

PULSE

USASK MED

ALUMNI & COMMUNITY PROGRAM

2024-25 REPORT

KEEP YOUR COMMUNITY CLOSE.

You are, and forever will be,
a part of the USask College of Medicine
and its flourishing legacy.

**Pulse Report is an annual review comprised of
performance and impact reports from vital pillars
of the USask College of Medicine's
Alumni and Community Program.**



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PULSE REPORT

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DEAN'S MESSAGE

DEAR COLLEAGUES,

As 2025 comes to a close, I am proud to reflect on a year of growth, achievement, and connection at the University of Saskatchewan College of Medicine. Across research, education, and community engagement, the people in our College continue to make a meaningful difference in the health of Saskatchewan and beyond.

Our researchers and clinicians are driving progress in areas ranging from Alzheimer's disease, autoimmune conditions and cancer, Indigenous health, pediatrics, and rural medicine. And we are training more physicians, scientists, and rehabilitation professionals than ever, with new master's programs in physician assistant studies, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology.

Equally inspiring are the ways our Alumni and Community Program strengthens connections across generations. Initiatives like Doctor for a Day, Highlights in Medicine, and cross-disciplinary events bring alumni, students, faculty, and community partners together, celebrating achievements, sharing knowledge, and inspiring future healthcare leaders.

Guided by social accountability, Indigenous achievement, and collaborative care, we are looking ahead with intention and purpose. Your engagement, ideas, and support ensure that the College remains a vibrant, connected community, ready to meet the healthcare challenges of today and tomorrow. 🍀



Thank you for being part of this journey and for helping us shape a healthier Saskatchewan.

Dr. Sarah Forgie, MD, M.Ed., FRCPC, FAMMI

Professor and Dean
College of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan



UNIVERSITY OF SASKATCHEWAN
College of Medicine
MEDICINE.USASK.CA

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

With the utmost appreciation,
thank you to our Community
Advisory Committee.

2024-2025 Roster

Ms. Yara Al Horoub (Class of 2027)
Dr. Stella Blackshaw (Prof. Emerita)
Ms. Kelsey Kougiya (Alumni Rel.)
Dr. Karen Shaw (MD'83)
Dr. Palak Suryavanshi (MD'19)
Mr. Jim Thornhill (Prof. Emeritus)
Dr. Wendy Vogel (MD'89)
Dr. Yousef Omar (MD'25)
Dr. Terry Zlipko (MD'74)



Last year, we reflected on the exciting challenge of launching a new Alumni and Community Program for the College of Medicine. Today, as we look back on our second year, we are proud to see that vision continuing to take shape in meaningful and lasting ways.

The program has become a gathering place for voices across generations, disciplines, and life experiences. Alumni, learners, faculty, and community members are connecting through events, mentorship, and shared traditions that strengthen our College community. These connections remind us that our greatest strength lies not in any single perspective, but in the collective wisdom and compassion we bring to medicine and to each other.

As your Community Advisory Committee, we remain committed to ensuring this program evolves with intention; guided by inclusivity, responsiveness, and respect for the diverse experiences of our members.

Looking ahead, the year to come will be filled with opportunities to expand this momentum by supporting our learners, celebrating our alumni, and in strengthening our community initiatives.

With your involvement and support, whether by sharing your time, your voice, or a donation to the Alumni and Community Fund, we will continue to create meaningful opportunities for all who are part of the College of Medicine community.

Help us carry this program forward by staying active and connected, because -
We are the PULSE of the College. 📍

Dr. Terry Zlipko (MD'74)

Co-Chair, Community Advisory Committee

Ms. Kelsey Kougiya (Alumni Relations)

Co-Chair, Community Advisory Committee

WE ARE RECRUITING COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) advocates for the people and initiatives of the College of Medicine's Alumni and Community Program. Designed to be an interactive opportunity for individuals to take the lead in guiding program operations, the advisory committee offers critical reflection and guidance pertaining to program building, community engagement, and fund development.

The CAC is actively recruiting new committee volunteers, with high capacity for representation from:

- Students and Residents - all programs
- Teaching Faculty - Medicine and Rehabilitation Science
- Research Faculty - all departments


Committee members serve in one-year terms, with the option of uncapped additional terms.

Annual service time: 26 hours (1.5 hours for meetings x 4 meetings a year, 20 hours of volunteering.)

For more information, please contact Kelsey at kelsey.kougiya@usask.ca

SEVEN Questions

... FOR DR. RON SHORE (MD'70)

 Trenna Brusky

HONoured Alumni Lecture

2025 RECIPIENT: DR. RON SHORE

University of Saskatchewan alumnus Dr. Ron Shore is a dermatologist and life-long innovator. Following graduation, he completed an internship at Johns Hopkins Hospital and a residency in dermatology at the University of Pennsylvania. He was board-certified in dermatology in Canada and the United States, practiced dermatology in both countries, and taught medical students and residents at Johns Hopkins Hospital for 35 years.



Q: What does it mean to you to receive the Honoured Alumni Lecture recognition from the college?

I consider it an extreme honour. There are numerous graduates from the University of Saskatchewan that have excelled academically and provided enormous service around the world. I know for my own class there were many who provided great service when needed.

It is very much appreciated by me, and I feel very thankful that I was chosen to provide the Alumni Lecture. I hope I can share some of our advances (in skin cancer screening) that will lead to other lives being saved as well as reduced morbidity.

Q: Why did you decide to pursue medicine and a career in dermatology?

I have always been interested in medical things — I like to help people, and I like to solve problems. Back in grade school, I planned on being a doctor; I didn't even consider other possibilities. I was not sure where I would eventually end up in the field of medicine. I had thought about psychiatry and then became very interested in endocrinology. It was not until my internship that I decided to go into dermatology. I am happy I went that route because there were so many opportunities to use my skills and to help advance in the field.

Q: Why did you choose to study at USask?

My parents were very much into education. My father was a pharmacist who went to the University of Saskatchewan. Shortly after my brother and I were born, we moved a block and a half from the university because he wanted us to be close so we could go there. I also never realized it until six months ago, but growing up I had five best friends and every one of them was the son of a university professor.

By the time I was ready to go to medical school, I'd already won several USask scholarships. So, I was planning on going there for years, even when I was in elementary school — my family went there and so I went there. I'm happy I did.

Q: What is one of your most memorable experiences as a USask medical student?

I was in my final year of medical school and it was time for my rotation in obstetrics. Even though you do a lot of reading, you understand a lot, when you have the opportunity to deliver your first baby, it's... I wouldn't say nerve-racking, but you are excited and you want everything to go well.

On my very first day, I had my first delivery at 7:00 pm and everything went very smoothly. That night I was on call. At about 2:00 or 3:00 o'clock in the morning, a woman came in to deliver her child, except it was not smooth. From the information provided by the patient, there was no underlying reason why she should not be doing well.

