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

Aristotle
2018

REPRESENTATIVE FORUM / ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Awards Program
Awards Program

AMA Awards Evening with the President  3–19
Friday, September 21

Long-Service Awards

Member Emeritus Awards

Achievement Awards
(Medal for Distinguished Service / Medal of Honour)

Award for Compassionate Service

Lunch with the CMA President  21–31
Saturday, September 22

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
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 honourees 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 21

Welcome and AMA President’s Remarks
Dr. Neil D.J. Cooper

Introduction of Head Table

PRESENTATIONS
AMA Long-Service Awards
AMA Member Emeritus Awards

Blessing
Dinner

PRESENTATIONS
AMA Achievement Awards
Medal for Distinguished Service
Medal of Honour
AMA Award for Compassionate Service

President’s Closing Remarks
AMA Long-Service Award

The AMA 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. Jeremy R. Beach
Dr. Lawrence R. Farries
Dr. Catherine G. Flood
Dr. Peter D. Grundy
Dr. Michal S. (Mike) Kalisiak
Dr. Christopher J. Rudnisky
Dr. Lowell J. Van Zuiden
Dr. George O. Wood

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. Richard G. Bergstrom
Dr. Steven M. Edworthy
Dr. Brent T. Friesen
Dr. Rowland T. Nichol
Dr. Roger C. Rampling
Dr. Michel D. Sauve
Dr. Peter M. Venner
AMA Long-Service Award

Dr. Jeremy R. Beach
*Occupational Medicine, Edmonton*

**REFLECTIONS ON SERVICE** Of all the committees on which I’ve served, the most important role I’ve played is as a member of the Physician and Family Support Program Advisory Committee. The PFSP plays an invaluable role in assisting Alberta physicians with health problems, providing support at a difficult time. I am proud to have had the privilege of seeing this program in action (and possibly doing something to help) over a number of years.

I would like to think that the PFSP has continued to be seen as important by all Alberta physicians. Physician health is important to the functioning of the entire health care system, yet it receives little attention. In addition to the work PFSP does to support individual physicians, it also plays a key role in making people more aware of this issue.

Working with the AMA has introduced me to colleagues interested in providing support to physicians. This broad area is obviously bigger than physician health alone, and it is inspiring to see so many working to benefit their colleagues and the public. I would certainly encourage others to serve in this or another way and so to gain the benefit of a similarly collegiate environment.

**PERSONAL INTERESTS** I still try my best to play soccer, part of my attempt to invest in my own health. Fortunately, I’ve found a team to play with that is as slow and infirm as I am.

Dr. Lawrence R. Farries
*General Surgery, Red Deer*

**REFLECTIONS ON SERVICE** My time on the Fees Advisory Committee, first as a member and later as the chair, was extremely fulfilling and educational. I had the pleasure of working with many excellent AMA staff members, and I was also able to work with influential and inspiring physicians from many disciplines.

We tried to apply a sense of proportion to the allocation of funds to new and revised fee codes, which was often difficult because of differing ideas about the importance and value of physician services across different sections.

Physicians have a responsibility to be expert at the cognitive and procedural aspects of our trade, but we also have corporate responsibilities to the profession as a whole. Some meet these responsibilities through teaching, or research, or administration, or oversight – but working with the AMA provides the opportunity to be engaged in a positive collaborative organization that works to move the entire body of practitioners forward.

**PERSONAL INTERESTS** I enjoy studying Spanish, riding one-wheel drive conveyances, fishing, and working with my dog. I also have an unrealized interest in global medicine and surgery done right.
Dr. Catherine G. Flood  
*Urogynecology, Edmonton*

**REFLECTIONS ON SERVICE**  My most valuable experience with the AMA has been with the Health Issues Council, first as a member and then as chair, and the Emerging Leaders in Health Promotion Grant Program. I am proud of our advocacy work, especially regarding the introduction and expansion of the AMA Youth Run Club. It has been a privilege to help train our young physicians to develop advocacy projects and to see the results of these projects affect generations to come.

We are the AMA. I encourage all physicians to find a committee and start becoming more aware of what a great organization we are. Participating in committees in the AMA is a way to promote real change.

**PERSONAL INTERESTS**  I have been involved with resident education throughout my career, with several stints as program director. I did a Certificate in International Development with UBC and have worked on global health projects, such as introducing conservative management of pelvic floor health in Peru, partnering with an NGO and a corporate sponsor to introduce it into the training curriculum in Peruvian medical schools, and to develop outreach programs in underserved areas in the Andes. We are also initiating outreach programs for new Canadians and Indigenous communities.

Last year our team competed in the World Masters Games in rowing and open water swimming. I am married to Dr. Harold Chyczij, and we have raised four amazing children. I am not coping well with my children leaving the nest.

Dr. Peter D. Grundy  
*Endocrinology, Calgary*

**REFLECTIONS ON SERVICE**  The work of the Representative Forum has been instrumental in advancing the profession in Alberta. Not every initiative has been successful (for example, the Relative Value Guide), but in general it has been satisfying to be involved in such a democratic and well-run organization. The more recent recognition of ARP- and AARP-funded physicians, and the work toward establishing appropriate representation for them, has been very gratifying.

The AMA is a very inclusive and interested body. It offers many opportunities to be personally involved if you are interested, and if there are issues of concern to you, the AMA is ready to listen and to explore them on your behalf. It is a truly democratic organization.

**PERSONAL INTERESTS**  My non-professional interests and activities include sailing and boating, boat-building in the garage with my son, cycling holidays, and spending time with family and friends.
Dr. Michal S. (Mike) Kalisiak  
*Dermatology and Dermatologic Surgery, Calgary*

**REFLECTIONS ON SERVICE** I have served as a Representative Forum delegate and on several AMA committees. My involvement with the Health Issues Council, with its focus on health promotion and disease prevention, was the most fulfilling. I have also been involved in various skin cancer prevention initiatives, especially in advocating for laws to protect minors from exposure to tanning beds. The AMA was always of tremendous help to us and, finally, less than a year ago, the Skin Cancer Prevention (Artificial Tanning) Act was proclaimed.

