Honors and rewards fall to those who show their good qualities in action.

Aristotle
2017

REPRESENTATIVE FORUM / ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Awards Program

ALBERTA MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
Awards Program

AMA Awards Evening with the President  3–22
Friday, September 15

Long-Service Awards
Member Emeritus Awards
Achievement Awards
(Medal for Distinguished Service / Medal of Honor)
Award for Compassionate Service

Lunch with the CMA President  23–31
Saturday, September 16

CMA Honorary Membership Awards
Installation of New AMA President
Presentation to AMA Past President
Far and away the best prize that life offers is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.

Theodore Roosevelt
Celebrating the dedication and interests of amazing people

Our awards presentations are an important part of the fall Representative Forum and Annual General Meeting. The Alberta Medical Association and Canadian Medical Association awards celebrate the achievements of individuals whose fascinating careers have helped to make this world a better place.

For your reading pleasure today, our honorees have kindly provided their reflections about the importance of AMA/CMA service in their professional lives. Additionally, they have generously shared delightful insights into their personal interests and passions.

We hope you will enjoy this glimpse into the lives of those whose achievements we will be warmly applauding.
AMA Awards Evening with the President  
Friday, September 15

Welcome and AMA President’s Remarks  
Dr. Padraic E. Carr

Introduction of Head Table

PRESENTATIONS  
AMA Long-Service Awards  
AMA Member Emeritus Awards

Blessing

Toast to the Queen

Dinner

PRESENTATIONS  
AMA Achievement Awards  
Medal for Distinguished Service  
Medal of Honor

AMA Award for Compassionate Service

President’s Closing Remarks
AMA Long-Service Award

The Alberta Medical Association Long-Service Award recognizes physicians with 10 years of AMA service who contribute their knowledge, skill and time to the advancement of the profession. Their work, whether on the Board of Directors or its committees, supports and encourages the association’s development.

Recipients

Dr. Paul E. Boucher
Dr. Shelley L. Duggan
Dr. Carl W. Nohr
Dr. Maeve O’Beirne
Dr. Paul Parks
Dr. Derek R. Townsend
Dr. Phillip W. van der Merwe
Dr. David W. Wildeboer
Dr. Scott F. Wilson

AMA Member Emeritus

The Member Emeritus Award recognizes significant contributions to the goals and aims of the AMA, seniority, long-term membership and distinguished service (20 years) based on criteria determined by the Board of Directors. Members Emeriti enjoy all the rights and privileges of a full member, but shall not be required to pay annual dues.

Recipients

Dr. John E. (Jack) Bromley
Dr. Christopher G.M. Evans
Dr. Noel W. Grisdale
AMA Long-Service Award

Dr. Paul E. Boucher  
*Intensive Care, Calgary*

**REFLECTIONS ON SERVICE**  I was the section representative for Intensive Care for three years and was introduced to the Representative Forum and the fantastic work the AMA does. I have served for the past six years on the Board of Directors and have sat on a variety of board-related committees such as the Nominating Committee, the Provincial Physician Liaison Forum, and the Executive. I have found my time serving on the board most rewarding.

Over the years we have seen an evolution in our relationship with government and a change in our role in the system. Being part of this evolution has been interesting and challenging. I am looking forward to seeing how our role evolves over time. My goal is to help ensure we have a better health care system; better for patients and better to work in.

The AMA values our role in the health care system and the time we put forward in the service of the profession. Being a part of this has shown me how a group of people working together can accomplish great things.

**PERSONAL INTERESTS**  I enjoy running, road bike riding, competing in triathlons and spending time with family, including my wife, my 15-year-old daughter and my 12-year-old son. We have a trailer that the whole family enjoys taking camping and my son and I go back-country hiking whenever we can.

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Dr. Shelley L. Duggan  
*Critical Care and Nephrology, Edmonton*

**REFLECTIONS ON SERVICE**  I have had many roles at the AMA, most recently as a board member, which offers a new and exciting challenge. I am part of the exciting changes the AMA is advancing regarding physician stewardship and participation in decision making in the health care system. I also thoroughly enjoyed my time as president of the Edmonton Zone Medical Staff Association and my role on the Council of Zonal Leaders, where I was able to advocate for Edmonton Zone doctors and join forces with the other presidents to discuss province-wide issues physicians face.

Working with the AMA allows you to meet physicians in different disciplines from all over the province and gain a wealth of knowledge and insight. You realize that many of the struggles are the same, regardless of where you practice. You also get a chance to meet the important players in the system, which enables one to bring about change by discussing ideas.

**PERSONAL INTERESTS**  I am an avid runner and completed the Boston Marathon in 2016 – a bucket list goal. I am passionate about food and health and spend hours in my kitchen, cooking and baking for friends and family. Food unites us and helps us celebrate. I try and advocate for health through my involvement in the Canadian Hypertension Advisory Committee and educating the public as Ask the Doctor on Global Morning News.
Dr. Carl W. Nohr  
General Surgery, Medicine Hat

REFLECTIONS ON SERVICE  It is a privilege to serve patients and our profession in any capacity. Serving as Speaker fulfilled my personal passion for order, progress and respect for all. My term as President gave me many opportunities to learn from and be of service to our profession and the public.

My participation in AMA activities and the many positive, supportive and influential interactions it has afforded me, has helped me better appreciate AMA staff, fellow physicians, allied health workers, politicians and patients. This is very meaningful to me; thank you.

I believe the most useful things that occurred during my time of service were demonstrating the possibility and worth of good relationships with politicians, the value of good meeting management, the importance of our role as stewards in the health system, highlighting the terms of the social contract, and advancements in equity.

I would like to be remembered as a doctor and as an advocate for stewardship and observance of the social contract, for providing service to society and profession, and for assisting in developing effective relationships across the system. I will always believe it is possible to respect the best interests of all as we work together to craft an integrated and sustainable health system.