All three of us — the attending, the resident and I — were trying everything to save the mother and baby. Although I am not able to speak for them, I think it would have been a shocker for anyone. It was quite something.

We could not initially understand the problems, but it turns out she had a very rare type of muscular dystrophy (i.e., myotonic dystrophy) and is a condition that gets worse with pregnancy. I did a lot of reading on this subject and wrote two separate journal articles during my internship. Along with the department head, Dr. MacLachlan, we put in the literature steps to take if a patient has this condition. I thought publishing was important to help others that might be in the same situation. If you are aware there could be a problem, it's always easier to deal with it.



Q: What advice do you have for current and aspiring medical students?

Work hard. It is not easy — there are going to be all kinds of blockades, things that you have to overcome, and sometimes it gets very frustrating. Don't give up and pursue your goals.

I am also going to make a suggestion. Many drugs have multiple properties — for example, Rogaine started off as a blood pressure drug and antibiotics can be anti-inflammatory. Listening to your patients' experiences might lead to new knowledge about some drugs' additional properties. This is an area that would be very valuable and productive.

There are a lot of fascinating things (in medicine). There are opportunities to make advances and much safer ways of doing things that may come up in the future. I think I'd like to see more creativity.

Q: How do you balance the demands of the profession with personal fulfillment?

I enjoyed playing golf. Years ago, I joined a group, and they were hitting the ball way beyond what I was. I decided if I wanted to get better, I had to learn to hit the ball further. I like to fiddle around and try things and thought I could take two approaches — one was to improve my strength and physical abilities, and the other was to develop golf clubs.

I looked into all kinds of designs for golf clubs. My concept was if I used a longer golf club, I would get more leverage and should be able to hit the ball further. I probably had over 100 golf clubs designed with different features.

I decided with my long golf club, which was legal at the time, to enter long driving contests and I won several with drives well over 300 yards. Around that time, there was an article in Golf Magazine that showed pictures of my long clubs. This article got some attention and shortly thereafter they made long clubs like mine illegal — which temporarily ended my long drive success. However, I concentrated on exercise and tried again and I qualified for the Re/Max World Long Drive Championship. I was far from winning it, but it was fun.

Q: During your career you developed new products, tests and methodologies. What inspired your skin screening program for melanoma?

There are conferences which doctors and dermatologists can go to that talk about advances in melanoma research. And there have been some amazing advances.

The interesting thing is almost the entire focus of conferences is late-stage melanoma and saving those people. This is important, but it's not the only issue. There is usually nothing about doing skin cancer screenings to detect melanomas in the early stages. That has been my area of inquiry.

What would you guess would be the outcome if a melanoma is caught in the very early stages; what do you think the survival rate is? The answer in our office is 100% for over 30 years.

It turns out that the earliest stage of melanoma is incapable of metastasis. I say early melanoma is much like a newborn child — it cannot walk out of the room — a new melanoma cannot spread through the body. If you catch melanoma in its earliest stage, you don't have to do scans, you don't have to do lymph node biopsies because it cannot spread. If you do a wide excision (to remove the melanoma), you are done.

We developed a very thorough exam and we have gotten very good at detecting melanoma. Over time we have learned to recognize not just the typical cases, but the atypical cases. The literature shows typical melanomas, but maybe 15-20% do not look anything like this. If you're only aware of the typical cases, you might miss some.

Once we have done our (first) thorough exam, we have a baseline where it appears the person has no melanomas or other skin cancers. We tell them to come back once a year or every six months, for higher risk patients, for a thorough examination. By doing the skin check program in this timely manner, we have been able to pick up melanomas, and other types of skin cancers, in the early stages when they all appear curable.

We are now in year 33 of our screening program and we have not lost anyone to, or even had a close call to, a cutaneous melanoma skin cancer. You only have to do skin checks once or twice a year, and if done well, it can be extraordinarily lifesaving. ■





The start of something new:

MPAS PROGRAM WELCOMES INAUGURAL CLASS

MASTER OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDIES PROGRAM

"We want to bring in learners with diverse backgrounds, and we plan to expose our learners to a wide range of environments from the city centre to rural and remote communities."

Dr. Trustin Domes (MD), Academic director and lead of the USask's MPAS program

What makes the learning approach in the USask MPAS program unique?

Our program delivers a dynamic curriculum grounded in active learning strategies, including team-based and case-based approaches, enhanced by high-fidelity simulations. From your first year, you will gain early clinical exposure, followed by diverse placement opportunities across Saskatchewan in your second year. We place a strong emphasis on Indigenous health, social accountability, and interprofessional education. The curriculum also integrates cutting-edge health technologies and artificial intelligence, while supporting the development of your research skills through a dedicated capstone project.

How is the MPAS curriculum structured at USask?

The two-year MPAS program employs a blended approach, using systems-based, team-based, and case-based learning. Expect active engagement through simulations and small group discussions alongside early clinical exposure in year one and Saskatchewan-wide placements in year two.

What is the class size for the MPAS program?

The MPAS program has a small and focused class size of 20 learners per cohort, allowing for personalized attention and a close-knit learning environment.

MAKING AN IMPACT: NEW PROGRAM, NEW AWARD

Thank you to Dr. Gary Siemens' (MD'69) for establishing the first award for MPAS students.

Dr. Gary Siemens' (MD'69) is establishing the first award to the MPAS program. His generous gift will enable the creation of two annual bursaries for students.

"As an alumnus and physician, I've witnessed the critical contributions physician assistants make in health care," said Dr. Siemens. "Supporting this program was my way of encouraging students to pursue this vital field, knowing they'll make a meaningful and lasting impact."

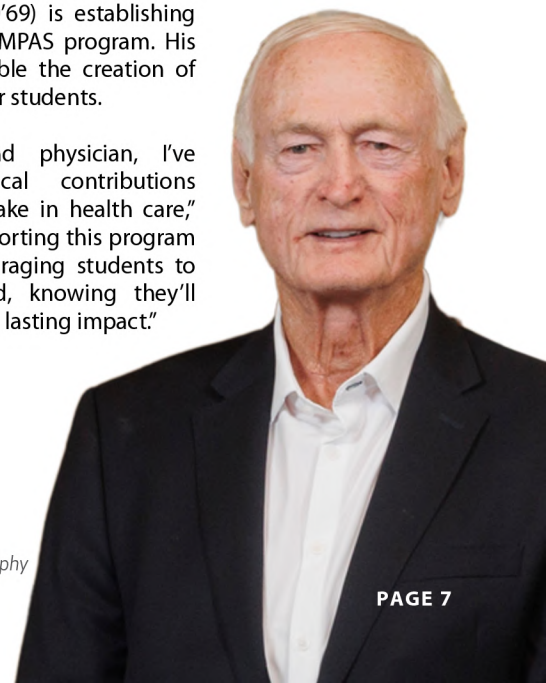



Photo: Stobbe Photography

Play, imagine, learn, AND STAY WELL

DOCTOR FOR A DAY: CLASSROOM LEARNING KITS

 Kelsey Kougiya



In a classroom in rural Saskatchewan,

a group of students gathers around their teacher, eyes wide as she pulls out a white coat. There's a stethoscope, a wearable apron displaying internal organs, even a suture kit made with felt and thread. The lesson today? What it means to be a doctor.