I also participated in the development and adjudication of the Emerging Leaders in Health Promotion Grant Program. It was rewarding to participate in jump-starting the many health promotion initiatives put forward by students and residents.

Serving in the AMA is not only a way of giving back but also an opportunity for learning through interacting with physicians from different disciplines and practice settings with different perspectives on how things can be done. AMA involvement allows for networking and learning how to navigate organized medicine, which are crucial for anyone trying to make a difference in how we deliver care to our patients.

**PERSONAL INTERESTS** I enjoy cycling and participate yearly in The Ride to Conquer Cancer. Thank you to everyone who donated to the ride on my behalf! My wife and I like to travel, most recently to New Zealand. I am keenly interested in discovering one day what is meant by work/life balance.

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Dr. Christopher J. Rudnisky  
*Ophthalmology, Edmonton*

**REFLECTIONS ON SERVICE** I am proud to have been one of the first committee members of the Governance Oversight Group, and to have been allowed to carry on as chair. I have also enjoyed my work on the AMA Physician Advocacy Group, the Section Bylaws Review Working Group, and the Representative Forum.

The GOG is evolving into a type of organizational ombudsman. Several sections have benefited from having GOG mediate disputes, and while I hope much mediation isn’t needed, I also hope that this role becomes entrenched in AMA culture so we can improve our ability to work together. The Physician Advocacy Group has become a forum for providing tough feedback, and through that to germinate new ideas about how to deal with government. Those strategies only come out if there’s conflict, but it’s good to know there’s a plan in place.

I’ve met many people I wouldn’t otherwise have met, and I have learned a lot from them about how to communicate, how to collaborate, how to be part of a team. I’ve learned about politics, about conflict, and about how to overcome it. It’s a whole new facet of medicine that has been rewarding in a different way than patient care.

**PERSONAL INTERESTS** I live to eat and drink; I love wine and cooking dinner with my wife, Michelle, for our kids Poppy and Charlie. It’s almost always the best part of my day. I also enjoy riding my bike, while commuting or with my daughter.
Dr. Lowell J. Van Zuiden  
Orthopedic Surgery, Calgary

REFLECTIONS ON SERVICE  Learning about the work done by the dedicated staff of the AMA on behalf of the physicians of Alberta has broadened my view of issues faced by colleagues. I have been involved with the Committee on Financial Audit for six years and was part of a subcommittee with a mandate to review the AMA employee pension plan, resulting in an improvement to it.

Understanding the AMA from the inside has helped in the development of our Alberta Hip and Knee Clinic in Calgary. The clinic has recently been recognized by the Accreditation Council of Canada as a thought leader providing an alternative care delivery process for patients with arthritis. The opportunity to use the experiences from my involvement with the AMA to enhance our patient experience at the clinic improved this alternative care delivery process. Alternative care delivery processes that integrate across the different silos (AHS, physicians, and community care) are an important part of providing better care for patients.

The physicians and AMA staff are quietly and effectively working in the background on behalf of Albertans and Alberta's physicians. Getting involved will enhance your perspective on patient care and the role of physicians in the system. Involvement in organizations like the AMA enhances “Fifth Discipline” thinking related to health care delivery.

PERSONAL INTERESTS  I enjoy off-piste skiing with my son, and I am currently learning to play the piano again after a 50-year hiatus.

Dr. George O. Wood  
Pathology, Edmonton

Reflections on Service and Personal Interests unavailable.

Dr. Wood is receiving the Long-Service Award in recognition of his contributions in various roles with the AMA. He is currently president of the Section of Laboratory Physicians, a Representative Forum delegate, a member of the Edmonton Zone Advisory Forum and an EZMSA Council member. He served nine years as co-chair of the Lab Grid Negotiations Committee and two years as co-chair of the Joint RHA/AMA Advisory Committee on Lab Physician Workplace Issues.
AMA Member Emeritus

Dr. Richard G. Bergstrom  
*Cardiac Anesthesia, Edmonton*

**REFLECTIONS ON SERVICE**  My time with the AMA has taught me how to focus first on the people I work with and then on the work that I do. Everyone is important, from the people on the front desk to the cleaning staff, as well as the doctors who work tirelessly with some pretty challenging people.

I worked on the Relative Value Guide, and Dr. Warren Bean and I worked with AMA staff to show the value that anesthesiologists provide in delivering care to Albertans. Our first concern was not with money, or billing codes, or dollars and cents. It was about the value of what we do when we serve the patients who put their lives in our hands.

Why should you be involved with the AMA? Because we practice as individuals but we work as a community, for a community. Get involved. Understand compensation and rules. Understand what an organization can do for you. Understand what the greater community of physicians is and what they do for Albertans.

**PERSONAL INTERESTS**  I enjoy learning, especially about history and the qualities of leadership (most importantly, self-leadership). I cherish my friends. I encourage everyone to read widely in order to learn more, to grow more, and to become a better human being, for we are all human and we all have worth.

Dr. Steven M. Edworthy  
*Rheumatology, Calgary*

**REFLECTIONS ON SERVICE**  The Physician Office System Program was an incredible effort by the AMA that needed courage and fortitude to push forward, ahead of other provinces. It took vision and diplomacy to work with vendors, government, other medical groups, provinces, and even the federal agency Infoway. It was an honour to be part of that work. Now the AMA is helping to establish approaches to information governance, to ensure that physicians remain central to the care of patients within the circle of trust that is essential for the best medical care. Many challenges lie ahead, but the AMA can meet them successfully.

The AMA has provided leadership at critical times by negotiating with government, explaining to members, pushing ahead with technology, and offering support to decision makers. It gives physicians a voice that articulates their need for functional records that interface with provincial repositories, and provide business capability to run their clinics. There is still a great need for physicians with a passion for IT to get involved.

The AMA is a fantastic organization to be involved with. I find great satisfaction in working with colleagues who have common interests. Even when the “system” seems to conspire against you, the AMA can provide support and advice.

