dr. Vernon Hoepfner obtained his FRCPC from the University of Toronto. He accepted a position in 1977 as Assistant Professor at the College of Medicine in Saskatoon, where he remains today. His duties included Medical Director of the TB Control Program from 1986-2011.

His career achievements include adding the effect of sleep on breathing to the 2nd year curriculum – he diagnosed and treated the first SK case of obstructive sleep apnea. He implemented the portable oxygen prescription for hypoxemia, increasing the mobility of patients with COPD. He implemented Directly Observe Therapy (DOT) for Saskatchewan TB patients.

This required some ingenuity: “A 58 yo patient presented with a 4th episode of TB. He lived in a downtown hotel spending most days in the bar. In each previous admission he went AMA. The question was, ‘How do we complete treatment?’ The Public Health Nurse suggested the breath-taking idea for the bartender to give DOT. Bartender as healer tested my carefully constructed biases. Without other options we asked the bartender, who agreed. The deal was no DOT, no drinks! Every week he came to the clinic for review. Every week we called the bartender to see how many doses he had and made up the difference. In 9 months he completed treatment for the first time. Sask Health and Health Canada were persuaded that DOT was more economical than 5 courses of treatment and agreed to fund a DOT program.”

An amateur pianist, he observed the striking similarity between the musical flow of Chopin’s Prelude No. 4 and the clinical course of tuberculosis. Chopin had TB that caused his death. It was a thrill for Dr. Hoepfner to publish this association in *Music and Medicine* as the story of tuberculosis in music.

DOT Therapy implemented by Dr. Hoepfner increased treatment completion and decreased relapse, drug resistance, and cost of treatment.

Dr. James Irvine



Dr. James Irvine [MD (Distinction) ’76, CCFP ’78, FRCPC (Public Health and Preventive Medicine) ’96, Msc (Community Health) ’98, FCFP ’04] is a family physician who specialized in Public Health and Preventive Medicine (PHPM) (Indigenous health, environmental health, health promotion, communicable diseases).

Dr. Irvine practised in Melfort, Papua New Guinea, and Kindersley before going north in 1982 to practice in La Ronge with the La Ronge Medical Clinic, then as Director (1985-1995) of Northern Medical Services (NMS), Dept of Family Medicine, U of S and as Medical Health Officer (MHO)(1985-present). His work in northern Saskatchewan involved the development of both NMS as a successful program for clinical services, public health, research and teaching in remote areas and the creation of the Population Health Unit as a northern public health model.

He was Professor (1993+) and Professor Emeritus (2014) with the Department of Family Medicine at the U of S. Since 2016, he continues as PHPM Consultant for the Ministry of Health, U of S PHPM Residency Program (Assist Director) and MHO for Saskatchewan Health Authority. He has received several awards provincially and nationally for his work. However, his busy schedule in the OR and his involvement in the hospital as a family physician nearly made him miss the birth of both of his sons, something that his wife Trudy enjoys reminding him of to this day!

Dr. Irvine appreciates the northern community and the outdoors through cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, canoeing, and participating in the local triathlon event. In the last 10 years, he has taken up Ironman triathlons and this year qualified for the World Championship Ironman 70.3 event in South Africa along with his son, Jeff. He volunteers with the Food Bank garden, maintaining the ski trails, and helping coach the local judo club. Both of his sons and their wives are also physicians in La Ronge.

“I feel very fortunate to work with such excellent colleagues and community members throughout the years. I have many I call friends across the north.”

Dr. David Kemp



Dr. David Kemp obtained his medical degree (M.B. Ch.B) in Manchester, England. His first position in 1969 was as a Houseman at Ancoats Hospital in Manchester. He then took up another Houseman position at Manchester Royal Infirmary. In 1971, he lectured in Anatomy at Manchester Medical School and began family practice in Bristol, England in 1972, where he worked until 1977.

In 1977, he moved to Canada where he practiced in Unity and Macklin before establishing his solo practice at Wilkie Medical Clinic in 1986, where he still practices today, for a total of 41 years in rural Saskatchewan.

