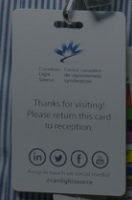


CONNECTIVE ISSUE

**Expanding the boundaries
of collaboration**



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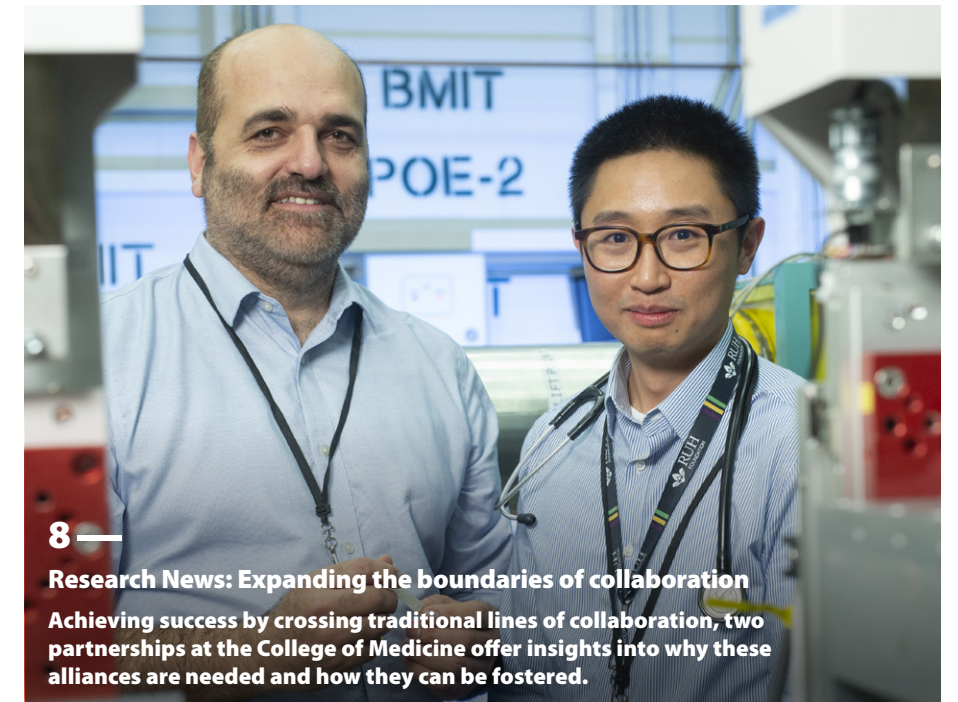
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ON THE COVER

Juan Ianowski and Julian Tam, College of Medicine researchers



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Research News: Expanding the boundaries of collaboration

Achieving success by crossing traditional lines of collaboration, two partnerships at the College of Medicine offer insights into why these alliances are needed and how they can be fostered.

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Send us your ideas

This magazine shares successes and news about the College of Medicine at USask. Please email medicinecommunications@usask.ca with ideas for future stories.

Find us online at:

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As you will see in the following pages, your college continues to do great work and a great deal of work: we are well into another busy fall on our campuses in Regina and Saskatoon and at our sites around the province.

We’ve highlighted many of our learners’ achievements in this issue. Their energy, excellence and aspirations are always impressive and humbling. Our college is focused on supporting our learners in the best ways possible so that they can fulfill their great potential. One of our top priorities is student wellness, and we continue to expand and improve offerings in this area.

Researchers at the College of Medicine are incredibly valuable to our university, province and world. Their work from lab bench to bedside to community is improving patient care and the health and well-being of people in Saskatchewan and beyond. Take time to read about them in the pages that follow. I’m excited to have some truly courageous collaborations showcased across partnerships in Indigenous health, also a top priority of our college, and cystic fibrosis research. Read about exciting opportunities ahead in pediatrics research with the opening of the Jim Pattison Children’s Hospital. All provide impressive examples of how we are working to build research capacity—another of our top priorities.

