

MEDIA RELEASE



Ontario College of Family Physicians
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A Chapter of the College of Family Physicians of Canada

Family Doctor Week in Canada Dr. Merrilee Brown celebrated for outstanding patient care and leadership

(Nov. 7, 2016 – Toronto) The Ontario College of Family Physicians (OCFP) is proud to name Dr. Merrilee Brown of Port Perry, Ont., the 2016 Reg L. Perkin Family Physician of the Year. The award is presented annually to a family doctor who provides exceptional care to patients while significantly contributing to the health and well-being of communities and society.

Dr. Brown has dedicated herself to caring for families in Port Perry for nearly 20 years. Working in a rural community, she cares for patients' physical needs and their overall well-being. She sees patients in the clinic, delivers babies and provides palliative care. She cares for patients in their homes, in hospital and works in the emergency room.

"The award is a validation not so much for me personally but for all 'in the trenches' family doctors who provide truly comprehensive 'cradle to grave' family medicine," says Dr. Brown. "I represent those rural doctors who love the richness of the experience of taking care of a community for a generation or more and the teachers of family medicine who share that joy with the next generation of rural family doctors."

An enthusiastic teacher, Dr. Brown leads physician training at the Medical Associates of Port Perry group and holds faculty appointments at both Queen's University and the University of Toronto. She is well-known nationally for the work she does to support rural physicians who train future doctors.

Outside of the medical clinic, Dr. Brown is active in her community, involved in coordinating care for incoming Syrian refugees and organizing community support initiatives like the Port Perry House Tour and Port Perry Easter Bonnet Competition, which together raised close to \$40,000 for local causes and charities.

"The announcement of this award coincides with Family Doctor Week in Canada and is an opportunity to acknowledge the work family physicians do in their communities every day to meet the health needs of the people of Ontario," says OCFP President Dr. Sarah Newbery. "As both a community-based physician and a teacher of tomorrow's doctors, Dr. Brown epitomizes these qualities and it is a great privilege to celebrate her contributions and accomplishments."

About the Reg L. Perkin Award

Named in honour of Dr. Reg L. Perkin, College of Family Physicians of Canada Executive Director from 1985 to 1996, this is the OCFP's highest honour. The winner of the Reg L. Perkin Award is chosen from the winners of the OCFP's Regional Family Physician of the Year Awards, which honour seven outstanding family doctors from across the province. This year's regional winners are:

- **Dr. Maurianne Reade, Mindemoya** – Region 1 – North East and North West
- **Dr. Jo-Anne Hammond, London** – Region 2 - Erie St. Clair and South West

- **Dr. Margo Mountjoy, Rockwood** – Region 3 - Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant and Waterloo Wellington
- **Dr. Judy Maynard, Brampton** – Region 4 - Mississauga-Halton and Central West
- **Dr. Cheryl Wagner, Toronto** – Region 5 – Toronto Central and Central
- **Dr. Merrilee Brown, Port Perry** – Region 6 - Central East and North Simcoe Muskoka
- **Dr. Michael Malek, Ottawa** – Region 7 - South East and Champlain

The 2016 awards will be presented at the 2016 OCFP Awards Ceremony on Nov. 24 in Toronto at the OCFP's 54th Annual Scientific Assembly. Please see the accompanying backgrounder for more information about all of the individual awards winners.

About the OCFP

The OCFP is the provincial chapter of the College of Family Physicians of Canada and is the voice of family medicine representing over 10,500 family physicians who provide patient care across communities throughout the province. Our mandate is to support members by providing evidence-based education and professional development, by promoting and recognizing leadership excellence in family medicine, and by advocating for the role family physicians play in delivering the highest quality care to patients and families across Ontario.

About Family Doctor Week in Canada

From Nov. 7-12, 2016, the College of Family Physicians of Canada and its provincial chapters are celebrating Family Doctor Week in Canada. This special week is an opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding contributions made by family doctors to improve the health and well-being of their patients through their roles in clinics, hospitals, universities, and many other health-care facilities in Canadian communities.

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For more information and to schedule an interview:

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Backgrounder
2016 Ontario College of Family Physicians Awards

The OCFP's Annual Awards program celebrates the outstanding skill, knowledge and dedication of family doctors across Ontario. The awards recognize excellence in community and medical leadership, outstanding contributions in teaching and exceptional teamwork.

2016 Regional Family Physicians of the Year

The Regional Family Physician of the Year Award recognizes the outstanding contributions of seven Ontario family doctors who provide exemplary care to their patients and are passionately involved in activities that contribute to excellence in family medicine.