I support compassionate service rather than self-interest as the path to anything good in life, including effectiveness as a leader, professional satisfaction and personal happiness.

Serving in the AMA has helped me realize the importance of loving my job, remembering who I am and who I work for, giving something back, choosing service over self-interest and practicing compassion in all I do.

Dr. Maeve O’Beirne  
Family Medicine, Calgary

REFLECTIONS ON SERVICE  I served on the Board of Directors at a time when we were starting to look at fee equity. There were many interesting discussions around how to do this without alienating whole sections. I was also on the Toward Optimized Practice Steering Committee when TOP was moving into other areas besides clinical practice guidelines, including AIM (Access Improvement Measures) and other quality improvement initiatives. I later served on a committee that was exploring accreditation for primary care. Ensuring that primary care is practiced as efficiently and effectively as possible continues to be my primary interest. Introducing quality improvement methods into primary care practice is one of the most important concepts of the committee work I was involved in.

Being a part of the leadership of the AMA helped me understand the big picture of organized medicine, why things move so slowly, and why decisions are made that do not necessarily make sense in each medical setting.

PERSONAL INTERESTS  In my spare time I hike and cross-country ski depending on the season. Over the years, my husband and I have taken biking trips through China and Germany, and most recently toured through the Andalusian region of Spain, which was incredibly beautiful.
I am also involved with the board of the Calgary Foothills Primary Care Network and sit on the CPSA Council and Competence Committee, which focuses on improving patient safety.

Dr. Paul Parks
Emergency Medicine, Medicine Hat

REFLECTIONS ON SERVICE I’ve enjoyed my work with the Section of Emergency Medicine and the opportunity to serve as an advocate to improve system-wide Access Block, which involved bringing about provincial patient-oriented objective measures of acute care access through site-specific provincial reporting. This required advocating with government for transparent reporting of access benchmarks and addressing system-wide Access Block. I’ve also enjoyed my ongoing work as an AMA board member, focusing on improving patient access, system efficiencies and advocating for physicians through trying to address fee/income equity.

The AMA is a very strong organization that helps with the professional components of a physician’s career – specifically around advocating for system improvement. An important component of our professional duty is to act as system stewards and patient advocates, and the AMA provides an excellent vehicle to do this.

PERSONAL INTERESTS I am an avid movie buff and myself, my wife and our 18 and 16-year-old daughters are working our way through every one of Roger Ebert’s four-star rated movies! We also travel every year to Champaign, Illinois, to attend Roger Ebert’s film festival.

I am co-founder and owner of a craft brewery in Medicine Hat – Hell’s Basement Brewery. I opened it with a couple of close friends in August 2016, and since then we’ve been one of the fastest growing mid-size craft breweries within Alberta. As a testament to my long-standing love of craft beer, I missed being at the RF for my first election to the AMA board in 2011, as I was celebrating my 40th birthday in Munich, Germany, during Oktoberfest at the time!
Dr. Derek R. Townsend  
*Critical Care Medicine, Edmonton*

**REFLECTIONS ON SERVICE**  I began my AMA contributions working with the Section of Intensive Care as the secretary-treasurer, then as president and now past president. Representing intensive care medicine at Representative Forum was a valuable learning experience that readied me for committee work on the Fees Advisory Committee and the After Hours Working Group.

Recently I have been elected to the Board of Directors, representing all physicians and learning about their many disciplines and practice patterns. I think the most important issue facing health care is financial stewardship of our health care resources.

The biggest threat to sustainable, value-added patient care is wasteful and inappropriate use of resources and finances in an ever-expanding health care system without the incremental improvements in patient care. This will be the primary underlying issue of health care in the future.

My experience with the AMA has provided time with old and new friends, and given me perspective into others’ patient care, practices, management approaches, and strategic thinking that has expanded my appreciation and knowledge of our physician team providing care to all Albertans.

**PERSONAL INTERESTS**  I enjoy my free time with family and friends. I am very fortunate to have a very understanding wife and children. We have two boys that are actively involved in activities five to six days a week including hockey, golf, swimming, rock climbing, soccer, music and various activities that I can’t keep up with!

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Dr. Phillip W. van der Merwe  
*General Practice, Calgary*

**REFLECTIONS ON SERVICE**  I was a founding member of my “home” PCN 11 years ago, now numbering close to 400 members. It has been my honor to have been a co-chair of the Provincial PCN Leads Executive for the past six years representing 3,900 members. These fledgling grassroots networks are succeeding in driving the integration of primary care, influencing the AMA, AHS and government, and having a profound impact on health care in this province. With the 88% ratification vote on a new PCN Governance Framework, we can celebrate a clear mandate and engagement of family doctors, who have demonstrated that we are reaching beyond personal gain to achieve system gain, through patient-centric team-based care.

We can celebrate that Alberta is seen as a federal leader in primary care reform in collaboration with our specialist colleagues, which is integral to this success.

I want to specifically stress the remarkable respect and support (and patience!) from the AMA and its staff. I have immensely enjoyed my experience with them, now part of my extended family. I offer that the AMA is only as good as its members. And I encourage all my colleagues to not be afraid to question or challenge the status quo – healthy debate and disagreements are integral to growth.

**PERSONAL INTERESTS**  I collect art, music and am a passionate cook. I have always been intensely interested in animal rights; making sure animals we eat are humanely treated and harvested. I believe society is judged most aptly by how we care for our vulnerable. As physicians we can make this connection to people quite easily, however, we should also include animals and the environment.
Dr. David W. Wildeboer  
*Family Medicine, Lacombe*

**REFLECTIONS ON SERVICE**  Two things come to mind. The first is time spent with many different stakeholders working on primary care reform in ad hoc committees with AMA staff and other family doctors. The second is serving as one of the Section of Rural Medicine’s Representative Forum delegates and working together with physicians of all specialties. One of the accomplishments I’m most proud of was helping to define and establish primary care networks. Lots of people were, and continue to be, involved and I’m happy to have played a small part. Built on the idea of team-based care, PCNs deliver the right care at the right time, which is good for patients and for the entire health care system.