Faculty and staff engagement is a top priority, as well. For staff, we are

supporting them with new development opportunities, including an online course, *Building an Awareness of Cultural Humility*, through our Division of Continuing Medical Education. We’ve also begun a college program, CoM LEAD (Learning, Excellence and Development) to provide expanded professional development opportunities to our employees. On the faculty side, we have our senior leadership team rounded out once again with Dr. Marilyn Baetz now in the role of Vice-Dean Faculty Engagement. More news to come in this area!

Through the many awards and other news items in this issue, we showcase our continued commitment to excellence in medical education. Our magazine is not complete without news from and for our alumni and friends, and appreciation for our donors. I hope you will take some time to enjoy our 2019 *Connective Issue* magazine. ♥

Dr. Preston Smith
Dean, College of Medicine

College administration

- Dean:** Dr. Preston Smith
- Vice-Dean Medical Education:** Dr. Kent Stobart
- Vice-Dean Research:** Dr. Marek Radomski
- Vice-Dean Faculty Engagement:** Dr. Marilyn Baetz
- Associate Dean, School of Rehabilitation Science:** Dr. Teresa Paslawski
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- Director, Faculty Development:** Dr. Cathy MacLean
- Director, Division of Social Accountability:** Dr. Lori Hanson

Provincial and department heads

- Anesthesiology, Perioperative Medicine and Pain Management:** Dr. Mateen Raazi
- Biomedical Sciences**
- Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology:** Dr. Thomas Fisher
- Biomedical Sciences**
- Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology:** Dr. Bill Roesler
- Community Health and Epidemiology:** Dr. Anne Leis
- Emergency Medicine:** Dr. James Stempien
- Family Medicine:** Dr. Kathy Lawrence
- Medical Imaging:** Dr. Sheldon Wiebe
- Medicine:** Dr. Haissam (Sam) Haddad
- Obstetrics & Gynecology:** Dr. Annette Epp (interim)
- Pathology and Laboratory Medicine:** Dr. Fergall Magee
- Pediatrics:** Dr. Ron Siemens (interim)
- Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation:** Dr. Gary Linassi
- Psychiatry:** (to be announced)
- Surgery:** Dr. Ivar Mendez
- Saskatchewan Cancer Agency:** Dr. Shahid Ahmed



New medical students cloaked

The MD Class of 2023 was welcomed to the medical profession at the 2019 White Coat Ceremony.

The 100 incoming first-year medical students received their white coats in a formal cloaking ceremony. The coat symbolizes their first step towards becoming physicians. The ceremony took place at Prairieland Park in Saskatoon on October 4, 2019.

Researchers awarded

Six College of Medicine researchers and their teams received \$4.85 million from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research for their projects focusing on Indigenous Health, HIV and cancer.

The grants include \$2.26 million for research into re-awakening and applying Indigenous knowledge of wellness, a four-year project led by CoM researchers Dr. Malcolm King, Department of Community Health and Epidemiology, and Dr. Alexandra King, Cameco Chair in Indigenous Health.

Dr. Humphrey Fonge (Department of Medical Imaging) and his team received \$872,000 to develop a set of new therapies for advanced colorectal cancer, including an antibody which clings to colorectal cancer cells and kills them.

Dr. Shahid Ahmed (Department of Medical Oncology) and his team received \$100,000 for research into treatment for advanced colorectal cancer that has spread to the liver.

Dr. Linda Chelico (Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology) and her research team received \$864,450 for a five-year project that is looking at a battalion of natural proteins in the body that attack the HIV virus and destroy it by mutating its genetic information.

Radio-pathologist Ekaterina Dadachova (College of Pharmacy and Nutrition) teamed up with **Dr. Maruti Uppalapati (Department of Pathology)** to develop human radioactive antibodies that would target cancer cells in people and pet dogs, killing tumors without harming healthy tissue. They received \$765,000 for their project.

Baetz new Vice-Dean Faculty Engagement



Dr. Marilyn Baetz took on the role of Vice-Dean Faculty Engagement effective Nov. 1, 2019.