**PERSONAL INTERESTS**  For years my wife, Shawna, and I have been “finishing” our log cabin in the Rockies. The challenges are endless! Now that
we have the roof on, the mice out, and the water flowing, we are focused on developing a nature conservancy in the surrounding valley. When we’re not there, we can often be found canoeing on our western rivers, hiking or skiing in the Kananaskis, or relaxing in local restaurants with friends and our adult children and their partners.

**Dr. Brent T. Friesen**  
*Public Health and Preventive Medicine, Calgary*

**REFLECTIONS ON SERVICE** I have been fortunate to be involved in a number of ways with the AMA. I was a member of the Health Issues Council, where I worked to promote wellness and develop collaborative partnerships through initiatives such as Finding Balance and the Youth Run Club. My initial experience as a member of the Representative Forum was as president of the Section of Public Health and Preventive Medicine and, more recently, as an elected representative for the Calgary Zone.

I am particularly proud of how the AMA and the CMA have adopted a broad perspective on health and wellbeing in their advocacy and community outreach activities, working to advance the other determinants of health besides health care. The professionalism and skill of the AMA staff in supporting committee work and the functioning of the Representative Forum have been key to the success of its work.

Working with the AMA has enabled me to interact with colleagues across Alberta and enriched my understanding of our health system by sharing the perspectives of colleagues from all specialties and urban, rural, and remote communities. I want to thank the AMA leadership and members, both past and present, for your support over the years. The “Association” in the AMA’s name has been very important to me professionally and personally.

**PERSONAL INTERESTS** I enjoy spending time with my wife, Denise, and our children and their spouses: Ashley (Mark), Sarah (Jack) and Nicholas (Shalane), and our three granddogs Rogan, Kira, and Keisha 2.0. Denise and I are working on improving our dance steps (especially me – freestyle will only take you so far!). I recently bought a guitar, and now I need to learn how to play it!
**Dr. Rowland T. Nichol**  
*Family Medicine, Calgary*

**REFLECTIONS ON SERVICE** The reality of non-stop perpetual systemic change in Alberta’s health care is generally accepted now, but in the mid-1990s when I became president of the AMA, that reality was just dawning. Working with the AMA to assist the physician leaders in our province to transition to becoming more resilient to that new reality was an incredible opportunity. I want to acknowledge the dedication and service of both the elected leadership and the staff both then and over the past 20 years.

Three initiatives were started at that time: the inception of a strategic vision of our relationship with government (collaboration from a position of strength); outreach to partner with our health organizations to create strategic networks; and work on the Relative Value Guide. The first two initiatives are clearly continuing to have effects, and the latter can be linked to the current initiative on Income Equity.

We are well-trained to act in service to our patients using solid evidence and solid values. This is the foundation and the model for our actions in service to our profession. Some translation and reframing is required as we participate on committees and teams, but our curiosity, our critical thinking, and our interest in service contribute to our success. Humility is a cornerstone of our professionalism, and it permeates all of our activities – with the AMA, the health system, and direct patient care.

**PERSONAL INTERESTS** My leadership journey has taken me to explore the role of coaching in professional development and, in particular, in physician leadership development. We need highly skilled physician leaders who display the integrity and the vision to help transform our health system in partnership with the patients we serve.

**Dr. Roger C. Rampling**  
*Psychiatry, Lethbridge*

**REFLECTIONS ON SERVICE** I have been fortunate to act as section representative to Relative Value Guide I and Relative Value Guide II, and I served on the AMA Fees Advisory Committee. I’ve been lucky enough to watch the Representative Forum evolve and grow into a remarkably effective and collegial organization.

We were able in Alberta to modernize fee items to provide collaborative and conference services to psychiatric patients and their families, and to work to reduce the isolation that can accompany psychiatric illness. I have worked for incentives to provide consultations to a much broader population than has been possible in the past.

My time with the AMA has been like taking a strange sort of anatomy course: I’ve learned that two heads are better than one; there are several sides to most issues; and my colleagues have my back, as I have theirs.

**PERSONAL INTERESTS** I have been a Rotary member for three decades. Our club focuses on local and international initiatives for youth enrichment.
Dr. Michel D. Sauve  
*Internal Medicine, Gastroenterology, Critical Care, Cardiac Stress Testing, Fort McMurray*

**RELECTIONS ON SERVICE**  It is an honour and a privilege to serve patients and our profession. For my first decade in the Representative Forum, I attended as Fort McMurray area delegate. It was a great learning opportunity, and a most collegial platform for rural and remote medicine advocacy. With the wise advice of Mike Gormley and too many others to name here, Dr. Milo Bozdech and I initiated what grew to become the Rural Remote Northern Program, the Communities in Crisis program, and the Business Costs program.

My second decade of service has been as Internal Medicine section representative, and then as president. As a section, we helped clinicians and patients have conversations about unnecessary tests and treatments, and make smart and effective care choices. Serving the section in the Physician Compensation Committee review was a time-intensive but important first step in the right direction. Much remains to be done. My section's focus now is on improving access to accurate hypertension diagnosis with ambulatory blood pressure monitoring, and introducing a fee code to support this.

With the support of colleagues in the AMA, I have enjoyed the opportunity to grow and share my love of service to patients and the profession.

**PERSONAL INTERESTS**  I am blessed with an amazing wife and family. I still think I'm pretty young, and I look forward to many more skiing and water sport holidays with our three wonderful children.

Dr. Peter M. Venner  
*Medical Oncology, Edmonton*

**RELECTIONS ON SERVICE**  I served on the committee Toward Optimized Practice in Screening for Prostate Cancer for nine years, during which time we came up with evidence-based guidelines for screening. I was on the Board of Directors from 1989 to 1990, and worked on the Relative Value Guide for remuneration of physicians. I also served on the Committee on Ethics, a bio-ethics committee that discussed Medical Assistance in Dying.

Involvement with the AMA early on in my career taught me that my seniors were tremendous mentors, and gave me the courage to take on more demanding leadership roles. There will always be criticism, but if it’s offered in an attempt to improve outcomes (especially in patient care), then it should be gratefully received and built upon. We must learn from “reviews” and recognize our peers’ wisdom and experience.