AMA service is important, as it isn’t just about the profession; it’s more importantly about advocating for a better health care system for our patients. Get involved early – it’s rewarding!

**PERSONAL INTERESTS**  My interests and activities include sports – I try to golf! – especially cheering on the Oilers and Stampeders. I also enjoy spending time with family and especially watching my nieces and nephews grow up as quality people.

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Dr. Scott F. Wilson  
*Neurology, Calgary*

**REFLECTIONS ON SERVICE**  There have been two major components of service to the AMA through the Representative Forum as the president of the Section of Neurology and information technology. I became involved in the Physician Office System Program (POSP) and served as a representative of the Board of Directors on the POSP Committee and subsequently the AMA Information Management/Information Technology Coordinating Committee.

Computers and information technology is a big part of medicine and touches all aspects of our current practice of medicine. It is amazing to see how much this has changed over my practice lifetime. We’ve gone from analog to digital. This will only continue to deepen and physicians and the AMA need a strong voice in this theatre.

For me the reward of my work at the AMA has been largely about the collegiality of fellow physicians and AMA staff with whom I’ve worked with all along the way.

**PERSONAL INTERESTS**  Continuing to advance secure messaging between health care providers and improving patient-centered care have become a much bigger interest and I look forward to reaping the benefits of our current steep trajectory. When I’m not pursuing gains in the IT world I have completed Ironman twice. To maintain some work-life balance, I enjoy cycling, running, golfing, wake surfing, creating culinary delights in the kitchen and being the number one fan of my kids’ hockey teams.
AMA Member Emeritus 🏆

Dr. John E. (Jack) Bromley  
*General Practice, Red Deer*

REFLECTIONS ON SERVICE  My original involvement with the AMA was in the late 1980s when, as president of the NWT Medical Association, I worked, with AMA's support, to bring the NWT into active participation as a division of the CMA. After moving to Red Deer, I became involved with the PSA Screening Guideline Committee and, for 17 years now, have served on Representative Forum as a regional rep. Most recently, I have worked with the Central Zone Medical Staff Association.

A lot of issues came through RF over these years and there have been both successes and disappointments. I am most encouraged by the recent direction of primary care reform, and am greatly pleased to see RF recognize the inequities in remuneration within and between different sections and the need to make significant adjustments.

I have always been proud to be a part of the AMA. We are a strong organization with a genuine interest in both the public and the profession. I encourage younger colleagues to get involved for the opportunity to have an active influence.

PERSONAL INTERESTS  My family is extremely important to me. My wife Susan has always supported me in my various career choices and has followed me from the Maritimes to the NWT, overseas to Papua New Guinea and finally to Red Deer. Throughout this time she has been a mother to our four children and now grandmother to 10 grandkids. They bring great joy and purpose to my life. My Christian faith is also central in my life and does much to keep our family together. Hobbies include astronomy, woodworking (I make furniture for my grandchildren) and flying kites. I also like to garden and to make wine (I drink the odd bottle as well!).

Dr. Christopher G.M. Evans  
*Emergency Medicine, Edmonton*

REFLECTIONS ON SERVICE  I served on the Board of Directors for six years and have been a member of numerous committees and working groups, largely centered around financial-related issues. I have been the emergency medicine representative for the RVG Commission, and fees representative for the Section of Emergency Medicine for the past 18 years. During this time, we completely revamped our fee schedule to be fairer, by using a mathematical model developed by me in my RVG dealings that assesses intensity and time as determined by an expert group (the section executive) to determine the mathematical inputs to arrive at a fair INRV for any given code.
My AMA service has unquestionably brought deep satisfaction to my career. The AMA is a noble organization, and having served my fellow physicians via the AMA has brought me much pride. I would highly recommend that new physicians get involved with the AMA as soon as they are comfortable enough with their clinical practice to do so.

PERSONAL INTERESTS  I don’t have much free time :o). I have done a lot of work for the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians, having served as president, and now still sit on a few fairly important committees. I very much enjoy photography, current events, animals, fine art, cooking, reading, yoga and music, among other things.

Dr. Noel W. Grisdale
Rural Family Medicine, Black Diamond

REFLECTIONS ON SERVICE  I have been very fortunate to have had a number of rewarding experiences via the AMA, however, my time with the Board of Directors and, specifically, my year as president, stand out prominently. It was truly an honor and a privilege to serve my profession in that manner. I enjoyed travelling the province, meeting and engaging with so many talented physicians in all phases of their careers, while working with and getting to know the terrific AMA staff at all levels with the organization.

I spent a number of years chairing the AMA’s Governance Oversight Group and while the work we did to create accountability within the Representative Forum, as well as to enhance the functioning of sections, was perhaps not sexy, it was very important.

It’s been a privilege chairing our Negotiating Committee during the most recent Amending Agreement, as our profession is at a critical juncture attempting to help find solutions to the health care sustainability challenge.

The AMA team has been a terrific one to be a part of; the relationships have been the best part – so many bright and engaging people. All I can say is my AMA service has enriched my life and career immeasurably.

PERSONAL INTERESTS  I have an incredibly supportive wife and four wonderful children. I’ve spent time coaching all of the kids in soccer at some point. Karla and I love watching our children perform at their activities...dance, hockey and soccer. As for me, I run regularly and play for my own very competitive over 35 men’s soccer team in Calgary. As a family we love to travel and we have tried to expose our children to different cultures and experiences as much as possible.
AMA Achievement Awards

The Alberta Medical Association Achievement Awards were created to honor physicians and non-physicians for their contributions to quality health care in Alberta. The Medal for Distinguished Service and the Medal of Honor are the highest awards presented by the AMA.