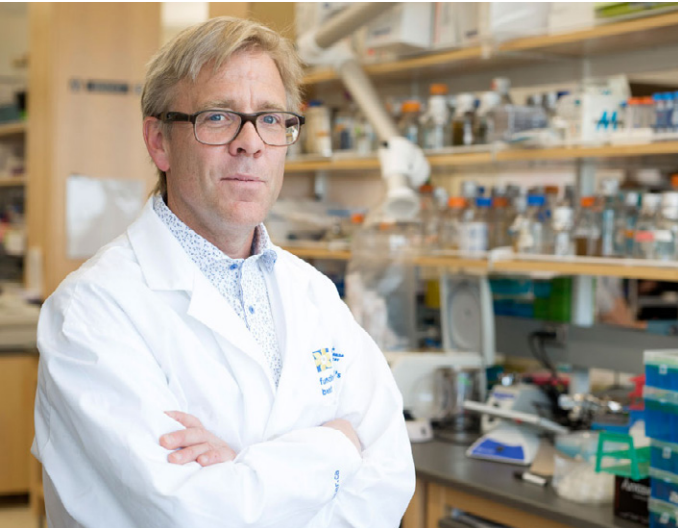
With 20 years of experience in the College of Medicine, she has served on leadership committees representing physicians at the Saskatoon Health Region and the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA). As a USask alumnus, Baetz has taken all of her post-secondary education and training at the university. She moves to the new position after serving as provincial head of psychiatry.

Funding for new HIV therapy

Biochemist Linda Chelico received \$213,000 to develop a new therapy for HIV.

She is one of eight University of Saskatchewan (USask) researchers who were awarded a total of \$1.3 million by the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) for equipment to support projects in health, food security, environmental protection, public safety and computer technology.

Chelico will be using the grant for a high-resolution instrumentation for designing and selecting compounds that allow enzymes to alter the genetic information of HIV to stop virus replication.



Nutrien Chair announced

Pathology professor Dr. Ron Geyer (PhD) was named the Nutrien Chair in Clinical Research for a five-year term starting Oct. 2019.

The position comes with a \$600,000 investment for research and clinical collaborations with the College of Medicine (CoM), the Royal University Hospital (RUH) and the RUH Foundation.

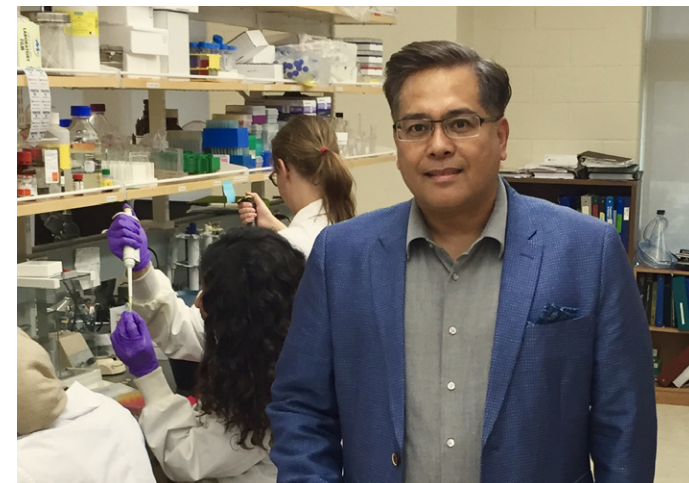
Geyer and his team will be training clinicians in the use of new molecular cancer tests for clinical care at RUH, reducing travel time for tests, lowering test turnaround times, and improving therapy monitoring and surgical outcomes. His research program will also develop the next generation of molecular imaging agents for cancer diagnostics. This builds off the work completed by Geyer with his colleagues Dr. Homphrey Fonge (PhD) and Dr. Paul Babyn (MD) at the USask Centre for Biologic Imaging Research and Development in 2014.