At the end of your career you want to be able to say that you were involved. Look for ways to participate in the activities of the AMA. Working with the organization will help you develop skills and build confidence that will allow you to take on leadership roles in many areas related to your practice and professional development.

**PERSONAL INTERESTS**  Having grown up in Jasper, I have had a lifelong love of the outdoors and continue to enjoy physical activities with friends and family. I love the liquid water of our lakes, rivers and oceans, and the solid water in our mountains. My career has only been possible with the support of my family, colleagues and friends. I enjoyed going to work, and I enjoyed leaving it. My patients and their families had faith in the care I was providing, and I hope I didn’t let them down.
AMA Achievement Awards

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

Recipients

**Medal for Distinguished Service**
- Dr. Norman M. Kneteman
- Dr. John B. Kortbeek
- Dr. Harvey R. Rabin

**Medal of Honour**
- Carol E. Cass, PhD
- The Price Family
  (Chad, Dave, Isabelle, Joanna, Matt, and Teri)

AMA Award for Compassionate Service

The AMA Award for Compassionate Service honours 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.

**Recipient**
- Dr. Bonnie R. Larson
Dr. Norman M. Kneteman

Dr. Norman Kneteman has devoted his life and his career to liver and organ transplantation. He has been honoured for his work many times by such organizations as the Canadian Liver Foundation, the Canadian Diabetes Association and the Canadian Society of Transplantation, and has received many awards, including the Alberta Centennial Award, the Queen Elizabeth Golden Jubilee Medal, and the Order of Canada. The AMA Medal for Distinguished Service recognizes the value of his work and the contribution he has made to the practice of medicine and to the lives of patients in Alberta.

He earned his medical degree from the University of Alberta, then trained in transplantation at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis, Missouri. He came back to the University of Alberta to establish a Liver Transplant Program, which has become the premier transplant program in the country, performing all of Western Canada’s pediatric transplants. He also established the U of A’s hepatobiliary surgery program and has trained many of the surgeons currently performing complex hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery for cancer in Alberta.

Dr. Kneteman is the consummate surgeon-scientist, with a translational research laboratory exploring treatments for hepatitis C and hepatocellular carcinoma in the population he treats with liver transplantation. He is recognized internationally for his contributions to transplantation, including the humanized liver chimeric mouse model and the Edmonton Protocol for Islet Transplantation, as well as his hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgical skills. His humanized liver chimeric mouse model and research with Dr. Lorne Tyrrell has led to drug discovery and the ability to treat certain serotypes of hepatitis C.

As director of the Liver Transplant Program in Edmonton, he has assembled a superb team that has refined and developed the Edmonton Protocol, established the living liver donor program, and provided crucial support to the Edmonton Multiorgan Transplant Program. His collaborative research with Dr. Locksley McGann, Dr. Ray Rajotte, and Dr. James Shapiro established the basis of islet isolation and cryopreservation for the Edmonton Protocol. His American Society of Transplant Surgeons accredited fellowship program has trained surgeons all over the world. His success in recruiting and training top talent – and the number of provincial, national, and international awards his trainees have received – is a testament to both his professional and his personal generosity.

Dr. Kneteman is currently the provincial director of Transplant Programs for Alberta Health Services, and remains active as a surgeon and a translational scientist. He still serves on many committees and remains passionate about transplantation and the care of patients with complex hepatobiliary and pancreatic problems. His record of publications is extensive and continues to grow, and he is in demand for lectures both in Canada and internationally. He has also long been a passionate and effective advocate for organ donation, giving talks and interviews and making media appearances to raise public awareness of the need for donation and of the lifesaving benefits of transplantation. He has contributed a great deal to the art and science of medicine, and this award is thus both timely and richly deserved.
Dr. John B. Kortbeek

Dr. John Kortbeek has been repeatedly honoured for his work as a teacher, as a surgeon and as a clinician in the areas of trauma, surgery and critical care. His career has been dedicated to the care of patients and their families, to continuously raising the standards of care in surgery, and to teaching and training young physicians and surgeons.

Dr. Kortbeek earned his medical degree from the University of Alberta, then completed a general surgery residency at the University of Calgary, where he has taught in the Faculty of Medicine since 1991. He has served as director of Trauma Services for the Calgary General Hospital and the Calgary Health Region, as site director of Intensive Care, as chief of surgery for the Foothills Medical Centre, and as professor and head of the Department of Surgery for the Calgary Zone, Alberta Health Services, and the University of Calgary. He co-chaired the Provincial Surgery Network (now the Surgery Strategic Network) from its beginnings until 2016. Many professional organizations have benefited from his dedicated work, including a term as president of the Trauma Association of Canada and one as chair of the Advanced Trauma Life Support Committee, American College of Surgeons, and membership on the STARS Board of Directors.

He has led or co-led many improvements in the organization and processes of care in Alberta, including developing and implementing trauma center standards; establishing a trauma system with adult and pediatric tertiary trauma centers in Edmonton and Calgary and five provincial regional trauma centers; and introducing trauma system accreditation standards across Canada. As president of the Trauma Association of Canada, he transformed it into a multidisciplinary/multiprofessional organization advancing both scientific enquiry and trauma system performance in Canada. As co-chair with Dr. Douglas Hedden of the Alberta Strategic Clinical Network, he developed and introduced standard care pathways and tools for raising the quality of surgical care in Alberta. His influence has been felt across the country – indeed, around the world. He served for 15 years on the Committee on Trauma of the American College of Surgeons, eventually becoming chair and then international director of the ACS Advanced Trauma Life Support subcommittee for eight years. During his tenure, the ATLS program and the COT introduced a number of changes to update the program, curriculum, policies and procedures. These changes helped ensure the ongoing success and promulgation of a program which has had tremendous impact on trauma care internationally. He has personally taught and lectured in 30 countries.

As a teacher, Dr. Kortbeek has shone, receiving the Ectopic Award of Excellence for teaching internal medicine residents, the Teacher of the Year Award from the Professional Association of Resident Physicians of Alberta, and the U of C’s Clerkship Teaching Award and Gold Star Award. He received the Centennary Award from the American College of Surgeons for direct participation as an instructor and/or course director in over 100 ATLS courses. He used his role as chair of the Department of Surgery to strengthen the educational mandate of the department during a time of expansion. He has successfully advocated for the inclusion of standardized trauma education as an accreditation standard for trauma centers in Canada, and is in demand as a visiting lecturer and professor across the country. He is now committed to overseas work to support the U of C’s Global Health initiatives in Nepal and Laos.