Working in rural Saskatchewan presents challenges that sometimes require quick thinking. Dr. Kemp shared the following memorable incident:

“When I worked in Macklin in the 1970s, I delivered a baby where the mother was bleeding profusely. I had to do a D&C to remove some placenta. She was shocky and needed blood immediately. Luckily, she had the same group as I do. I had to jump on the bed and donate some blood. She did survive.”

Dr. Kemp has 3 children and 3 grandchildren. He has a condo in the mountains where he enjoys hiking. He has 3 dogs that help to keep him fit.

The reality of working in rural Saskatchewan is that sometimes you have to go to great lengths to ensure the safety of your patient.

Dr. James McHattie



Born in Saskatchewan, Dr. James McHattie obtained his MD from the University of Saskatchewan. He completed his internship, residency and fellowship in Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology at the Toronto General Hospital/University of Toronto and obtained certification and fellowship in Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology from the RCPSC in 1972. Subsequently, he advanced to Fellowship of the American Gastroenterological Association.

From 1973-1977 he was a Staff Physician at the Toronto General Hospital/U of T and Assistant Professor of Medicine (clinical). In 1977 he returned to his hometown of Regina to spend the rest of his career serving Saskatchewan residents. He has held several positions in Regina hospitals, including Staff Physician, Head of the Division of Gastroenterology, Head of the Department of Internal Medicine, Chairman of the Medical Advisory Committee and President of the Medical Staff Association.

He worked with charge nurse Lorie McGeough RN and nursing educator & pharmaceutical research nurse Marlene Scrivens RN to develop the G.I. Investigation Unit & Program at the Pasqua Hospital. His accomplishments include the establishing and directing of the Home Total Parenteral Nutrition program in Saskatchewan. He was instrumental in advocating the benefits of the Hospitalist Program and then worked with the management team, Dr. Brian Laurson VP of Med. and Patrick Dumelie COO to establish the funding and structure for such a program. With partners Tom Wigmore and Cam Wilson, he also established an Internal Medicine Clinic which helped to attract and retain many badly needed highly qualified medical specialists.

He spent 10 years coaching Minor Hockey and has been a member of the Board of Directors of Ducks Unlimited for many years, chairing the Saskatchewan 25th Anniversary and the Canadian 75th Anniversary dinners in Regina. He enjoys all Saskatchewan has to offer, is an avid hunter and fisherman, and loves the outdoors and projects at the lake.

Dr. McHattie was instrumental in establishing the Home Parenteral Nutrition and Hospitalist programs in Regina.

Dr. Abraham Ninan



Dr. Abraham Ninan (MBBS '65, LMCC, FRCPC) began his medical career in 1965 as a Tutor in Community Health at Christian Medical College in Vellore, India. In 1971, he obtained a position as Medical Officer at Duncan Hospital in Raxaul, Bihar, India. His specialties are neonatology and pediatrics.

One of the first neonatologists to practice in Saskatchewan, he first moved to Canada in 1973 to complete his residency in Saskatoon and Toronto. In 1977 he accepted a position at RUH in Saskatoon, where he practiced for 22 years. From 1999-2008, he pursued this work in Regina, before coming back to Saskatoon where he still works as a neonatologist at RUH today.

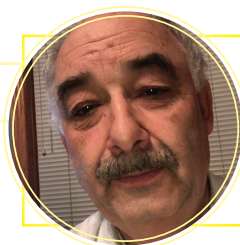
Dr. Ninan's roots influenced him to ensure the establishment and direction of a non-governmental organization (NGO), Emmanuel Hospital Association in Canada (1997) to aid health care and development in poorly resourced parts of the world. He and his wife, Leela still manage the NGO, making frequent trips to India to train doctors and nurses in mission hospitals and raise funds to support clinical and development work in India and Africa.

One anecdote he remembers fondly from his career is this: "During a PAIRS strike in the late eighties, I was serving in-house covering NICU and PICU. I was called upon to see a child in emergency, who had been injured in a rodeo. I wheeled him to PICU and could not feel his pulse very well. We did an electrocardiogram, noted pericardial fluid and then he was taken to OR. He was found to have a tear in the pulmonary vein, was stitched up and recovered. His main symptom, swearing (no doubt because of hypoxia), was cured. He turned out to be a sweet young lad!"

He and his wife have three children and seven grandchildren.