The research chair, previously held by Babyn, was originally established in 2004, with a \$1.5 million donation from Nutrien to the RUH Foundation to accelerate clinical research at USask and clinical care at the Royal University Hospital within the Saskatchewan Health Authority.

Concussion symptoms reversed by magnetic therapy

A magnetic therapy can help reverse concussion symptoms such as loss of balance, hazy comprehension, sleep disturbance and ability to walk straight.

Dr. Changiz Taghibiglou (PhD), a professor in the Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology, and Dr. Yanbo Zhang (MD), a professor in the Department of Psychiatry, are researching concussion therapies. They found that twenty minutes of Low Frequency Magnetic Simulation through a laptop-style device improved concussion symptoms in rodents. The therapy is non-invasive, easy to use and cost-effective. ▀



Disrupting communication inside malignant cells

Professor of Surgery Dr. Francisco Cayabyab (PhD) and his team have found a therapy to stop human breast cancer cells from replicating.

The therapy interferes with an intracellular messenger which helps spread cancer between cells. The team received \$50,000 from the Saskatchewan Health Research Foundation to test this treatment on other cancers, including prostate, and an aggressive form of brain cancer called glioblastoma. ▀

Plan prioritizes Indigenous-led agenda

Indigenous communities and individuals will be leading Indigenous health research under the new five-year strategic plan of the National Institute of Indigenous Peoples' Health (IIPH).

IIPH Scientific Director Dr. Carrie Bourassa, who is also a professor in the Department of Community Health and Epidemiology, unveiled the plan in June. The strategic plan was a result of two years of engaging with grassroots community members, organizations and researchers across Canada to guide a research investment of about \$43 million to 2024.

IIPH is one of 13 institutes within the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). CIHR also changed its funding model, so that research dollars will go directly to Indigenous communities, instead of requiring a partnership with universities. ▀



Indigenous-led research centre funded

An Indigenous-led centre will be addressing health issues faced by Indigenous communities such as HIV and other sexually transmitted disease.

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research has awarded a \$2.84 million grant over the next five years to establish an Indigenous-led centre. The centre will be led by Dr. Alexandra King (MD), the USask Cameco Chair in Indigenous Health. Saskatchewan has some of the highest rates of HIV and Hepatitis C in the country. Nearly 80 per cent of new HIV cases in Saskatchewan are among Indigenous people. ▀



Dr. Nazeem Muhajarine (PhD), professor in Community Health and Epidemiology, and Dr. Jessie Forsyth (PhD), director of the Mozambique-Canada Maternal Health Project. (Photo: Don Kossick)

Ambulances support USask Mozambique project

The Mozambique-Canada Maternal Health Project has provided six ambulances for three districts in Inhambane, Mozambique.

The ambulances will help expectant mothers avoid walking up to 15 kilometers over sandy and difficult terrain to receive care. The five-year project is designed to reduce maternal and newborn mortality rates and improve sexual and reproductive health. The research team uses a woman-centred and gender sensitive approach to increase capacity in the health-care system. Research is taking place in 20 communities throughout the province of Inhambane. ▀

College Awards

Our faculty and staff strive for success every day. The following highlights many of the achievements made throughout the past year.



Medical hall calls on Dr. Dosman

Dr. James Dosman (MD) was inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame this year for his contributions to respiratory, agricultural and rural medicine over a long career that continues today. He currently works at the Canadian Centre for Health and Safety in Agriculture (CCHSA), which he helped to establish in 1986. More than 40 years later, he is serving as a Distinguished Research Chair on campus and leading innovative research initiatives. ♥

College of Medicine physician Educator of the Year

Dr. Paul Olszynski (MD) was named the 2018 Canadian Point of Care Ultrasound Society (CPoCUS) Educator of the Year. He's an associate professor in emergency medicine. He was nominated by colleagues within the Department of Emergency Medicine for his outstanding involvement in point of care ultrasound (PoCUS) education for undergraduates and postgraduates. CPoCUS recognizes and presents the award to individuals for their engagement and initiative in the PoCUS field. ♥



Dan Mittleholtz (centre), instructional designer in the college's Division of Continuing Medical Education, receiving the award.