Dr. Kortbeek has made an outstanding contribution to the medical profession and to the people of Alberta. His patients, his students, and his colleagues have benefited in countless ways from his passionate dedication.
Dr. Harvey R. Rabin

Dr. Harvey Rabin has provided compassionate and exemplary clinical care for many years, and he has generously shared his expertise in Calgary, throughout Alberta, across Canada, and around the world. In particular, patients with cystic fibrosis and those who care for them have benefited from his dedicated care, his passionately pursued research program, and his public advocacy. Despite retiring, he will continue to devote his time and energy to the expansion of federal and provincial government disability legislation to become more inclusive of those living with cystic fibrosis and the caregivers who support them. The changes he has fought for, by redefining disability to include chronic illnesses that are prolonged, severe and irreversible, have the potential to benefit enormous numbers of people living with a variety of illnesses across the country.

After earning his MD from the University of Western Ontario, Dr. Rabin pursued specialized studies in internal medicine in Quebec and Alberta. His first academic appointment was at the University of Alberta, but in 1979 he came to the University of Calgary, where he became head of the Division of Infectious Diseases, Departments of Medicine and Microbiology and Infectious Diseases.

Dr. Rabin’s research and medical focus is the diagnosis and treatment of chronic suppurative lower respiratory tract infections in patients with cystic fibrosis and chronic bronchiectasis. His collaborative research projects provide translational research as an extension of basic science research protocols on cystic fibrosis and chronic pseudomonas aeruginosa lung infections. He was also instrumental in the establishment of the Division of Adult Infectious Diseases and the Adult Infectious Diseases Residency Training Program.

He has served many organizations, with special dedication to Cystic Fibrosis Canada in a variety of leadership positions, guiding the development of medical and clinical policies; helping to shape medical protocols in Alberta, across the country and beyond; and playing a key role in developing Cystic Fibrosis Canada’s Strategic Plan to END CF.

Dr. Rabin founded the Adult Cystic Fibrosis Clinic at the U of C Medical Clinic, offering highly specialized outpatient and inpatient interdisciplinary clinical service to adult patients with cystic fibrosis in southern Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan. There he has brought together a devoted group of health care professionals that includes respirologists, psychiatrists, clinical trial administrators, a nurse practitioner, and nutritional specialists, and the disciplines of physiotherapy, respiratory therapy, social work, and nursing – all dedicated to improving the lives of adults with cystic fibrosis. The 50% survival curves for cystic fibrosis have improved from 20 years to more than 52 years, and Dr. Rabin’s major goal for adults with cystic fibrosis is to guide their survival to old age with as little disability as possible.

His devotion to his patients is extraordinary: for more than 30 years, he was on call seven days a week for any CF patient needing admission, day or night. The clinic he founded and ran also acts as a specialized teaching resource for medical students, postgraduate medical residents, and specialist colleagues, ensuring that his work will continue to benefit patients and their families for many years to come.
AMA Medal of Honour

Carol E. Cass  PhD

It is hard to overestimate the importance of Carol Cass’s contributions to the advancement of medical research, medical education, and health care organizations. During her 41-year career at the University of Alberta, she produced award-winning and groundbreaking cancer research and provided vital academic leadership as the inaugural chair of the Department of Oncology in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, in addition to her clinical leadership as associate director of research and then as the first non-physician (and the first female) director of the Cross Cancer Institute, Edmonton’s tertiary care cancer hospital.

She earned a BSc and an MSc in zoology from the University of Oklahoma. Her growing interest in the newly emerging field of cell biology led her to undertake her PhD program at the University of California, Berkeley, which had in the 1960s one of the few programs in cell biology in North America. She first came to the U of A as a postdoctoral fellow in 1970. Throughout her long career, Dr. Cass has pursued a multifaceted research program that consistently linked fundamental discoveries about the nature of nucleoside transport processes to their role in nucleoside biology and pharmacology. She provided the intellectual foundation and many of the tools needed to move our understanding of the role of nucleoside transporters in nucleoside biology and pharmacology in human cells to a new level.

Although the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at the U of A is more than a century old, it had no Department of Oncology until 1993, when it was created to provide a focused academic home for professional staff at the Cross Cancer Institute who were participating in extensive oncology teaching and research but whose primary academic appointments were distributed across the faculty. Dean Lorne Tyrrell recruited Dr. Cass to become the inaugural chair of the department with the mandate to develop processes and governance structures that adhered to faculty and university policies but were also integrated into the administrative structure of the Cross Cancer Institute. When she started, the department was little more than an empty office. When she finished in 2007, it was a mature, well-established academic department, the third largest in the faculty, with a strong national and international reputation for its training programs and its research. It is hard to imagine how that could have happened without Dr. Cass’s leadership.

At the Cross Cancer Institute, she led efforts to create state-of-the-art multiuser research facilities, such as the first cell imaging facility in Alberta, to develop processes for administration of the institute’s multiuser facilities, to enhance the ability of its investigators to acquire and manage competitive research funding, and to recruit outstanding new researchers. As director, she expanded the institute’s clinical trials capacity and activity, providing cancer patients in Alberta with earlier access to novel treatments and improved outcomes of standard treatments. Through the turmoil caused by massive organizational change, Dr. Cass’s leadership was key to preserving the culture of the Cross Cancer Institute that underpins its reputation for excellent and compassionate care.

Dr. Cass has played a leading role in Canadian cancer research, and she was a trailblazer for women in the sciences. Patients, colleagues, researchers, doctors, students: all have reason to be grateful for her work.
The Price Family – Chad, Dave, Isabelle, Joanna, Matt, and Teri

On May 19, 2012, something terrible happened: a previously healthy young man, only 31 years old, died. He died just months after being diagnosed with testicular cancer, just 72 hours after surgery, and he died unnecessarily. He died after multiple breaks in continuity of care, after misdiagnosis and missed opportunities, after unnecessary delays and inadequate communication. Greg Price died from an easily treatable condition, and he shouldn’t have.