Recipients

Medal for Distinguished Service
Dr. Gary A.J. Gelfand
Dr. David S. (Shaun) Gray
Dr. Nairne W. Scott-Douglas

Medal of Honor
Sangita (Gita) Sharma, PhD

AMA Award for Compassionate Service

The AMA Award for Compassionate Service honors physicians who, during their careers, have served as an inspiration to others with outstanding compassion, dedication and extraordinary contributions to volunteer or philanthropy efforts to improve the state of his or her community.

Recipients
Dr. Moosa Khalil
Dr. Daniel M. Li
AMA Medal for Distinguished Service

Dr. Gary A.J. Gelfand

“Dr. Gelfand’s contributions to medicine go beyond the exceptional care which he personally delivers to his patients. With his energetic and collaborative style, he has significantly contributed to several initiatives which have raised the quality of chest medicine in the province.”

“His gracious and sincere desire to hear the opinions of others enhances not only patient care discussions, but increases the education value of interdisciplinary rounds.”

Dr. Gelfand is a skilled, compassionate clinician, a dedicated educator and researcher, and a champion of the importance of collaborative medicine, who has had a profound and measurable impact on Alberta’s health care system and patients.

Dr. Gelfand received his medical degree from the University of Alberta in 1984, followed by an internship at St. Michael’s Hospital in Toronto and a general surgery residency at the University of Alberta. His thoracic surgery residency was completed at the University of British Columbia. He holds a Master of Science in Experimental Surgery and a Master of Health Science in Clinical Epidemiology.

In 1993, Dr. Gelfand joined the Section of Cardiothoracic Surgery for the Calgary Zone, becoming the only full-time thoracic surgeon in Calgary. He made it his mission to develop thoracic surgery as a standalone specialty in Calgary, and by 2015 he helped grow the capacity of the region to include four full-time thoracic surgeons. At the same time, he worked to bring together and lead multidisciplinary teams that could meet the complex needs of thoracic patients. This included working as a member, then head, of the Lung Cancer Group at the Tom Baker Cancer Centre, as well as working closely with allied medical teams in areas such as pulmonary medicine, interventional pulmonary medicine and gastroenterology, and with surgical colleagues across specialties such as surgical oncology, general surgery, neurosurgery and trauma surgery.

Dr. Gary Gelfand has devoted his career to improving care and advancing treatment for patients living with thoracic illness. He is considered a national expert in the care of patients with complex airway diseases, including subglottic tracheal stenosis and thoracic outlet syndrome. He is a sought-after consultant for many jurisdictions who turn to him for advice and guidance on building thoracic surgery services. A pioneer in the use of bronchoscopic endobronchial ultrasonography (EBUS) as a staging tool for lung cancer, he has trained dozens of physicians and surgeons who have travelled to Calgary specifically to learn from him.
In 2011, Dr. Gelfand was instrumental in developing and launching the Alberta Thoracic Oncology Program (ATOP), which brings together lung cancer specialists in all fields to help improve the patient experience. His collaborative, patient-first approach helped ATOP refine existing triage processes so that patients saw the most appropriate health care provider first, and reduced critical wait times.

Dr. Gelfand’s commitment to clinical excellence and multidisciplinary care is matched by his dedication to teaching and research. A clinical assistant professor in the Department of Surgery at the University of Calgary, he has shared his skills and experience with hundreds of medical students. In 2001, he received the Gold Star Letter for Excellence in Teaching. His research interests have spanned various areas, including the utility of CT in enhancing preoperative assessments, and he has published and presented extensively on a wide range of topics relating to lung cancer, thoracic surgery and improving patient outcomes.

Dr. David S. (Shaun) Gray

“Dr. Gray represents the finest tradition of unfailing commitment to patients, families and caregivers, while also advancing learning at every opportunity. He is truly that rare embodiment of accomplished leader, skilled educator and devoted clinician.”

“Dr. Gray has made significant contributions to patient care and brain injury rehabilitation through research, education, mentorship and leadership. He has touched many clinicians throughout his career and imparts a humble, yet powerful determination to provide high quality, compassionate care to people affected by brain injury.”

Dr. Shaun Gray’s commitment to improving the lives of people living with neurological injury has guided the trajectory of his medical career, making him one of Canada’s most preeminent experts in neurologic rehabilitation. He is highly respected for his clinical expertise and his impassioned advocacy on behalf of patients and families living with devastating brain injuries. Over the past quarter century, Dr. Gray has demonstrated a level of compassion for and commitment to his patients that has improved outcomes and quality of life, created new approaches to rehabilitation and strengthened the medical profession in innumerable ways.
After completing his Master of Science in Psychology and Doctor of Philosophy in Biopsychology, Dr. Gray received his medical degree from the University of Calgary in 1985. He was a visiting research fellow at the Defence and Civil Institute of Environmental Medicine in Downsview, Ontario, from 1981-82, returning to Alberta in the mid-80s to complete a rotating internship at Calgary General Hospital and a neurology residency at the Foothills Hospital. In 1997, he began his residency in physical medicine and rehabilitation at the University of Alberta and discovered a passion for rehabilitative medicine that would change his life and the lives of countless Albertans.

His work on behalf of patients living with neurologic injuries has spanned several roles, and dramatically impacted virtually every aspect of rehabilitative care across central and northern Alberta. Since 2011, Dr. Gray has served as director of the Division of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation for the University of Alberta and as the Edmonton Zone clinical section chief for Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. He is also a consulting physiatrist at the Halvar Jonson Centre for Brain Injury in Ponoka, and a clinician at the Vestibular Clinic and the Spasticity Clinic at the Glenrose Rehabilitation Hospital. Under his leadership, the integration of services between acute care hospitals, rehabilitation hospitals and longer-term centers has been strengthened, improving both continuity-of-care and patient outcomes.