Dr. Maurianne Reade, Mindemoya – Region 1 – North East and North West

Dr. Maurianne Reade has practised as a rural physician in Mindemoya, Ont., since 2001. She is an Associate Professor at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine, a board member of the Physician Clinical Teachers Association and an executive member of the OMA Academic Medicine Forum and Rural Expert Panel.

Described by peers as someone who views health holistically, her dedication to family medicine shines through in her daily routine where she can be found caring for patients in their homes, in the family health team clinic or First Nations Health Centre, the local emergency room and hospital ward.

Dr. Jo-Anne Hammond, London – Region 2 - Erie St. Clair and South West

Dr. Jo-Anne Hammond has practiced comprehensive family medicine in London, Ontario for 30 years and has been actively involved in training medical students and residents since 1987. After accepting a clinical teaching appointment at the University of Western Ontario in 2003, Dr. Hammond became its first family doctor to share a joint appointment with the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology as a Professor.

She continues her obstetrical practice today, delivering up to 100 babies per year – all while helping hone the skills of tomorrow's family doctors through a family medicine resident obstetrical skills training program. Dr. Hammond provides palliative care to both her own patients, and to the patients in one of London's local palliative care units who do not have a family physician of their own.

Dr. Hammond is heralded by her colleagues as a well-rounded, dedicated and clinically excellent family physician, and an invaluable asset to her team, students and patients.

Dr. Margo Mountjoy, Rockwood – Region 3 - Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant and Waterloo Wellington

Dr. Margo Mountjoy has delivered comprehensive and sports medicine focused family medicine for 25 years. She is the Clinical and Academic Lead of the Health & Performance Centre at the University of Guelph, where she has worked as a community sports medicine physician since 1988. A true participant in Canada's Olympic effort, Dr. Mountjoy has acted as the National Team Physician for the

Canadian Synchronized swimming team, as well as several of Canada's top middle-and-long distance runners, triathletes and Olympic wrestlers.

Dr. Mountjoy is on faculty in the Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine, McMaster University, in the Department of Family Medicine where she acts as its Director of Student & Resident Affairs and Accreditation Lead. She is involved with several international sporting organizations including the International Olympic Committee Medical Commission Games Group, the World Anti-Doping Agency Health Medicine and Research Committee and is the Chair of the Association of Summer Olympic International Federations Medical and Scientific Consultative Group.

Dr. Judy Maynard, Brampton – Region 4 - Mississauga-Halton and Central West

Dr. Judy Maynard has been a family doctor since 1981, delivering babies, providing palliative care and working with vulnerable populations at Brampton's Wilkinson Road Shelter for the past five years. Dr. Maynard and her team at the Brameast Family Health Organization are innovators in palliative care, focusing their work on providing patients medical care in the familiar surroundings of their home. This results in 80-90 per cent of her patients being able to spend their final days at home, surrounded by love ones - a rate much higher than the provincial average.

Dr. Maynard was also the founding Program Director of the Brampton family medicine residency program, growing the program from the ground up and helping to train and welcome new doctors into Brampton's medical community.

Dr. Cheryl Wagner, Toronto – Region 5 – Toronto Central and Central

Dr. Cheryl Wagner has been practicing family medicine for over thirty years and is considered a pioneer in caring for patients living with HIV. Being present, along with a small group of Toronto family physicians, at the beginning of a new epidemic, Dr. Wagner took it upon herself to acquire mastery of infectious disease and a community focus upon patient advocacy, research tools, palliative care and public education. Her community involvement was recognized with a 2016 YWCA Woman of Distinction Award.

Dr. Wagner continues to work across medical, academic and grassroots communities. Her Toronto family practice focuses on HIV-positive people, refugee claimants and people from marginalized communities.

Dr. Merrilee Brown, Port Perry – Region 6 - Central East and North Simcoe Muskoka

Dr. Merrilee Brown practices comprehensive rural family medicine with the Medical Associates of Port Perry group, where she provides exceptionally high-quality care to patients. She holds faculty appointments at both Queen's University and the University of Toronto and is an enthusiastic teacher of rural medicine and faculty development to rural teacher of medical residents.

In addition to providing exceptional patient care and teaching tomorrow's doctors, Dr. Brown is involved with the Syrian Refugee Settlement Project, where she has worked to coordinate health-care strategy for incoming refugees.