This scene was repeated across the province this spring as part of the Doctor for a Day: Classroom Learning Kits pilot project, an initiative launched by the College of Medicine's Alumni and Community Program to bring the world of medicine directly into Saskatchewan classrooms.

Designed for students in grades 2 through 5, the kits offered an engaging, hands-on approach to health science education. Each package included lesson plans aligned with the Saskatchewan curriculum and came fully equipped with interactive materials reviewed by physicians and assembled with care by volunteers and members of the Community Advisory Committee.

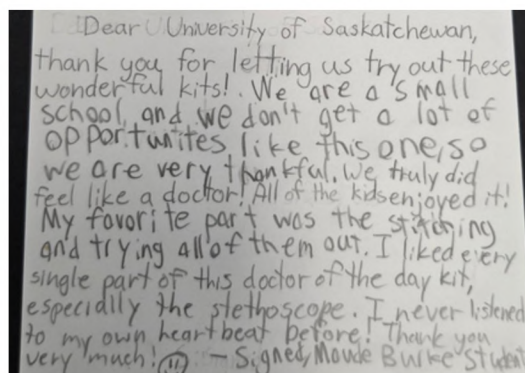
The learning goals of the project were threefold: to provide fun and accessible in-classroom resources; to spark early interest in medicine as a career path; and to establish a meaningful presence for the College of Medicine within communities of varying size, location, and socioeconomic context.

The kits are designed to build confidence in young learners while helping them see that medicine is not a distant dream. It's something they can reach for, and belong in.

Each kit included four themed lessons: Inside the Human Body (anatomy and organ placement), The Skin: Your Body's Largest Organ (featuring a safe suture practice craft), Inspire & Aspire (career exploration and role-play as doctors), and The Medicine Wheel (exploring Indigenous teachings on wellness and balance). With tactile materials, and age-appropriate language, the kits made medical learning both tangible and inclusive.

The response to the pilot was overwhelmingly positive, and far exceeded expectations. Originally designed to support 15 classrooms, the program received 83 applications from 70 schools in 44 different municipalities across Saskatchewan. Recognizing the widespread demand and the potential for impact, the pilot was expanded to deliver 42 classroom kits.

The final cohort represented a wide cross-section of urban, rural, and remote communities across the province, and the feedback that followed was immediate and glowing. Teachers sent in photos, thank-you notes, and reflections on how the kits had transformed their classrooms.



One educator wrote, “Our students felt seen, heard, and capable. This kit made them believe they could be doctors, and that someone out there believes in them beyond their family circle.”

Students, too, shared their excitement. Many pointed to the hands-on activities, especially the stethoscopes and stitching practice, as highlights. Others spoke of their growing interest in becoming nurses, surgeons, or family physicians. Even more moving were the questions students began to ask: “Do doctors need to be good listeners?” “How old do I need to be to be a doctor?”

These moments underscored not only the academic success of the pilot but its emotional and motivational reach. “We wanted to meet kids where they are - curious, imaginative, and open to possibility,” says Kelsey Kougiya, a project creator.

This project isn’t just about learning. It’s about belonging. When students put on that white coat or place an organ on the apron, they start to see themselves differently. The Doctor for a Day Classroom Learning Kits plant seeds that may grow into a calling, or at the very least, a deeper respect for their health and community.

Moving forward, the Alumni and Community Program is looking to transition Doctor for a Day from a pilot into an ongoing and sustainable program. The Community Advisory Program will continue to fundraise for project support, and plans are underway to expand the number of kits available, ensuring that schools in all corners of the province continue to feel included and supported. While future enhancements such as bilingual materials or multimedia content may eventually be considered, the current focus remains on preserving the integrity and accessibility of the original concept.

None of this would have been possible without the generosity of alumni and donors. Funding for the pilot project came from the Alumni and Community Fund as well as proceeds from the Pulse Path Fundraiser held during the 2024 Highlights in Medicine Banquet. These donor contributions directly translated into meaningful classroom experiences and, potentially, life-changing moments for students across Saskatchewan.

Because of your support, these young students were able to imagine futures they hadn’t considered before. They learned about the body, about wellness, about community, and about themselves. That is the kind of impact we as the College of Medicine community can all be proud of. 🍀



(ps our teacher went crazy over the lab coat + organ vest!! - she flashed every class in the school!)

Thank you so much for making our learning of the human body system such a fun, engaging, and unforgettable experience! We absolutely loved sewing sutures - it was such a cool hands-on way to understand what real doctors do. And thank you for helping us learn where each organ is located in our bodies; now we feel like mini-experts in anatomy. Your creative lessons made us look forward to the next! We appreciate all the time and effort you put into making sure we not only learned but enjoyed every step of the way!



Thank you so much for the Doctor for a Day Kit! My students loved being doctors (for a week)! They wrote their own “Ouch Stories” (personal narratives of an injury), Patient Measurement Math (measuring a teddy bear’s arm, etc), heart health, blood pressure, etc. Thank you for helping us have an amazing week being “Student” doctors!

To continue the Doctor for a Day Kit program, we need your help!

EACH KIT COSTS \$65 CAD TO MAKE AND MAIL TO SASKATCHEWAN CLASSROOMS.

Donate to the Alumni and Community Fund:
<https://donate.usask.ca/online/medicine.php?>

The evergreen ADVOCATE:

ADVANCING COLLABORATIVE CARE
THROUGH GENEROSITY AND SERVICE



Photo: Stobbe Photography

It began with just \$25.

In 1980, still fresh out of training, Dr. David Keegan (MD'64) made his first charitable gift to the University of Saskatchewan. At the time, he could not have imagined that this modest start would grow into a 45-year tradition of generosity and service, one that has supported countless students and reinforced the College of Medicine's ability to prepare the next generation of physicians. Each gift, and each moment of mentorship, became a steady demonstration of his commitment to the institution and province that launched his medical career.

Today, that same generosity has inspired him to establish a life insurance legacy gift that will create an award for students pursuing careers in family medicine or psychiatry, two specialties in need of practitioners. For Dr. Keegan, the culmination of his giving is far more than financial support. It is an evergreen investment in the kind of medicine he has always advocated for: collaborative, compassionate, and firmly rooted in community.