Dr. Gray’s research interests encompass a variety of important issues that have advanced the science of medicine and helped provide much-needed tools to address brain injuries. Recently, this included the discovery that individuals with severe brain injury – who are considered slow-stream recovery or not suitable for admission to conventional rehabilitation – are capable of significant functional recovery, months or even years post injury. This has dramatically changed the rehabilitation path for many individuals and improved their quality of life.

A sought-after speaker, Dr. Gray has made over 140 presentations across Canada and around the world, sits on several grant review boards and has 18 publications in his chosen field, including 10 where he is the first author. He has also been the recipient of numerous awards, including the 2012 L.A. Bellamy award for PMR resident teaching at the University of Alberta and the 2016 Patrick Hirshe Lifetime Achievement Award from the Brain Care Centre.
Dr. Nairne W. Scott-Douglas

“One will not find a more dedicated, compassionate, skilled and collegial physician than Dr. Scott-Douglas. His impact in southern Alberta has been felt and will continue to be seen for years to come.”

“I have known Nairne for 20 years and with each passing year my respect for him grows exponentially. Nairne has made an exceptional contribution to nephrology and to the art and science of medicine – personally and professionally.”

Dr. Nairne Scott-Douglas’ impact on improving the health of people living with kidney disease cannot be overstated. He has played a pivotal role in advancing the practice of medicine in Alberta and was instrumental in establishing Canada’s top clinical and academic nephrology group in Calgary. He is recognized and respected as an outstanding clinician, an impassioned educator, a driven researcher and a visionary leader who has helped unite Alberta’s entire renal community.

During his 12 years as division chief of nephrology at the University of Calgary, he spearheaded several important initiatives that improved both care and outcomes for patients living with kidney disease.

This included the development of a specialized Glomerulonephritis Clinic, which provides care to the most acutely ill outpatients with kidney disease, and the development of Outreach Nephropathy Prevention Clinics in First Nations’ communities in southern Alberta. In addition, he led the creation of programs that address the specific needs of both early and end-stage patients.

His commitment to scientific discovery and education is evident in his success in recruiting bright, young nephrologists to the division and in retaining existing academic and clinical talent. The many teaching and professionalism awards received by division members during his tenure are a testament to his ability to recognize and nurture excellence.

Throughout his career, Dr. Scott-Douglas has also demonstrated an unwavering commitment to research. He played a pivotal role in establishing the Roy and Vi Baay Chair in Kidney Research, one of the largest research chairs at the University of Calgary. With his support, the Alberta Kidney Disease Network – a collaborative network of nephrology researchers in Edmonton and Calgary – has flourished. Under the mandate of the Libin Cardiovascular Institute of Alberta, Dr. Scott-Douglas has helped forge productive, multidisciplinary research alliances to better understand cardiovascular disease in high-risk renal patients. He has contributed close to 30 abstracts and been involved in 40 presentations or publications.
Dr. Scott-Douglas received his medical degree from the University of Calgary in 1991 and then completed a residency in internal medicine and a nephrology fellowship. He began his nephrology practice in 1997, and quickly established himself as a gifted and compassionate clinician, becoming the “go-to” nephrologist for many physicians in Calgary and across southern Alberta. Today, he is the senior medical director of the Kidney Health Strategic Clinical Network (SCN).

This past year saw Dr. Scott-Douglas’ team at the SCN gather 350 nurses, doctors, allied health professionals, scientists and community partners, in partnership with the Kidney Foundation, to host Alberta Kidney Days – a two-day symposium that featured presentations on the latest innovations and research in kidney care. He also contributes countless hours to the Kidney March, an annual 100 kilometer walk over a three-day weekend in September that raises awareness about kidney disease and organ donation.

Dr. Scott-Douglas is the recipient of many awards, most recently, the 2016 Physician of the Year Award from the Foothills Medical Staff Association.
AMA Medal of Honor

Sangita (Gita) Sharma  PhD

“Gita not only represents an influential academic leader in the field of Indigenous health research and chronic disease prevention, but she has established herself as a strong community advocate for health promotion, especially among vulnerable populations. Gita’s personal contributions have made a powerful, lasting impact on the health and wellness of Albertans and Canadians.”

“Dr. Sharma has provided outstanding leadership in nutrition research, knowledge translation and culturally sensitive community outreach. Her work with Indigenous Canadians is bringing positive change to many of the health and nutrition challenges faced by our First Nations, Métis and Inuit people.”

Dr. Gita Sharma, a professor and Endowed Chair of Indigenous Health in the Department of Medicine at the University of Alberta, focuses on improving the health of Indigenous, youth and immigrant populations in Alberta and across Canada. Over the past 20 years, Dr. Sharma has developed, implemented and evaluated an array of interventions that empower communities to improve health and wellness within the social context of each community.

Dr. Sharma completed her training in nutrition and dietetics in Wales. She went on to receive a doctoral degree in nutritional epidemiology in England, before studying and working in 10 different countries, including Brazil, Canada, India, Kenya, Nepal and the United States. In 2010, she came to the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Alberta as a professor in Indigenous and Global Health Research.

Since then, Dr. Sharma has received more than 40 research grants and has engaged many national and international multidisciplinary collaborators in her work. Her global experience has provided her with a unique insight into the interplay between cultural factors and health, and she has become well-known for examining the nutritional value of various Indigenous and modern diets. Her research has had a significant impact on the scientific understanding of the effect of remote environments on nutrition and health.

Dr. Sharma’s unique, collaborative community approach has brought together a broad range of partners and informed government policy, practice and services. Several of her projects have already had a measurable impact. As the principal investigator for “Healthy Foods North,” Dr. Sharma worked closely with six Indigenous communities in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut to develop a nutrition intervention that was based on an extensive dietary assessment.