Indigenous Wellness program recognized

The *Role of Practitioners in Indigenous Wellness* course received national recognition after its launch last year. The course received the Canadian Association for University Continuing Education (CAUCE) Program Award for Non-Credit Programming Under 48 Hours.

It's one of two courses in the Indigenous Wellness program designed to help shed light on Indigenous experiences with the health care system. The second course, *Building Awareness of Cultural Humility*, is intended for personnel at any point of contact within a health care system, from custodial staff to administrative support and students. The online courses were developed by the divisions of Continuing Medical Education (CME) and Continuing Physical Therapy Education (CPTe). ♥



Employee commitment recognized

Dr. Bruna Bonavia-Fisher (PhD), a research facilitator in the college, was awarded the 2018 Sydney Inskip Award. For the past 10 years, Bonavia-Fisher has worked at the College of Medicine where she's known as the go-to person for research information in the college. She assists faculty members to develop funding proposals for research projects, grant writing support and informs them of funding opportunities. The award recognizes extraordinary commitment and service to the college. ♥

CPTe program director recognized

Dr. Stacey Lovo Grona (PhD), Continuing Physical Therapy Education program director, received recognition in April 2019 for her outstanding dedication to physiotherapy with the Joyce Manton Award for Leadership and Professional Involvement from the Saskatchewan Physiotherapy Association (SPA) during its annual awards ceremony. Lovo Grona played a key leadership role in establishing two online courses in the Indigenous Wellness program. ♥



Bhargava receives two awards

Dr. Rashmi Bhargava received the 2019 Certificate of Merit Award from the Canadian Association of Medical Education. The award recognizes, promotes and rewards faculty committed to medical education in Canadian medical schools.

She was also presented with the Physician Teaching Award by the 2019 Regina medical student cohort this past year. The award is presented to a physician preceptor who has made considerable efforts to provide an excellent learning experience to undergraduate medical students. Bhargava is a clinical assistant professor in the College of Medicine, the Year 2 Clinical Skills site lead and the Year 3 Clerkship Coordinator at the college's Regina campus in the Regina General Hospital. ♥

Postgraduate Medical Education Resident Teaching Award

- Dr. Quinten Paterson (MD), Emergency Medicine
- Dr. Nicole Shedden (MD), Family Medicine (Saskatoon)

2019 Resident Doctors of Saskatchewan Excellence in Teaching Award:

- Dr. Roland Auer (MD), Department of Pathology
- Dr. Marla Davidson (MD), Department of Psychiatry
- Dr. Clinton Meyer (MD), Department of Emergency Medicine
- Dr. Scott Pharis (MD), Department of Pediatrics (Cardiology)
- Dr. John Shaw (MD), Department of Surgery (General)
- Dr. Alison Turnquist (MD), Department of Emergency Medicine

Carl Nimrod Award for Teaching Excellence, The Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada:

Dr. Jennifer Duda (MD), Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

2019 Louis Horlick Spirit of the College of Medicine Award:

Dr. Annette Epp (MD'88), Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Saskatchewan Medical Association Physician of the Year Award:

Dr. Sean Groves (MD), Department of Academic Family Medicine

2019 Gerald S. Wong Service Award, Diabetes Canada:

Dr. Tessa Laubscher (MD), Department of Family Medicine

Public Health Physicians of Canada 2019 President's Award:

Dr. Cory Neudorf (MD), Department of Community Health and Epidemiology

Canadian Association for Medical Education (CAME) Foundation Wooster Family Grant in Medical Education:

Dr. Brent Thoma (MD), Department of Emergency Medicine

USask Graduate Students' Association Advising Excellence Award:

Dr. Catherine Trask (PhD), Department of Medicine

Provost's College Award for Outstanding Teaching in the College of Medicine:

Dr. Rob Woods (MD), Department of Emergency Medicine

“I had the good fortune of shadowing Julian on a few visits with patients that have fundamentally altered my approach to my research and made ‘the patient’ real.”