Dr. Ninan is a neonatologist in Saskatoon and runs an NGO that supports clinical and development work in India and Africa.

Dr. Lorne Pilot



Originally from rural Saskatchewan, Dr. Lorne Pilot graduated from the College of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan and to this day, still practices in Saskatoon.

A general practitioner for the greater part of his career, he has also worked with Veterans' Affairs Canada (VAC) as a Senior Area Medical Officer (SAMO) for Saskatchewan, and Certified Medical Review Officer (MRO) for North America.

Dr. Pilot has a special interest in Occupational Medicine and is an Associate Member of the Canadian Board of Occupational Medicine, as well as a Member of the American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

His wife is a former Certified Nursing Assistant at the East Four Ward of the Saskatoon City Hospital. Dr. Pilot and his wife have two children. Their son is a chartered professional accountant presently employed with the City of Saskatoon, and his daughter is married and is a business owner in Prince Albert. Their son-in-law is a plumber and excavating contractor who works out of Prince Albert and Emma Lake.

Dr. Pilot devoted his life to general practice, specializing in Occupational Medicine.

Dr. John Shewchuk



Dr. John Shewchuk studied at the University of Saskatchewan, where he obtained his medical degree. With the goal to become a family physician, he obtained Certification with the College of Family Physicians (CCFP), as well as Fellowship of the College of Family Physicians.

Originally from Hafford, he chose to move to Tisdale in 1977 for a position as Full-time Staff at the Tisdale Union Hospital. In 1980, he was promoted to Chief of Staff. He is now in private practice in Saskatoon.

Throughout his career, Dr. Shewchuk experienced many challenging cases he was responsible to deal with in rural Saskatchewan. He contributed to the profession by serving as a member of the Medical Council of Canada (early 1980's), a Member of the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan in 1982, and as President of the Saskatchewan College of Family Physicians in 1986. He received two awards for his service: Canadian Family Physician of the Year (1996) and Saskatchewan Family Physician of the Year (1995). He is also involved with Medical Student Clinical Teaching Programs and has reviewed cases for the Canadian Medical Protective Association (CMPA).

Cherishing the support & friendship of his wife, Lorraine, he now lives in Saskatoon and thoroughly enjoys interacting with his grandchildren who live in Montreal, and visiting his immediate family, ER physicians & a urological surgeon, on Vancouver Island. He is also a fan of all sports.

As a Family Physician, Dr. Shewchuk contributed to the profession by sitting on the Council of the CPSS and of the Saskatchewan College of Family Physicians.

Dr. Margaret Tysdal



Dr. Margaret Tysdal, originally from Regina, obtained her medical degree from the U of S in 1976. After her internship at St. Paul's Hospital in Saskatoon, she moved to Moose Jaw to work in private practice as a family physician, first at Moose Jaw Clinic until 1998, then at Professional Medical Associates until 2016.

Dr. Tysdal ascribes much of her success as a physician to Continual Medical Education: "Someone once suggested to me to subscribe to the taped conferences from the Audio-Digest Foundation, which I did from 1978 until my retirement in 2016. To cover my areas of interests, I subscribed to General Practice, Obstetrics and Gynecology, Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine; I shudder to imagine how much poorer a physician I would have been without the constant learning!"

It is with mixed emotions - fondness and sadness - that she thinks of deliveries. Beginning in 1981, she kept track of how many deliveries she did - it totaled 1,081. Delivering healthy babies far outweighed the number of babies with problems, but she had her share of those too. She still looks back with amazement that she was brave enough to do deliveries, as well as work in the emergency department. "I must thank all the medical school teachers and those during my internship who taught me well enough to have the confidence to utilize those skills when I arrived in Moose Jaw in 1977."

Her husband, Murray Tysdal is a chartered accountant and farmer. They have lived on his family farm near Briercrest, in its 100-year-old house, since 1985. Their son, Mark, and his wife, Shea Zubkow, both with commerce degrees from the U of S, live in Calgary and have blessed them with 3 grandsons. Dr. Tysdal's activities include hauling grain at harvest, updating the family tree, teaching piano and remaining active in her local Presbyterian church. She maintains: "My life is full and enjoyable."

"In my last few years of practice, I was very pleased to teach medical students in my office. It was a very rewarding experience."