The program, which was made available in the local Indigenous language, improved the diet and lifestyles of participants through changes that have been sustained beyond the end of the program.
Dr. Sharma’s “Why Act Now” project saw her work with students and teachers at Edmonton public and Catholic schools to gather and analyze health data on urban youth. The project, which focused on Indigenous and new Canadians, revealed nutritional inadequacies and indications of early risk factors for chronic disease. Data has already been shared with federal and provincial governments and has been used to develop a nutrition and health education program.

Recently, Dr. Sharma was awarded a grant from the Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation to assess access, availability and utilization of health care services among clients of community organizations who serve Edmonton’s most vulnerable populations.

Dr. Sharma is considered by many to be one of the world’s preeminent health and nutrition researchers. She has published 134 papers and been cited over 2,240 times throughout her career. She is a recipient of the Global News Edmonton Woman of Vision award and was featured on the cover of the August 2015 issue of Avenue Edmonton.
AMA Award for Compassionate Service

Dr. Moosa Khalil

“Moosa is a unique individual. He personifies the (sadly) old-fashioned ideal of a doctor who cares deeply about his patients to the effect that they come first in his life. It would not be an exaggeration to say that he has dedicated his life to working for patients and providing timely and accurate diagnosis, which are crucial for patient care.”

“Dr. Khalil epitomizes what it means to be a great diagnostician, an excellent, caring physician and a very compassionate and outstanding human being.”

Dr. Moosa Khalil personifies the qualities of compassion and dedication to his patients and his profession in everything he does, both at home and abroad.

Dr. Khalil is a Calgary-based physician who serves as the dedicated anatomic pathologist and cytopathologist at the Foothills Medical Centre, in conjunction with the University of Calgary and Calgary Laboratory Services.

His understanding of the importance of laboratory work in helping identify illness and determine the best possible treatment has driven him to set a high standard for himself – one that often sees him work long hours to ensure the most accurate and timely diagnosis. He is known and respected by his colleagues for his commitment to doing right by each patient, and for devoting himself to giving each diagnosis the time and attention it deserves. He never loses sight of the fact that there is a person behind every result, and his attention to detail and his diagnostic standards have made him the “go-to” person for other pathologists who turn to him for advice.

Dr. Khalil has devoted considerable time and effort to improving laboratory health care to underprivileged parts of the world. This has involved multiple journeys to Cameroon and Laos, where he has worked with locals to establish or improve diagnostic capabilities, providing guidance and much needed equipment and supplies. As a cytopathologist, he is trained to perform fine needle aspirations of tumors and is able to assist when surgeons are in short supply, providing a rapid pathologic diagnosis and advising patients of their options. Dr. Khalil believes that every person deserves the same level of diagnostic and laboratory excellence that he delivers to his patients, and works tirelessly to ensure patients in resource-poor regions have access to that same level of care.

Dr. Khalil received his medical degree from Assiut University in Egypt, then completed a residency in anatomic pathology at the University of Western Ontario and a postdoctoral fellowship in cytopathology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Centre.
He arrived in Calgary in 1998 as staff pathologist with Calgary Laboratory Services at Foothills Medical Centre.

His passion for teaching and mentoring is also evident in his work as a clinical associate professor of pathology at the University of Calgary. Dr. Khalil is known as a dedicated teacher, whose ability to describe and depict the complexities of pathology has influenced hundreds of young residents. He is known for his willingness to offer extra teaching time, reviews and preparation for Royal College examinations and for his insistence that residents never forget the impact their diagnosis will have on the lives of patients and their families. He received the Teacher of the Year Award by residents in pathology at the University of Calgary on four separate occasions.

Dr. Khalil has published extensively and is a sought-after presenter. Yet it is his unwavering commitment to patients and to ensuring they receive the most accurate, timely diagnosis possible – and to helping future generations of pathologists do the same – that is his most important contribution and his extraordinary gift.

Dr. Daniel M. Li

“Dr. Li continues to be a leader in the education of medical students and psychiatric residents in Edmonton. His demeanor and approach to mental health is always an inspiration to others.”

“Dr. Li has been an incredible source of healing and help to both me and my wife. Throughout my time under his care, Dr. Li has been interested in us not just as a patient and spouse, but also as people. He has always taken unhurried time with us. Dr. Li has given me practical tools to conquer numerous fears that have ruled my life, so that today I am in a much better place than I was two and a half years ago.”

Edmonton psychiatrist Dr. Daniel Li has dedicated his career to caring and advocating for people living with severe mental illness, both at home and in China. He has gone above and beyond in his treatment, care and compassion for an often marginalized patient group, and in the process has changed the lives of patients and their families.
After attaining his medical degree from the University of Alberta, Dr. Li completed a residency in psychiatry in 2001, a Masters in Psychiatry, followed by a postdoctoral clinical research fellowship. Since 2001, he has practiced general adult psychiatry at Alberta Hospital Edmonton and at the University of Alberta Hospital.

As president of the Alberta Hospital Edmonton Medical Staff Association and chair of the Medical Advisory Committee, Dr. Li advocated diligently to halt the threatened closure of Alberta Hospital, and succeeded in securing $25 million in funds for new units. He was instrumental in developing Young Adult Mental Health Services, which filled an important service gap within the Edmonton region, and in developing a Medical Clearance Protocol for the hospital. He has also been instrumental in bringing international medical graduates to Alberta Hospital to learn about the Canadian approach to mental health.

His volunteer work with EMAS (Education, Medical Aid and Service) China East, has been equally impactful. For the past 15 years, Dr. Li has travelled annually to China to provide desperately needed mental health, medical and dental services to patients, as well as teaching and training to local medical professionals. Dr. Li has helped the team organize annual mental health conferences, conduct needs assessments in other communities and establish outpatient mental health clinics. Under his leadership, the organization has grown to become the largest volunteer mental health team to travel from North America to China and, in 2016, his team was named Charity Team of the Year by the Changchun Mental Health Hospital.