His grieving family was determined to work in his name to improve the health care system that failed him. They worked closely with the Health Quality Council of Alberta to produce an in-depth review of his case, the results of which were released in 2013. They shared Greg’s story and its implications for the health care system whenever and wherever they could, including the AMA Representative Forum, Canada Health Infoway, the Federation of Medical Regulatory Authorities of Canada, Canadian Patient Safety Institute, AHS Quality and Safety Summit, Health Quality Ontario’s QI and Patient Safety Forum, Primary Care Network’s Strategic Forum, and the O’Brien Institute for Public Health's Imagine Project Event.

In 2015, Dave, Teri, and Joanna became founding members of IMAGINE Citizens Collaborating for Health, a grassroots patient advocacy group in Alberta, and Joanna became a member of the Rockyview General Hospital’s Site Leadership Council. In 2016, Teri became a member of the national organization Patients for Patient Safety. Largely as a result of the Price family’s tireless advocacy, the College of Physicians & Surgeons of Alberta created the Continuity of Care Standard, which took effect in 2015.

They worked with the CBC physician-broadcaster Brian Goldman to tell the story of Greg’s life and death, and of their work in his name, in a 2015 radio documentary, White Coat, Black Art. In 2017, they created a not-for-profit organization called Greg’s Wings, which helped to raise funds for a film called Falling through the Cracks: Greg’s Story, which was made in cooperation with Dreamers Rock Productions Ltd., with screenwriter Andrew Wreggitt and director Dean Bennett; that movie was nominated for multiple awards from the Alberta Media Production Industries Association and has been used to promote medical education and health care change. It was first screened for first-year medical students, and their strong response shows the film’s potential not only as a teaching tool but as a means of raising a broader awareness of the need for change. A version of the film tailored specifically for pedagogical purposes emphasizes the importance of teaching health care professionals, early in their careers, the basics of teamwork and communication skills and their critical importance to patients’ successful journeys through a complicated health care system.

The Price family’s work has resulted in higher standards of health care in Alberta. Their ongoing efforts to engage Albertans and all levels of health care provision, administration, and governance in discussions about such matters as patients’ access to their own health care records, the lack of connectedness across different sectors of the health care system, and the need for electronic referral in the province demonstrate a continued commitment to making the system work better, to better serve patients like Greg, to make his unnecessary death a catalyst for change.
AMA Award for Compassionate Service

Dr. Bonnie R. Larson

Dr. Bonnie Larson began not as a doctor, but as a cultural anthropologist; her master’s thesis at the University of Calgary focused on the interactions among belief, meaning and healing for women living with chronic illness. She brings to her work as a physician a visceral understanding of the need to know her patients, those for whom she provides care, as whole people living in complex personal and psychosocial circumstances. Her patients need, and too rarely receive, such compassionate understanding.

Making the move from anthropology to medicine, she earned her MD from McMaster University, then went through the family medicine residency training program at the University of Calgary. She has sought out further training and service opportunities in Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, India, Bolivia, Kenya and Peru, worked as a family physician with the Calgary Refugee Health Program serving newly arrived refugees, and worked extensively with Indigenous communities at the Elbow River Healing Lodge and Siksika First Nation Health Centre.

Dr. Larson works primarily with homeless Calgarians, and she works with them where they’re at – on the streets, in the alleys, by the river. She provides compassion and care to people who have been underserved or completely forgotten by the larger society in which they live. With the coming of the opioid crisis, her advocacy and her care have become even more passionate and more necessary. She is one of very few physicians anywhere in the world who is prescribing opioid replacements like Suboxone literally on the streets. She starts Suboxone with her patients as many times as it takes to give them a fighting chance to beat the addictions that are sabotaging their lives.

While still a resident, Dr. Larson created the impetus for the Global Health Enhanced Skills Residency Program in the Department of Family Medicine; since 2014, she has been its director. The time and energy she devotes to this program go far beyond anything covered by the small salary attached to the position, but she is responding to the increasing need to advocate for maintaining the mandate of experiential learning.

In 2014 Dr. Larson was one of the people who worked to set up Calgary’s Allied Mobile Palliative Program (CAMPP), which works to improve end-of-life care for the vulnerably housed. She went on to found StreetCCRED (Street Community Capacity in Research, Education and Development), a community-based response to the suffering of Calgary’s most vulnerable citizens.

StreetCCRED brings together community members, front-line service providers, academics, social programs, and agencies to fill in gaps in the current landscape of care for vulnerable people and populations. Its philosophy is shaped by the principles of health equity, collaboration, decolonization, compassion and harm reduction, and the addressing of issues of structural violence, upstream determinants of health, and housing. Her work in StreetCCRED has been tireless and completely voluntary, born of her deep compassion for the people she serves. That compassion informs all of her work and makes her a richly deserving recipient of this award.
Program

Welcome
Introduction of Head Table
Blessing
CMA President’s Remarks
  Dr. F. Gigi Osler

PRESENTATIONS
CMA Honorary Membership Awards
Installation of new AMA President
  Dr. Alison M. Clarke
Presentation to AMA Past President
  Dr. Neil D.J. Cooper
New AMA President’s Closing Remarks

Lunch with the CMA President
Saturday, September 22

AMA RF / AGM 2018
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. Allan L. Bailey
Dr. John E. (Jack) Bromley
Dr. Janette A. Hurley
Dr. Richard G.R. Johnston
Dr. Patrick J. (P.J.) White
CMA President 🏆

F. Gigi Osler  BScMed, MD, FRCSC

Dr. Gigi Osler graduated from medical school at the University of Manitoba in 1992. Following this, she completed a rotating internship at the Health Sciences Centre and St. Boniface General Hospital from 1992 to 1993.

She began studying Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Manitoba in 1993 and graduated from the residency program in 1997. This was followed by a rhinology fellowship at St. Paul’s Hospital in Vancouver, BC. She has been in practice in Winnipeg since 1998.