Alongside his professional and philanthropic journey, Dr. Keegan's greatest strength has been his family. His wife, Carolyn, a nurse whose compassion and steadiness make her the quiet center around which everything turns, has been both his partner in purpose and the anchor of their home. Over the course of her nursing career she took on many roles, including in emergency care, intensive care, and ophthalmology, though she found her greatest fulfillment as a diabetes nurse educator, where she supported patients in managing their health with knowledge, confidence, and dignity. Her example of care and leadership helped shape the values carried forward by their children. Heather, a dietitian who has practiced in both community and hospital settings, managed food services at the Nipawin Hospital, and worked as a diabetes educator before moving into her current role as Manager of Professional Practice with the SHA; Mark, a Professor of Neurology at the Mayo Medical School and a Neurologist at the Mayo Clinic, Rochester MN., specializing in Multiple Sclerosis and Autoimmune Neurology; and Laura, a social worker whose career has included frontline psychosocial work with the Canadian and International Red Cross, including service in Sierra Leone during the Ebola epidemic. She later applied her expertise at HIV Edmonton support people suffering from HIV, and now, manages the KIDs First program in Saskatoon for the Saskatchewan Health Authority. Together, their paths reflect a shared commitment to service, care, and community that lies at the heart of the Keegan family.

His philanthropic commitments to the College of Medicine mirror the values that have defined his career. Dr. Keegan's relationship with the College began as a medical student, where he first recognized the critical link between family medicine and psychiatry. That understanding deepened during a psychiatry rotation with Dr. Griff McKerracher, then Head of the Department of Psychiatry, who championed the idea that mental health care must be closely integrated with family practice to meet the needs of patients facing mental illness and addiction. The insight that care is strongest when disciplines work together became a cornerstone of Dr. Keegan's professional philosophy.

It was a philosophy he carried into practice from the very beginning. Early in his career as a family physician in Estevan, Saskatchewan, he provided care for individuals transitioning from the nearby Weyburn Mental Hospital back into the community.

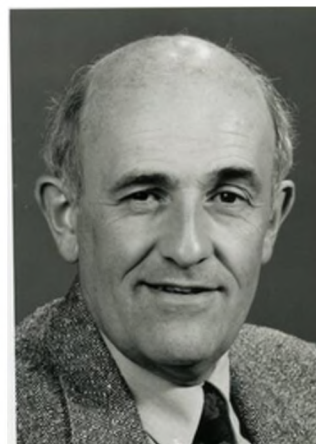
This was no simple task, as these patients often required ongoing psychiatric support, medication management, and help reintegrating into daily life. With the steady guidance of Weyburn psychiatrists, Dr. Keegan successfully integrated them into his family practice, creating an early and practical model of collaborative care that offered dignity, stability, and favorable patient outcomes.

As his career in psychiatry progressed, Dr. Keegan became increasingly committed to care models that placed patients at the center. He worked side-by-side with family physicians and mental health professionals to design coordinated treatment plans, ensuring that no one was left navigating the system alone. He particularly valued his time traveling to rural clinics, where he offered psychiatric consultations, provided continuing education for family physicians, and coordinated with community psychiatric nurses serving as case managers. These efforts not only built local capacity but also reduced wait times and allowed patients to receive timely care closer to home.

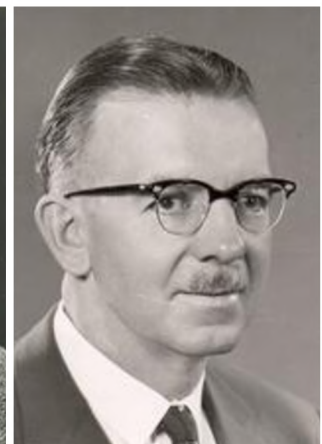
Later, he embedded himself directly in family practices, visiting biweekly to consult on patient cases, lead one-on-one and group learning sessions, and model collaboration for both family physicians and psychiatry residents. This approach allowed mental health expertise to be shared in real time and in real settings, while reinforcing the message that collaborative care benefits all involved: patients, families, and practitioners alike.

Forty-five years after that first \$25 gift, Dr. Keegan's contributions, both in philanthropy and in advocating for collaborative care, remain guided by a simple truth: when physicians work together, patients and communities have a healthier future. His legacy is one of generosity, vision, and an unshakable belief in the power of collaboration, a legacy that will continue to positively shape the USask College of Medicine for decades to come. 🍀

🍀 Kelsey Kouguya



David Keegan: Faculty Photo,



Griff McKerracher: Faculty photo,

SHARING HER SPIRIT with those around her

DR. LOUIS HORLICK SPIRIT OF THE COLLEGE AWARD 2025 RECIPIENT: BEV DIGOUT

This year's recipient, Bev Digout, brings deep compassion and tireless dedication to her work. She supports learners through some of the most complex and emotionally charged parts of their medical training, always with care and integrity.

She pores over student feedback, constantly refining programming to ensure it meets learners where they're at - whether it's through sessions on mental wellness, financial stress, or grief. She's also the driving force behind bringing the Healer's Art program to our college - securing funding, completing trainer certification, and even cooking meals to ensure students felt welcomed and cared for. As one nominator wrote, "Bev holds the Spirit of the College in her soul and shares that spirit with those around her in her everyday interactions."

ACCEPTANCE STATEMENT

Prepared by Bev Digout

It is an immense honor to receive this award. I am truly humbled to join the distinguished list of past recipients. It is my understanding that Dr. Horlick was a pillar of our institution and community - an educator and physician who exemplified dedication, enthusiasm, and unwavering commitment. To be recognized for qualities he embodied is both an honor and a profound inspiration.

The theme of the 2025 Highlights in Medicine Conference, "Care in Matters of Life and Death", resonates deeply - not because our work in the Office of Student Affairs mirrors the clinical realities of life and death, but because it too, is rooted in care at critical moments.

Dr. Horlick's legacy reminds me that care extends beyond the bedside. In student affairs, we encounter students navigating profound personal and professional turning points. For me, this means ensuring each learner feels seen and heard, advocating for their well-being, and walking alongside them through challenge and growth with a strengths-based, restorative lens.

Though the contexts differ, the commitment to compassionate, attentive care unites us. It's the quality of our care, not just its presence, that defines our shared purpose.