As a clinical assistant professor at the University of Alberta, Dr. Li shares his compassionate approach to mental health with generations of young physicians. Recently, he was asked to spearhead the establishment of a cross-cultural clinic to reach out to new immigrants struggling with mental health issues. His past experience with organizing and delivering cross-cultural experiences makes him ideally suited for such a relevant and timely initiative.

Dr. Li has presented and published extensively and has been the recipient of several awards, including the 2012 Physician of the Year Award from the Edmonton Zone Medical Staff Association and the 2015-16 Preceptor Teaching Award from the University of Alberta Medical Students’ Association. His work as a clinician, a teacher and mentor, and a champion for the needs of people living with mental illness has made the world a better place.
Lunch with the CMA President  Saturday, September 16

Welcome
Introduction of Head Table
Blessing
Toast to the Queen
CMA President’s Remarks  
  Dr. Laurent Marcoux
CMA Honorary Membership Awards
Installation of new AMA President  
  Dr. Neil D.J. Cooper
Presentation to AMA Past President  
  Dr. Padraic E. Carr
New AMA President’s Closing Remarks
CMA Honorary Membership Awards

The CMA Honorary Membership Awards recognize those persons who have distinguished themselves by their attainments in medicine, science, the humanities or who have rendered significant services to the association, are members of the association in good standing, and have attained the age of 65 years.

Honorary members have also significantly contributed to the goals and aims of the AMA, and have been recognized with Member Emeritus distinction. Honorary members enjoy all the rights and privileges of the associations but are not required to pay any fees.

Recipients

Dr. Daniel J. Hryciuk
Dr. Christine P. Molnar
CMA President

Dr. Laurent Marcoux

Dr. Laurent Marcoux has worked in the field of medicine for over 40 years. After graduating from the Université Laval in 1973, Dr. Marcoux worked in many different areas of medicine, but always with the same goal in mind – to improve patients’ access to care. In 1976, he founded the Centre Médical Saint-Denis on the south shore of Montreal, a rural primary and secondary care clinic where he practiced local medicine. He managed the centre for 32 years.

Along with family medicine, Dr. Marcoux also practiced general medicine in a short-term institution in Saint-Hyacinthe. Long before the country's aging population highlighted the need for a national seniors' strategy, he was already doing house calls for local seniors in his community. Despite a very full schedule, he held important positions such as president of the Council of Physicians, Dentists and Pharmacists of the Centre Hospitalier Honoré-Mercier in Saint-Hyacinthe. He later became chair of the same hospital's Board of Directors, a position he held from 1988 to 1992. He also found the time to complete a master's degree in health administration at the Université de Montréal in 2000.

His interest in health care reform led him, at the start of the new millennium, to become head of the regional general medicine department in Montérégie. During this period, he was also a member of the Conseil Médical du Québec and of different roundtables on access to family medicine.

He also spent time as the director of professional services and medical affairs at the Centre de santé et de services sociaux Jardins-Roussillon in Châteauguay. His dedication to his patients and to his field has not gone unnoticed, with the Fédération des médecins omnipraticiens du Québec naming him general practitioner of the year in 2005.

The health of First Nations communities is one of Dr. Marcoux's primary concerns. From 2012 to 2016, he was the director of medical affairs and services of the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay in the Cree territory of James Bay. Increasing the use of telemedicine to improve access to care was at the heart of his mandate.

Dr. Marcoux also keeps busy in his community and in his work for medical associations. He founded the Ensembles musicaux du Mont-St-Hilaire to support young high school musicians, and was also a founding member of the Club optimiste Saint-Denis, a volunteer organization that encourages youth development. He was president of the Québec Medical Association from 2013 to 2015, and was one of two Quebec representatives on the Canadian Medical Association Board of Directors from 2011 to 2016.

Dr. Marcoux has three sons and is the proud grandfather of four wonderful grandchildren: two boys and two girls.
CMA Honorary Members

Dr. Daniel J. Hryciuk
Emergency Medicine, St. Albert

REFLECTIONS ON SERVICE  After serving for many years on the executive of my section, I became a member of the AMA’s Committee on Membership Benefits in 1990, serving as chair from 1993-96. In 1991, I joined the Schedule of Medical Benefits Subcommittee and, until 2016, represented the AMA in negotiations with the government to manage the schedule of payments for the physicians of Alberta. Along with the amazing AMA staff, we worked with government to change the billing system to the CCP that is still in place today. I also represented the AMA on the development of alternate relationship plans that allows physicians to move away from fee-for-service. I served with many wonderful physicians during those years.

My wife called my time at the AMA “my hobby.” I would encourage all physicians to get involved with any level of service to your organizations. The knowledge you will gain and the people you meet will more than compensate your time.

PERSONAL INTERESTS  My wife and I retired at the end of 2016, each having medical careers of 38 years (we married during medical school). We are lucky to have our three children still living nearby. We are spending a good deal of our time looking after our four-year-old grandson while our daughter completes her education degree. Our home has many fruit trees that I enjoy managing spring and fall. I hope to play more golf this year. We plan on travelling with friends and neighbours. We are starting to renovate our lake property with the help of our family.
REFLECTIONS ON SERVICE  The past six years on the AMA Board of Directors stands out as my most meaningful professional experience beyond my clinical engagement. During my time of service on the board we have successfully negotiated a master agreement with Alberta Health, and a subsequent strategic Amending Agreement. The AMA Amending Agreement provides a potential first step towards collaborative engagement in system change in the delivery of health care with Alberta Health and Alberta Health Services. We have worked on fee relativity in the Schedule of Medical Benefits, equity issues in the profession and increased engagement of sections.