JUAN IANOWSKI

Partners for Patients

Building their partnership took time and diligence, but from the start Juan Ianowski and Julian Tam liked each other and got along well. That made the difference. Together, they have overcome the inherent hurdles in partnering across biomedical science and clinical practice and achieved significant research success.

Ianowski is a physiologist who leads research teams focused on foundational science at the molecular and cellular level. Tam is a respirologist whose days are primarily spent in a medical clinic working with a health care team on the front lines of patient care. While their days are very different, their work shares a common focus: cystic fibrosis (CF).

In 2015, Ianowski learned that Tam had joined the College of Medicine faculty. Knowing that working with a CF clinician would expand his research plans and capabilities, he reached out to Tam and they met for coffee.

“Although we became friends shortly after meeting, it took us a while to really learn to speak the same ‘scientific language,’” Tam said. “I admitted to him early on that I wasn’t able to see how his research would impact my clinical practice.”

Although he was a medical expert in CF, Tam found that Ianowski’s basic research on the details of CF challenged his understanding of the topic.

“Juan was very patient with me and took time to answer my questions. After reading, discussing and learning more, I grew to understand the significance of his research findings in the context of patient care. I view CF and new treatments differently now as I have a fuller understanding of their mechanism.”

For Ianowski, the interaction is providing the benefits he sought.

“Biomedical researchers working in human disease seldom have contact with the clinic or witness a clinician-patient interaction. So the patient is an abstraction,” he said. “I had the good fortune of shadowing Julian on a few visits with patients that have fundamentally altered my approach to my research and made ‘the patient’ real. My goal is to continue producing innovative hypotheses and results, as I should, but in the new context of being involved in the CF clinic.”

Ianowski feels his interactions with patients have had a much larger effect on him than his work has had on them so far. Tam said he finds that patients are interested in hearing about current CF research and

appreciate having a researcher interested in learning from them. They are hopeful that direct patient benefits are not far away, with a few projects related to therapeutics underway they believe will contribute to patient health in a few years.

One of the greatest benefits of the partnership that both rely on is keeping in close touch. They connect daily via phone calls and email and typically meet at least twice a week.

“We discuss every aspect of research,” Ianowski said, “literature, proposing new ideas and hypotheses, discussing results, discussing future experiments and their design, and so on. Once a month or so, Julian comes to one of the weekly meetings I run in my laboratory where the students present their progress. A few times a month I shadow Julian with patients. Finally, Julian and I co-supervise students.”

Said Tam, “We are good friends and want to see each other succeed. We have a similar work ethic. We are willing to meet on short notice to discuss issues and findings. Importantly, we share an interest in cystic fibrosis. We both want to advance understanding of the condition and develop better treatments for it.”

Earlier this year, their groundbreaking finding on what actually takes place in the lungs when a concentrated salt solution is inhaled—a treatment that’s been used for CF patients for more than 20 years—was published in the online Nature Research journal Scientific Reports. They used synchrotron imaging at the Canadian Light Source to learn more about what was taking place in the lungs. The new understanding could pave the way for improved treatments.

“I think that Julian’s generosity with his time and ideas and willingness to allow me to be part of the CF clinic was crucial for our success,” Ianowski said.

While this success, their shared research interest and friendship continue to fuel the partnership, both agree it’s exceptional. They believe more partnerships like theirs are worth pursuing and could be made easier.

“Our working relationship developed organically,” said Tam. “We have shared research interests and were not forced to work together. However, as a busy clinician, having time to collaborate is helpful.”

“Basic researchers and clinicians work in separate buildings and departments in our college,” said Ianowski. “As a result, it is entirely possible that there are basic researchers and clinicians working on the same disease in the college and they do not even know of each other. This is a lost opportunity.”