Dr. Osler is head of the Section of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at St. Boniface Hospital and is an assistant professor with the Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Manitoba. When working at St. Boniface Hospital, she is actively involved in the teaching of medical students and residents.

Her interest in medical education led her to volunteer with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. She served on the working group tasked with transforming Canada’s Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery residency programs into competency-based medical education programs. She is also on the Royal College’s Professional Learning and Development Committee and supports the lifelong learning of physicians and surgeons.

Dr. Osler is a dedicated advocate for global surgery and the promotion of safe, accessible surgical care. She volunteers annually on surgical missions to low and lower-middle income countries, and her volunteer work inspires her to work harder for patients and the health care system. She was a member of Canadian Helping Kids in Vietnam’s medical mission to Long Xuyen, Vietnam, in 2011. The mission’s goals were to educate Vietnamese doctors and nurses, deliver donated medical equipment and supplies, and present bicycles to deserving schoolchildren.

For the last several years Dr. Osler has been volunteering in Mbarara, Uganda. Working with members of the Canadian Society of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, the group collaborates with the ENT Department of the Mbarara University of Science and Technology to improve the quality of local health care through education, training and mentorship to surgeons, residents and medical students.

A passionate advocate for physician health, Dr. Osler co-chaired the 2015 Canadian Conference on Physician Health and serves as chair of the Physician Health and Wellness Committee for Doctors Manitoba. The committee oversees the Physician and Family Support Program and creates events to promote physician wellness. In 2017, she received their Health or Safety Promotion Award in recognition of her efforts to develop and implement programs to support the health and well-being of doctors.

Dr. Osler lives in Winnipeg with her wonderful husband and is the proud mother of two incredible children.
CMA Honorary Members

Dr. Allan L. Bailey
Family Medicine, Spruce Grove

REFLECTIONS ON SERVICE  What can I say about three decades as a member of an honoured profession and a respected organization? I could say I was an “early adopter,” having been a medical student representative on the AMA Board of Directors. I could say I was an inveterate innovator, co-designing primary care networks and co-creating a place in AMA governance for the PCN Provincial Zone Leads and the Primary Care Alliance. I could say I have been a collaborator, having worked with so many outstanding health care leaders, AMA executive and staff.

Circumstances have allowed me to play a part in developing a stronger voice for primary care in Alberta. The results are still evolving but include changes in the Representative Forum, improved work life for family physicians, more effective advocacy with government and policymakers, better alignment of compensation for physicians with the desired outcomes for population health, and recognition that income equity is critical to the health and sustainability of the profession and of the AMA.

To my colleagues, I would say that whatever my contributions, they are overwhelmingly secondary to what I have received in the process – the learning, the relationships, and the sense of being part of something that matters.

PERSONAL INTERESTS  My current passion is social change to affect the determinants of health, including a better built environment using collective impact, social lab theory, and authentic patient engagement to advance our agenda for health care improvement and reform. Nature and outdoor pursuits feed my soul.
Dr. John E. (Jack) Bromley
*General Practice, Red Deer*

**REFLECTIONS ON SERVICE** I first became involved with the AMA in the late 1980s as president of the Northwest Territories Medical Association. With the AMA’s support, I worked to bring the NWT into active participation as a division of the CMA, and I represented the NWT on the CMA Board of Directors for three years. In Alberta, I became involved with the PSA Screening Guidelines Committee, worked with the Central Zone Medical Staff Association, and served for 17 years on the Representative Forum. In my role as director of the Rural Alberta North family medicine residency program in Red Deer, I have drawn on my 16 years as a full-service GP in remote rural practice in the NWT and Papua New Guinea.

I am very encouraged by the recent direction of primary care reform, and am especially pleased with the Representative Forum’s recognition of the need to reduce inequities in remuneration within and between different sections.

I have been proud to be a part of the AMA and the CMA, both strong organizations with a genuine interest in the public and in the profession. I encourage younger colleagues to get involved and exercise the opportunity to have an active influence.

**PERSONAL INTERESTS** My wife Susan has always supported me in my career choices and has followed me from the Maritimes to the NWT, to Papua New Guinea and Red Deer. She has been a mother to our four children and grandmother to 10 grandchildren, who bring great joy and purpose to my life. My Christian faith, so central to my life, also does much to keep our family together. I enjoy astronomy, woodworking and flying kites. I also like to garden and to make wine (and I drink the odd bottle as well!).
Dr. Janette A. Hurley  
*Integrative Family Medicine, Addiction Medicine, Underserved/Marginalized Medicine, Calgary*

**REFLECTIONS ON SERVICE** My favourite Health Issues Council initiative was the “Condom and the Pill” project, a brave stand on STI prevention taken by the AMA. When Alberta Health and Wellness attempted to cut funding for tubal ligations, a group of female docs hastily gathered around my kitchen table and started a petition, supported by the AMA. The cut was halted.

Twenty-three years ago I attended Health Issues Council meetings with my breastfeeding baby in my sling, helping to normalize bringing non-disruptive babies to AMA meetings. My advocacy helped to create the AMA Parental Leave Program. Most recently, I participated in meetings with the AMA and Alberta Health to change the language and format of AISH forms.

The practice of medicine is the highest professional calling one can have. At times, advocating for your patients and for societal change can seem lonely, but involvement with the AMA buffers that loneliness since the AMA always has its members’ backs.

**PERSONAL INTERESTS** I am passionately committed to serving homeless, underserved and marginalized people in Calgary, with agencies such as Inn from the Cold, Alberta’s only homeless shelter for families; the Calgary Drop-in and Rehab Centre, Canada’s largest homeless shelter; and Health Upwardly Mobile, where I provide clinical services in addiction medicine. I have also worked hard to introduce medical students to serving the marginalized people in our community.