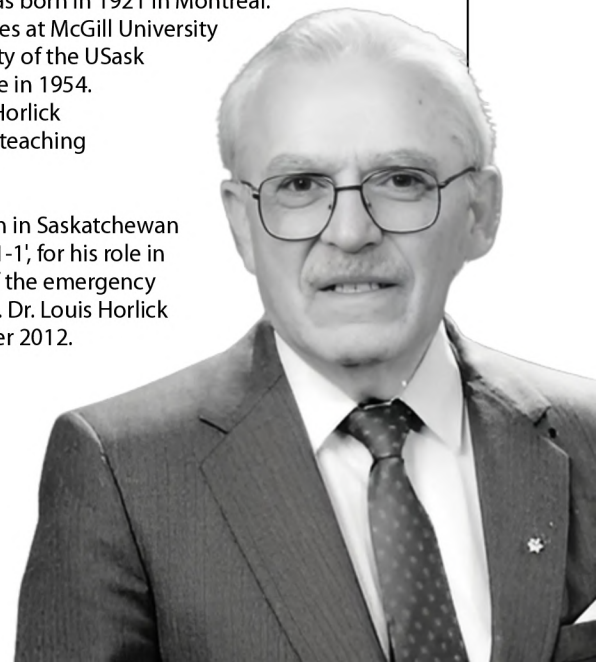
I want to express my sincerest gratitude to the adjudication committee for deeming me worthy of this incredible honor. This award isn't just for me; it's a testament to the incredible students, colleagues, and mentors I've had the privilege of working alongside. Their passion and commitment continuously inspire me. Thank you.



Meet Dr. Louis Horlick, O.C., S.O.M.

Dr. Louis Horlick was born in 1921 in Montreal. After medical studies at McGill University he joined the faculty of the USask College of Medicine in 1954. A cardiologist, Dr. Horlick pursued extensive teaching and research.

Dr. Horlick is known in Saskatchewan as the 'Father of 9-1-1', for his role in the introduction of the emergency telephone number. Dr. Louis Horlick passed in December 2012.



LIFETIME Achievement

DR. JIM DOSMAN

2024 RECIPIENT OF THE USASK LIFETIME
ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

As the highest honour presented by the University of Saskatchewan Alumni Association, this award recognizes an alumnus/alumna for an outstanding lifetime of personal and professional accomplishments and contributions to the social, cultural, and economic well-being of society in their field(s) of endeavor.



Dr. Jim Dosman (BA'59, MD'63, MA'69) is considered the "Father of Agricultural Medicine" in Canada for his contributions to the health and wellbeing of patients in Saskatchewan and beyond.

A highly regarded clinician-scientist, Dosman recognized a need in his home community related to health and safety in the agricultural industry and began investigating the impacts of respiratory diseases in farm environments. With the vision of putting his research into action, he shone a bright light on these pressing issues, raising awareness and developing programs to prevent and treat agricultural-related health conditions.

Dosman grew up on a Saskatchewan farm, attending school in Annaheim, Sask., before enrolling at St. Peter's College in Muenster, Sask. He later attended USask, where he graduated from the College of Medicine in 1963. For four years he practiced as a family doctor before specializing in respiratory medicine at McGill University in Montreal. One of Dosman's first respiratory research studies introduced the concept that grain dust can damage lungs, and his early work resulted in the Canadian Grain Dust Medical Surveillance Program, a historic federal program protecting workers highly exposed in grain elevators.

Throughout his long and impactful career, Dosman has led or been involved in the founding of numerous research centres, associations, and societies dedicated to agricultural safety and rural health, including the Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture, now the Canadian Centre for Rural and Agricultural Health. His commitment to finding a local solution to a global problem has influenced health and safety in agriculture across the world. For example, he has worked with the International Labour Organization of the United Nations to establish an International Code of Safe Practice in Agriculture. This code has been translated into numerous languages and helps to protect workers in the industry.

Dosman's many accomplishments show excellence in all areas expected of a clinician-scientist—clinical care, teaching, research, and administration—and his influential work in agriculture and rural health continues today. In 2013, he became certified in sleep medicine through the American Board of Internal Medicine and has an active medical practice in sleep medicine and research, working to expand health-care access in remote, rural, and Indigenous communities. In 2007, Dosman was instrumental in founding Agrivita Canada Inc., a not-for-profit company that established the Canadian AgriSafety Applied Science Program supported by Agriculture and AgriFood Canada, and he continues to serve as the company's president and CEO.

Throughout his career, Dosman's accomplishments have been recognized by numerous awards, honours, and organizations, including the Saskatchewan Order of Merit (2005), Officer of the Order of Canada (2010), and the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame (2019). 🍀



Nominations are accepted year round. If you would like to nominate an amazing alum, please visit: <https://alumni.usask.ca/get-involved/awards.php>

TOGETHER, 60M dollars was raised

FOR THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE DURING THE USASK BWTWN CAMPAIGN

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE ALUMNI WERE PIVOTAL IN CAMPAIGN SUCCESS.

This 10-year campaign saw our community come together in an extraordinary way to support future physicians, health researchers, and healthier communities.

"Although the campaign itself is wrapping up, USask's efforts to Be What the World Needs continue to gain momentum," said Cheryl Hamelin, vice-president of University Relations. "Together, we made history, and we can't wait to see what else we can achieve together. This milestone would not have been possible without the incredible generosity of our thousands of donors. We extend our sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to this remarkable campaign."

To every donor, alumnus, and partner who believes in our mission – thank you. You are helping shape the future of medicine in Saskatchewan and beyond.

USASK STATEMENT: BE WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS

On June 18, 2025, the University of Saskatchewan celebrated a historic milestone as the Be What the World Needs campaign officially crossed the finish line. With the support of alumni, individual donors, and corporate partners, the university not only met but exceeded its ambitious \$500 million goal, raising an extraordinary \$570,739,155.

As the largest fundraising campaign in Saskatchewan's history, this success reflects the collective belief in USask's people, priorities, and potential. The College of Medicine played a pivotal role in that achievement, with generous support fueling student success, advancing health research, and expanding community impact. From transformative gifts to heartfelt personal donations, each contribution has helped strengthen the future of health care and education in Saskatchewan.

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE BWTWN CAMPAIGN:

\$60+ MILLION
TOTAL RAISED

HERE'S A BREAKDOWN OF THAT SUPPORT:

\$23 MILLION

Toward life-changing research

\$15 MILLION

Toward student support, including scholarships and bursaries

\$23 MILLION

Toward student spaces, Indigenous achievement, and critical infrastructure



PRESIDENT STOICHEFF SPEAKING AT
2025 HIGHLIGHTS BANQUET

3,000+
GENEROUS
DONORS

\$20+
MILLION
GIVEN BY ALUMNI

5,700+
DONATIONS
MADE

Get to know:

THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE'S PEOPLE OF THE BWTWN CAMPAIGN

As part of the University of Saskatchewan's "Be What the World Needs" fundraising campaign, members of the College of Medicine community, faculty, students, alumni, and researchers were prominently featured as powerful examples of impact and leadership. Their faces and stories appeared on billboards, city buses, streetlight banners, and in marketing materials across campus, beyond. These individuals reflect the spirit and purpose of the College of Medicine: advancing health and wellness through education, research, and service rooted in our communities.