Dr. Michael Malek, Ottawa – Region 7 - South East and Champlain

Dr. Michael Malek has practiced family medicine in Ottawa since 1997. After joining the Ottawa Hospital Academic Family Health Team as an Assistant Professor in 2008, Dr. Malek has routinely played a key role in the training of family medicine residents and medical students affiliated with the University of Ottawa.

Dr. Malek provides comprehensive primary care for his patients, with a special focus on geriatrics. He attends to the needs of patients at a local long-term care facility and provides palliative care support to patients throughout his community. He is an attending physician with the Ottawa Hospital teaching service and has been a Peer Assessor with the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario for the past decade. He currently serves as Chair for a partnership of 40 academic family physicians in Ottawa.

Community Teacher of the Year

The Community Teacher of the Year award celebrates excellence in a community family medicine teacher. This award is nominated by Ontario's family medicine residents and medical school students.

Dr. Jeffrey Weissberger, Markham

Dr. Jeff Weissberger of Markham primarily teaches family medicine residents from the University of Toronto at its Markham-Stouffville site. He is well known as one of the strongest and most supportive resident and medical student mentors and teachers, and is consistently rated as one of the best teachers across all of the University of Toronto. He actively engages medical learners at all levels, including medical students, whom he teaches as part of the university's Art and Science Clinical Medicine course. Dr. Weissberger also leads a problem-based small group learning program for family medicine residents.

Dr. Weissberger is a shining ambassador of Ontario family medicine, helping to bring some of this province's brightest medical minds to the discipline.

Resident Teacher of the Year

The Resident Teacher of the Year award recognizes outstanding teaching skills and commitment to education among family medicine residents currently enrolled in a family medicine residency program in Ontario.

Dr. Jocelyn Howard, Ottawa

Dr. Jocelyn Howard is a family medicine resident at the University of Ottawa. She is described by her mentors and colleagues as a committed advocate, tireless team-player and an excellent and caring clinician.

Dr. Howard has created an evidence-based module on safe opioid prescribing, which is now widely shared throughout the province. She has worked tirelessly to improve the care provided to new Canadians – with particular focus on incoming Syrian refugees. She volunteers with a community health centre providing much needed primary care and has created a workshop on how to create and operate a clinic to meet the medical needs of new Canadians.

Dr. Howard is equally committed to her peers and has worked to bring together medical residents from all disciplines to discuss and promote wellness in residency.

Family Practice of the Year

The Family Practice of the Year award celebrates the accomplishments and hard work of the members of a family practice in delivering comprehensive services and continuity of care for their patients.

Greenboro Family Medicine Centre, Ottawa

The Greenboro Family Medicine Centre team in Ottawa has provided accessible, holistic, patient-centred care to Ottawa's Greenboro community for the past 31 years. Started by two physicians as a small clinic in 1985, the Centre has grown into a cohesive family health organization of ten physicians, four nurses and administrative staff. The team provides comprehensive primary care, including prenatal, obstetric, hospital inpatient, evening and weekend call, home visits, long-term and palliative care. As the clinic has grown, the staff has branched out into academic pursuits, including educating and training medical students, residents and other health-care practitioners.

The Greenboro Family Medicine Centre team exemplifies its commitment to community-based care through their outreach activities with vulnerable populations. This began in the late 1990s by helping Canada's Bosnian refugee community and has continued to today with the recent influx of Syrian refugees. The Greenboro Family Medicine Centre advocates for military families and those living with autism. This is a team that goes beyond the call of duty, every single day.

2016 Awards of Excellence

The Award of Excellence recognizes outstanding contributions in a specific area pertaining to the specialty of family medicine: patient care, community service, hospital or health-care institutions, College activities (CFPC or OCFP), teaching, research or other elements of the academic discipline of family medicine

Dr. Shazia Ambreen, Alliston

Dr. Firas Al-Dhaher, Petrolia

Dr. Ragini Gina Agarwal, Burlington

Dr. Sean Blaine, Stratford

Dr. Andre Bedard, Innisfil

Dr. Allan Grill, North York

Dr. Doug Gruner, Ottawa

Dr. Sandra Kane-Corriveau, Hamilton

Dr. Linda Lee, Kitchener

Dr. Melanie Mar, Huntsville

Dr. Hamidah Meghani, Oakville

Dr. Upender Mehan, Kitchener

Dr. Paul Pageau, Ottawa

Dr. Pauline Pariser, Toronto

Dr. Kevin Pottie, Ottawa

Dr. Michael Roberts, Toronto

Dr. Daniel Soong, Kincardine