My career goals have been focussed on patient advocacy, quality improvement and clinical excellence. Through the power of the AMA we can support excellence in care and enable change to achieve our vision. Hearing the voice of Alberta physicians, their professional integrity, and devotion to achieving the highest quality of medicine possible for Albertans is a powerful experience. It is inspiring to be part of that team. I have enjoyed my connections with other physicians from across the province. By working together we can accomplish so much more than if we go it alone.

PERSONAL INTERESTS  Since 2001, I have been the medical director of a provincial QA database for radiologists participating in breast imaging. The database provides diagnostic results for the Alberta Breast Cancer Screening Program. I successfully advocated for increased access to PET/CT for southern Albertans, with a second PET/CT scanner, increased radiopharmaceuticals and bookings. I enjoy cycling, cooking, gardening and reading.
Installation of new AMA President

Dr. Neil D. J. Cooper

Dr. Neil Cooper, a pediatrician and sports medicine physician in Calgary, officially assumes the role of AMA president this weekend.

“I am humbled and honored to have been elected to serve as your next AMA president. I have always said I love the way the AMA does its business. AMA members at the grassroots can have direct influence in the functioning of our health care system just by expressing their ideas and being willing to serve. I have been fortunate to be one of those members.

“I am driven by a desire to see our system function at a much higher level than it has been. In my day to day work I often struggle to see that my patients get the care they need within a system that is not functioning well. My focus has been and will remain on improving system functioning for my patients.

“We have a lot of work to do. We have been challenged to be stewards of the health system and how we rise to that challenge will define our relationship with governments going forward.

In order to have physician-led, system-wide influence, we have been challenged to prove we can look after our own internal issues. We have started down that road with our income equity discussions. How we manage will determine the amount of trust placed in us as system managers. The timing is perfect as we enter into negotiations with the government on a new master agreement. As always, we must set as our primary goal advocating for our patients, individually and collectively, so that they get the care they need.

“We must also remember that, as usual, when Albertans drive change, the whole country is watching. I look forward to these challenges.”

Dr. Cooper graduated from the University of Calgary Medical School in 1990 and completed a pediatric residency at the Alberta Children’s Hospital in 1994. He received a Diploma in Sports Medicine in 2007.

Since 1995, Dr. Cooper has had a diverse pediatric practice. He has a busy general pediatric consulting practice in Calgary and he is also a consultant pediatrician with Matrix MSK Sports Medicine Clinic, the Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre – Child Abuse Service and the Alberta Children’s Hospital. He has offered his expertise on external committees locally, provincially and nationally and has many invited addresses and publications to his name. Dr. Cooper is a clinical assistant professor in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Calgary.
For 25 years Dr. Cooper has been Calgary Chapter Medical Director and Organizer of Dreams Take Flight, taking 150 children to Disneyland every fall. He has also been involved with Samaritan’s Purse International Relief where he’s been team physician on mostly youth teams travelling to Nicaragua, Honduras, Argentina and most recently Cambodia.

Dr. Cooper began activities with the AMA in 1996 with the Section of Pediatrics, serving as its fees representative, then president and past president. He began in 2000 as a member of the Fees Advisory Committee, where he served seven years. Then for nine years he was a member and co-chair of the AMA Compensation Committee. He has served as a member of many other internal AMA committees. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors (since 2012) and a Representative Forum delegate (since 2006). For his contributions, he was recognized with the AMA’s Long-Service Award in 2011.

In his role as president, Dr. Cooper will continue as a member of the AMA Board of Directors and will serve on various internal and external committees such as Representative Forum Planning Group, Executive Committee, and Provincial Physician Liaison Forum.
Dr. Padraic E. Carr officially ends his term as president this weekend and assumes the role of immediate past president.

“It has been both an honor and privilege to serve as your Alberta Medical Association president. I am humbled by the trust that has been placed in me, and am grateful for the opportunity to represent you.

“Over the past year, we have faced many challenges and led many initiatives. We have ratified and implemented an Amending Agreement with all of its multilayered elements, developed a framework for needs-based physician resource planning, instituted a province-wide PCN governance model, created a new Vision and Mission for the Association, and initiated the process of addressing income equity for the doctors of Alberta. We have also strengthened our relationships with government, Alberta Health Services, and numerous other partners in health care. I am extremely proud of our accomplishments and admire the depth and breadth of our members’ compassion and expertise.

“The Alberta Medical Association is leading the country with innovative solutions for an increasingly complex health care environment. These endeavours will influence how physicians deliver quality health care for years to come. As we continue our work, I look forward to the benefits we will realize for the profession and the patients we serve.”

Dr. Carr received his medical degree in 1990 from the University of Alberta and thereafter completed a rotating internship at Royal Alexandra Hospital and a residency in psychiatry at the University of Alberta Hospital. In 1995 Dr. Carr became site leader/facility chief for Grey Nuns Community Hospital, Department of Psychiatry, and remained in that role for 11 years. Dr. Carr has assumed executive roles with numerous organizations, associations and boards on regional, national and international committees. He was president of the Professional Association of Resident Physicians of Alberta, the Grey Nuns Community Hospital Medical Staff, the Alberta Psychiatric Association, and representative to the Assembly of the American Psychiatric Association for Western Canada. More recently, he was president of the Canadian Psychiatric Association. Dr. Carr was recognized internationally in 2004 as a Distinguished Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association.

For 22 years Dr. Carr has mentored and instructed medical students and residents, currently as a clinical professor in the Department of Psychiatry in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Alberta.
Dr. Carr began his service with the AMA in 1992 as the resident representative on the Committee on Constitution and Bylaws and has served in a range of roles since then, such as president of the AMA Section of General Psychiatry and a member of the Board of Directors, Nominating Committee, Executive Committee and Joint AMA/CPSA Executive. He has been a Representative Forum delegate since 2003. He received the AMA's Long-Service Award in 2013.

In his role as immediate past president, Dr. Carr will continue on the AMA Board of Directors and on various internal AMA committees.