Within the campaign, each featured individual was associated with one of six official "power words" that articulate the nature of their world-changing impact:

LEADERS:

Guided by vision and mentorship, these individuals lead in their field, taking on roles in clinical care, policy, academic leadership, and institutional advancement.

EXPLORERS:

Driven by inquiry, USask's explorers pursue research across disciplines, seeking deeper understanding and pushing boundaries in areas from water science to neurological medicine.

INNOVATORS:

These creative minds are turning ideas into tangible solutions. From satellite engineering and biomaterials to crop science and medical breakthroughs that address critical health challenges.

PROTECTOR:

Focused on safeguarding health and well-being, they work in areas such as pediatrics, veterinary public health, rural outreach, and equity-driven care models.

CONNECTORS:

With skill in bridging communities and disciplines, they build relationships and forge collaborations, uniting research, education, donors, and communities in meaningful ways.

CHAMPIONS:

Advocates for causes and communities, they mobilize support and resources, championing mental health, Indigenous student success, medical research, infrastructure, and much more.

Through their inclusion in this campaign, members of the College of Medicine community have become both symbols and agents of USask's commitment to educate, research, serve, and engage with purpose. Positioned alongside voices from every corner of the university, they embody what it means to be what the world needs, locally, provincially, and globally.



LEADER:

Indiana Best (MPH'22) chose USask and the School of Public Health for the opportunity to conduct research with the Métis community.

Indiana has been recognized with the Indigenous Graduate Leadership Award, a donor-funded scholarship presented to an Indigenous student who leads through community engagement, and is an MD student in the College of Medicine.



PROTECTOR:

Dr. Terry Klassen, a pediatric emergency medicine physician and clinician scientist, is leading research at USask to protect children across the province. Dr. Klassen is the joint head of pediatrics for both the College of Medicine and the Saskatchewan Health Authority.

A pioneer of pediatric emergency medicine in Canada, Dr. Klassen has earned national awards for his research. He is dedicated to a provincial pediatrics program integrated with prevention, treatment and rehabilitation services, and education for the next generation of healthcare providers at the College of Medicine.



EXPLORER:

A faculty member in the Oncology Department in the College of Medicine at USask and the director of research for the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency, Dr. Deborah Anderson is among the distinguished researchers exploring new knowledge related to the causes, mechanisms, and possible new treatments of cancer.



EXPLORER:

Educating future health care professionals and neurosurgeons is an important part of USask's vision for the future—and our livelihood. Dr. Michael Kelly (BSc'95, MD'99, PhD'11) is the Provincial Head of Surgery and a Professor of Neurosurgery in the College of Medicine. Along with a devoted team of colleagues and students, Dr. Kelly explores the complexities of the brain to understand more about strokes, brain trauma, and potential treatments.

Dr. Kelly was named the Knight Family Enhancement Chair in Neurological Surgery, which was made possible thanks to a transformative \$1 million gift to the Campaign for USask from Knight Cares.



EXPLORER:

Dr. Michael Levin has devoted his career to exploring treatments for multiple sclerosis and neurological disorders. As the Saskatchewan MS Clinical Research Chair at USask, Dr. Levin and his team now aim to test potential drugs for MS treatment to transform current therapies. These new drugs, which are being patented and prepared for clinical trials, are designed to prevent disability and improve the lives of people living with MS.



INNOVATOR:

Dr. Ron Geyer is leading the development of life-changing treatment for Alzheimer's disease. The process involves engineering a naturally occurring hormone that is involved in red blood cell production and modifying it, so its properties repair damaged neurons and regenerate new neurons in patients with Alzheimer's.

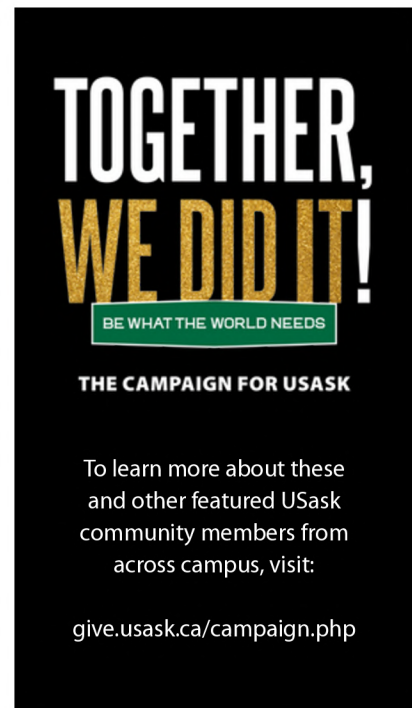
The potential impact of this treatment is far-reaching with approximately 20,000 people in Saskatchewan living with the disease.



CONNECTOR:

To honour the memory of her late husband Bruce, Chris Gordon (BusAdm'17) has been on a mission to fund research to combat pancreatic cancer. In 2018, Chris established the Be Like Bruce Memorial Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund and connected her cause with community groups to accelerate this critical research at USask's College of Medicine. She also launched the Be Like Bruce Fitness Festival, an athletics-driven fundraiser, which has raised more than \$100,000 for pancreatic cancer research.

Her efforts remain an inspiration for those who donate to the Campaign for USask to fund the critical research that is performed at USask.



Legacies celebrated and futures launched

FROM 50-YEAR ALUMNI MILESTONES TO OUR NEWEST GRADUATES,
CONVOCATION CELEBRATED ACHIEVEMENT ACROSS GENERATIONS.

DR. T. ZLIPKO JOINS PLATFORM PARTY AS GOLDEN GRAD REPRESENTATIVE

Each fall, the University of Saskatchewan invites two Golden Grad alumni—graduates marking 50 years since convocation—to join the Platform Party during the Fall Convocation Ceremony. This honorary role allows these distinguished alumni to represent their graduating class and take part in welcoming the next generation of USask graduates.

For Fall 2024, Dr. Terry Zlipko (MD'74) was invited to take the stage, representing not only his College of Medicine classmates but the entire University of Saskatchewan Class of 1974. As one of our esteemed Golden Grads, Dr. Zlipko joined university leadership, honorary degree recipients, and other dignitaries on stage to celebrate this milestone moment. His presence served as a living link between generations, reminding new graduates that while much has changed over 50 years, the pride and purpose of being a USask alumnus endures.



Photo: Stobbe Photography

CONGRATS TO THE CLASS OF 2025, YOUR JOURNEY HAS JUST BEGUN...

Congratulations on this significant accomplishment and milestone in your life. The principles you have learned and the people who have stood by you through your degree, will continue to be there to support you and to celebrate you. Physicians are team players who have each other's backs; we are determined, hardworking, creative and resilient, and stronger together. The community you have gained at the College of Medicine is lifelong and extends beyond your classmates; your professors are now colleagues and alumni are now your peers.