I am forever humbled by the people whose lives cross mine. By serving and advocating for them, I can help make Calgary a better city for everyone. Since ceasing to practice obstetrics, I have discovered a true love for sleep. I have a daily meditation/yoga practice. I enjoy walking, even in early mornings in winter. I have three wonderful grandchildren. They make the world go round.
Dr. Richard G.R. Johnston  
*Critical Care, Anesthesiology, Edmonton*

**REFLECTIONS ON SERVICE**  I am most proud of my 20 years as chair of the Negotiating Committee and on the committees that managed agreements with government and health authorities. We were able to capture the economic value physicians deserved and to direct some of those funds in ways that markedly improved health care, such as after-hours payments, rural/remote/northern payments, and benefits like CME, parental leave, and the Physician and Family Support Program. Money has also been devoted to reducing disparities among groups through differential allocations, in an attempt to ensure that all physicians are appropriately rewarded for their work.

We are the strongest medical association in Canada because we have found ways, through good leadership and professionalism, to have respectful, data-based discussions on both economic and professional issues.

William Osler, the Canadian physician who has had the most influence on the development of modern medicine in this country, wrote on the need for individuals to contribute to the profession. I encourage all physicians to participate in the AMA by carefully reading publications and serving on committees in the AMA, the College, and AHS. It is only through such organizations that we can influence decisions and work to maintain a strong health care system for our patients.

**PERSONAL INTERESTS**  I will leave clinical practice at the end of October this year, after which I may continue to do some consulting work. My wife and I plan to continue to work our way through our travel bucket list. We have a beautiful home in Vernon, BC, next to two wonderful golf courses. We enjoy kayaking and hiking in the area as well. We have one delightful granddaughter, and we hope to spend time with her and with any others that arrive, if we are so blessed.
Dr. Patrick J. (P.J.) White  
*Psychiatry, Edmonton*

**REFLECTIONS ON SERVICE** I joined the AMA on my second day in Canada in May 1989. Since then, I have been a member of the Representative Forum, sat on the Board of Directors for seven years, and served as president. In my year as president, we began the negotiations that resulted in an agreement two years later.

I believe strongly in the need for a better mental health care system, and I have spent a considerable amount of time in recent years advocating with the government on mental health issues. I am currently the medical director of Alberta Hospital, in which role I am part of a wide-ranging planning exercise to develop and expand services for mental health in conjunction with the Department of Psychiatry, a role important to me as a psychiatrist and as an advocate for a better mental health system.

I think it is essential to be a member of our representative organization where we can all speak with one voice on behalf of physicians and for the sake of a better health care system.

**PERSONAL INTERESTS** Music is my passion, and I am an avid collector of all types of music. I travel extensively to attend concerts, musical events and opera festivals worldwide. I believe in the value of travelling as much as possible while I am physically able to do so. I also enjoy my role as mentor to our young residents, as they are the future of our profession.
Installation of new AMA President

Dr. Alison M. Clarke

Dr. Alison Clarke officially assumes the role of AMA president this weekend.

“The strength of the Alberta Medical Association is how it unifies our profession and allows us to speak with one clear voice. I have seen the commitment of so many physicians in health care and patient advocacy. We understand the importance of a well-integrated system and what that means for the people of Alberta.

“With a provincial election on the horizon, there is some uncertainty about the direction of provincial goals. As advocates for our patients, it is more important than ever that we continue to focus on system improvements that provide the best care available to Albertans. We have been tasked with stewardship of health care resources and we must build on our gains in the system that is respectful to all types of practice and specialties.

“As an organization we will be able to bring together our individual perspectives to focus on common goals. I am honoured to be the elected president of the Alberta Medical Association and look forward to what we can achieve in the year to come.”

Dr. Clarke has also served in leadership roles including president of the Rural Medical Staff Association and chief of staff of Strathmore District Health Services. She is a member of the Health Services Support Task Group under the direction of the Secretariat of the Calgary Zone PCNs with specialty groups to facilitate and stream referral processes. She has also written columns for Vital Signs magazine focusing on the practice of medicine from a rural perspective.

An AMA member since her family practice residency in 1990, Dr. Clarke has a lengthy history with the AMA. She served as a Representative Forum delegate from 1998-2013 and as a member of the Board of Directors from 2010-13 and since 2017 in her role as president-elect. She also served on the Nominating Committee and the Ad Hoc Committee to Review AMA’s Regional Structure, and was a delegate to CMA General Council on several occasions. For her contributions, she was recognized with the AMA Long-Service Award in 2010.

In her role as president, Dr. Clarke will continue as a member of the Board of Directors and will serve on various internal and external committees such as Representative Forum Planning Group, Committee on Bylaws, Executive Committee, and Provincial Physician Liaison Forum.
Dr. Neil D.J. Cooper

Dr. Neil Cooper officially ends his term as president this weekend and assumes the role of immediate past president.

“It has been a wild ride this year. I have been challenged and rewarded beyond what I could have imagined. I was told at the beginning (wasn’t it just yesterday?) that the year would go by very quickly and it has completely disappeared on me. What I will cherish most will be the relationships with the physicians of Alberta and the staff of the AMA. I have been truly changed for the better by the people I have been able to work with this year.

“Now that I have seen the AMA from the inside, I continue to be so impressed with the way we do our business. Members at every level have the ability to mold policy and effect change whether it is by writing letters to the president and other leaders or serving on committees. I have seen first-hand how the AMA has influenced health care in Alberta and can really feel the dedication our province’s physicians have to making the system better for their patients.

“We have also maintained our position in Canada as a group of physicians who care so greatly about how the system works for our patients that we focus on the positives in all our dealings with our system partners and we work through the inevitable disagreements to come up with changes that benefit patients. It is clear that there is still a long way to go on many fronts, but it is also clear that true system improvement cannot happen without physicians as leaders of the change.

“So now I get to pass the baton to Dr. Alison Clarke. Alison – I wish you all the best as you lead Alberta physicians over this next year. You are the perfect person to take on the next challenges of the profession.

“Thank you to all who have had a role in making my year an amazing experience.”

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 Group 23 Sports Medicine Clinic. When he became AMA president he retired from the Sheldon Kennedy Child Advocacy Centre and Alberta Children’s Hospital – Child Abuse Service where he practiced for more than 20 years. 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 26 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. 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 has been a Representative Forum delegate since 2006 and has served on the Board of Directors since 2012. For his contributions, he was recognized with the AMA’s Long-Service Award in 2011.

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