As you take on your next challenge, move to parts unknown, and shake the hands of new people, we hope you look back fondly at where it all started. You are, and forever will be, a part of the USask College of Medicine and our flourishing alumni community.



Photo: Stobbe Photography

Supporting initiatives all ACROSS OUR COLLEGE

FROM NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES TO WELCOMING
THE NEXT GENERATION INTO THE PROFESSION.

2024/25 WHITE COAT CEREMONY WELCOME CLASS OF 2028

First-year medical students were welcomed to their profession during the annual White Coat Ceremony on October 14, 2023 at TCU Centre in Saskatoon.

The Alumni and Community Program proudly sponsors the white coats to ensure each recipient knows that their college community is supporting them right from day one of their career journey.



2025 SPIRIT OF THE CLASS AWARD RECIPIENT: DR. ERIN TILK

Each year, the Alumni and Community program presented the Spirit of the Class award to a member of the MD graduating class. The recipient is someone who displays an exceptional level of commitment and passion throughout their time as a College of Medicine student; and through their outstanding performance, leadership skills, and positive attitude influences the environment of their peers. Dr. Erin Tilk was nominated by her classmates and selected by a college awards committee.

2025 KNUCKLE CUP HOCKEY ALUMNI VS. STUDENT GAME

The ice at Merlis Belsher Place witnessed an epic matchup between two formidable teams at the annual Knuckle Cup hockey game.

The College of Medicine Alumni team, faced off against the MD Students. The game was hard-fought, with blood, sweat and tears being shed in the name of bragging rights. Both teams displayed skill and determination during. In the end, the students emerged victorious with a 5-2 win to claim the coveted Knuckle Cup trophy.

This event was organized in collaboration with the Saskatchewan Medical Student Society, and with the support of game spectators, a full truckload of non-perishable food donations was collected and delivered to the Saskatoon Food Bank.



Highlights in Medicine Conference and Reunion

CARE IN MATTERS OF LIFE AND DEATH:
COLLABORATIVE CARE IN ALL STAGES OF LIFE AND CIRCUMSTANCE

PART CONFERENCE, PART CELEBRATION, PART REUNION

There are few traditions within the University of Saskatchewan's College of Medicine as enduring—or as beloved—as Highlights in Medicine. What began in 1985 as a grassroots alumni reunion has grown into one of the College's signature initiatives: a uniquely Saskatchewan blend of continuing medical education, professional recognition, and joyful reconnection.

Across three memorable days, alumni, faculty, students, and community members gathered on campus to reflect on the program's past, celebrate the present, and look ahead to the future of medicine in Saskatchewan and beyond.

Though the scope of the program has grown, the heart of Highlights remains the same: a space where stories are shared, relationships are rekindled, and pride in the College of Medicine shines brightly.

A LIVING LEGACY

The very first Highlights in Medicine event in 1985 was conceived by a group of alumni who wanted to reconnect and share their career journeys. Their idea was simple: return to the College, hear from classmates, and reflect on the shared experience of becoming a doctor. From that first gathering, the program took root and has since grown into a defining feature of the college calendar. Over the years, Highlights has evolved in both purpose and presence. It now features an ambitious academic agenda, and serves as a key touchpoint for College leadership, donors, and healthcare stakeholders across Saskatchewan.

EDUCATION MEETS INSPIRATION

A core component of Highlights in Medicine has always been the integration of education into celebration. One of the most striking elements of this year's program was the central role played by medical learners and early-career physicians. Students delivered sessions, presented original research, and shared the stage with health care leaders.

This intentional intergenerational approach creates a shared space where experience and ambition intersect, where alumni become mentors in real time, and where the next generation of physicians gains not only knowledge, but a sense of community.





A SASKATCHEWAN SUCCESS STORY

More than just a conference or a reunion, Highlights in Medicine is something uniquely Saskatchewan. It is one of the only programs of its kind in Canada: an alumni-driven, community-rooted, intergenerational celebration that blends continuing professional development with the warmth of coming home. It's a reflection of the people it serves: humble, ambitious, and deeply committed to their communities.

As the College of Medicine continues to grow, so too does the importance of events like Highlights. They connect past to present. They showcase excellence and celebrate service.

They remind us that the story of Saskatchewan medicine is not written only in lecture halls or hospital wings, but also in friendships, mentorship, and shared purpose.

Looking ahead, the legacy of Highlights is one to be proud of. It is a tradition built not just on history, but on people—alumni who have made an impact in every corner of this province, and far beyond. To everyone who joined us for this milestone year, and to the reunion classes who reminded us why this work matters: thank you. Your stories, achievements, and spirit are what make the College of Medicine community truly extraordinary.

REUNION YEAR CELEBRATIONS

The Saturday evening banquet, always a highlight of Highlights, was filled with warmth and celebration as reunion classes took center stage. This year, the College proudly recognized the milestone reunion years of the Classes of 1965, 1975, 1985, 1995, and 2005. Alumni from across Canada and as far away as the U.S., and New Zealand.

Class tables buzzed with conversation and laughter as old friends reconnected, sharing memories of training, call shifts, professors, and pranks. For many, it was the first time seeing classmates in a decade. 🍷

🍷 Kelsey Kougiya

Photo Description - Left page from top to bottom

1. Opening Panel session of 2025 conference
2. Class of 1970 alums during the banquet reception
3. Medical Lab class, in session. 1975

Right page from top to bottom

1. Lindsay Gold Medal in Medicine presentation at Convo 1975.
2. Class of 2025 Graduates - Yousef Saber Omar, Zoher Rafid-Hamid.
3. 2025 Highlights Banquet during the program

SAVE THE DATE: Highlights in Medicine 2026

SASKATOON, SK | JUNE 19- 20, 2026

Thank you for YOUR SUPPORT!

With heartfelt appreciation, we express our sincere thanks to the following contributors who have donated to the Alumni & Community Fund. Through your generous charitable donations, valuable initiatives can continue for our alumni, our students, and our whole College of Medicine community.

Donations made between May 1, 2024 - April 30, 2025

Dr. Ronald Ailsby
Dr. Kathryn Bigsby
Dr. Stella Blackshaw
Dr. Robert Burechailo
Dr. Maurice Chrusch
Dr. Dawn Drotar
Dr. Peter Dyck
Dr. Randall Friesen
Dr. John Green
Dr. Roger Gustafson
Dr. William Hodge

Dr. Maureen Hutson
Dr. Jodi Kashmere
Dr. Geraldine Kurz (Elynuik)
Dr. Dennis Lanigan
Dr. Robert MacCarty
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Dr. John McGeough
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Dr. Mark Sanders
Dr. Karen Shaw
Dr. Ronald Shore

Dr. Gerald Siemens
Dr. Charles Simpson
Dr. Howard Vigrass
Dr. Brenda Wollin
Dr. Timothy Wollin
Dr. Elaine Woo
Dr. Allan Woo

Donations made between May 1, 2023 - April 30, 2024

Dr. Stella Blackshaw
Dr. Leslie Chatterson
Dr. Albert Christ
Dr. Eileen Dahl
Dr. B. Mark Keegan
Dr. Elizabeth Varughese

**Special thanks also to the over
65 individuals that have
donated anonymously.**

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this donor list, but we recognize that errors may occur. If your name has been omitted or listed incorrectly, please accept our sincerest apology.



Shaping our FUTURE

We've built this community, but YOU CAN DECIDE HOW IT GROWS.

Across generations, the College of Medicine has shaped not only physicians but a community of learners, mentors, researchers, and friends. The Alumni and Community Program continues that story today, bringing people together through shared memories, meaningful connections, and new opportunities to give back.

Work is continually being done to serve our community better, and this year is no exception. From developing new ways to connect with classmates, to creating spaces that feel like home within our college walls, we're building the future - one project at a time.

IMAGINE...

A digital kiosk

In the college where you can browse class composites, discover alumni achievements, or make a quick donation to support the next generation.

An alumni lounge

Where you can stop in for a coffee, reconnect with peers, and catch up on the latest news.

An online archive

Where class photos and milestone moments are at your fingertips.

An alumni excellence award

Recognizing alumni community members who dedicate themselves to advocacy, philanthropy and/or excellence in the field of medicine.

THESE ARE JUST A FEW OF THE WAYS YOUR STORY AS A COLLEGE OF MEDICINE ALUMNUS CONTINUES, THROUGH CONNECTION, RECOGNITION, AND SHARED PURPOSE.

Donate to the Alumni and Community Fund:

<https://donate.usask.ca/online/medicine.php?>



Have questions, connect with us today!

There are numerous ways you can give to the USASK College of Medicine and the Alumni and Community Fund, including gifts of cash, giving through your will, and gifts of securities. Contact our Advancement Team for information on current opportunities.

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Fiscal Financial REVIEW



ANNUAL SPENDING MODEL

The Alumni and Community Program's fiscal budgeting is based on the practice of spending only the revenue earned during the previous year, ensuring the long-term sustainability of initiatives.

ZERO-BASE | SPEND REVENUE EARNED DURING THE PREVIOUS YEAR

The pool of funds available annually is directly resulting from the previous year's revenue earned through the Community Contributions drive. Expenditures are held against targeted areas and budget percentages outlined in the below 50/35/15 model.

ALUMNI AND COLLEGE COMMUNITY INITIATIVES | 50%

Sponsorship and/or organization of initiatives focused on increasing engagement, professional development and philanthropic support of alumni, faculty and the medical community.

HIGHLIGHTS IN MEDICINE | LEAN FUNDING USING RESERVES

The reserve funds held from the current and previous years will support the organization of the Highlights in Medicine program until revenues are deposited. The Highlights in Medicine program should be revenue generating to support the growth of the reserve funds.

LEARNER INITIATIVES | 35%

Sponsorship of activities and initiatives focused on helping students/residents succeed in academics, life and personal skills.

RESERVE HOLDBACK | 15%

Special projects and unforeseen expenses

College of Medicine Alumni and Community Fund

Through an annual call for support, the Community Contribution Drive asks alumni, students, residents and faculty of the College of Medicine to give back by making a charitable gift in a denomination that is meaningful the them. As a self/peer funded initiative focused group, the Alumni and Community Program can only expend funds that are actively available. Making the annual financial support of our community vital.

Annual Activity	2024 - 2025
New Contributions	\$ 114,043
Investment Returns	\$
Non-Salary Expenditures	\$ (5,852)
Net Activity	\$ 108,192
Beginning Fund Balance at May 1	\$ 0
Total Fund Balance at April 30	\$ 108,192
Estimated Funds available for Next Fiscal Year	
Current Spendable Fund Balance	\$ 108,192
Total Funds Available	\$ 108,192

** Discrepancies in expense and profit reporting are likely due to Alumni & Community Program initiatives taking place across multiple fiscal years.

** The University of Saskatchewan fiscal year runs from May 1 - April 30.

The College of Medicine Alumni Student Bursary Fund

This bursary fund was created to provide financial support to medical students. Eligibility is open to undergraduate students in the College of Medicine who have demonstrated need and are in good academic standing. Each year the number and value of bursaries dispersed is determined from the annual investment returns and contributed capital.

Annual Activity	2024-2025	2023 - 2024	2022 - 2023
New Contributions	\$	\$	\$ 5,600
Investment Returns	\$ 44,483	\$ 38,219	\$ 19,071
Undergraduate Awards	\$ (16,000)	\$ (16,000)	\$ (16,000)
Net Activity	\$ 28,483	\$ 22,220	\$ 8,671
Beginning Fund Balance at May 1	\$ 512,799	\$ 490,580	\$ 481,908
Fund Balance Composition	\$ 541,282	\$ 512,799	\$ 490,580
Endowment Fund	\$ 526,079	\$ 501,486	\$ 482,506
Spendable Fund	\$ 15,204	\$ 11,312	\$ 8,074
Estimated Funds available for Next Fiscal Year			
Current Spendable Fund Balance	\$ 15,204		

The Medicine Alumni Engagement Fund

The purpose of this fund is to administer special allocation grants to fund projects or activities specifically designed to foster alumni engagement with the College of Medicine, in the areas of mentorship, ambassadorship or giving.

Annual Activity	2024-2025	2023 - 2024	2022 - 2023
New Contributions	\$	\$	\$
Investment Returns	\$ 11,460	\$ 11,527	\$ 5,215
Non-Salary Expenditures	\$ (10,765)	\$ (6,483)	\$ (635)
Net Activity	\$ 695	\$ 5,044	\$ 4,580
Beginning Fund Balance at May 1	\$ 124,275	\$ 119,231	\$ 114,651
Total Fund Balance at April 30 (internally restricted)	\$ 124,970	\$ 124,275	\$ 119,231
Estimated Funds available for Next Fiscal Year			
Current Spendable Fund Balance	\$ 124,970		
Estimated Spending Allocation for 2025-2026	\$ 11,660		
Total Funds Available	\$ 136,660		

** The identities of bursary winners are kept private due to the selection criteria being based on the financial need of the recipient(s).

** The Reunion Medical Student Bursary is an endowed fund that lives in perpetuity.

Learners, faculty, alumni, leaders,

KEEP YOUR COMMUNITY CLOSE

You are, and forever will be,
a part of the USask College of Medicine
and its flourishing legacy.



**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE,
CONTACT:**

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Co-Chair, Community Advisory Committee

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