He suggests that clinicians be ensured more time for research and the profile of basic science researchers be enhanced and more visible to clinical departments. He feels it would be beneficial if researchers could change departments more easily as their research interests develop over time.



Expanding the boundaries of collaboration

Achieving success by crossing traditional lines of collaboration, two partnerships at the College of Medicine offer insights into why these alliances are needed and how they can be fostered.

 KATE BLAU

“I think Julian and I achieve an ideal situation in which the line separating the clinic and the research lab has been blurred: basic scientists participate in the clinic and health care providers inform and guide the basic research efforts.”

The advantages of developing their partnership are clear, and many. At a high level, a fuller scientific understanding of the disease that is grounded in the realities of patients’ lives and clinical care has meant a new perspective on CF lung disease for both researchers. On a practical level, the partnership has also expanded the research to include human tissue samples, planning for research on human subjects, and the possibility of clinical trials in the near future.

Partners for Indigenous Health

Linda Chelico and Alexandra King genuinely like each other. It’s why they keep finding interesting ways to work together. That, and their mutual respect for the different expertise each brings to the union, plus their willingness to admit their own weaknesses and learn from one another.

And that means their work is making a difference for Indigenous communities in Saskatchewan. They connected not long after King joined the college as Cameco Chair in Indigenous Health in October 2017.

“We both work in the HIV field and 80 per cent of those living with HIV in Saskatchewan are Indigenous,” Chelico said.

She was aware there were important ethics requirements in working with Indigenous people and communities, beyond the standard biomedical science ethics she regularly applies in her work as a biochemist.

“When Alexandra started at the college, people were telling me to connect with her.”

King is a citizen of the Nipissing First Nation in Ontario and an internal medicine specialist with a focus on HIV/AIDS, hepatitis C and HIV/HCV co-infections. She also brings expertise as a community-based researcher to their partnership.

Chelico first reached out to King to discuss a specific research project—one she decided not to pursue on the basis of King’s advice that further engagement with community was required to determine if the research was a priority for them. That critical step allows for a partnership and good processes to be co-created, resulting in truly community-engaged and ethical research.

Then, a little serendipity came into play to cement their research partnership and friendship, when organizers of the Canadian Association for HIV Research (CAHR) decided to hold their 2019 conference in Saskatoon. They approached King to be a conference chair and she reached out to Chelico to be her co-chair. This led to about eight months of working together intensively on the conference theme and planning.

For Chelico, the CAHR conference meant diving into unfamiliar work



Julian Tam and Juan Ianowski



Alexandra King and Linda Chelico

“I met someone living with HIV and asked them about things or just talked to them about their everyday life, what’s it like to get care, and so on. That really has made things more realistic in my research—what’s important and why.”

LINDA CHELICO

and settings. She took the initiative to reach out to all Saskatchewan Indigenous HIV research groups she could to ensure the conference effectively brought forward all the work being done in the province and included those doing the work. She also interviewed people living with HIV to ensure the conference planning and theme were effective and appropriate.

King said, “One of the things I was grateful for with Linda was she had already done a lot of work around reconciliation and what that meant herself, and really took a leadership role as a strong ally. That helped set the tone for the conference.”

The two also work together on the Saskatchewan HIV/AIDS Research Endeavour (SHARE). Chelico joined the group when a spot opened up with the departure of Ryan Meili, formerly on the college faculty, who was entering politics and went on to become leader of the Saskatchewan New Democratic Party.

SHARE gave Chelico more community-level research exposure.

“I have huge admiration for Linda for being involved in SHARE,” King said. “She’s been asked to step up, and sometimes in weird and wonderful ways, and she does.”

Uncertain where the work was taking her, Chelico nonetheless chose to take the risk. While she admits that the end results of a lot of what she’s doing feel unclear and very different from what she’s used to, she knows the work is important as an HIV researcher in Saskatchewan.

“I actually spoke to people that are living with HIV. I have worked with aspects related to HIV for about 10 years before I actually met someone living with HIV and asked them about things or just talked to them about their everyday life, what’s it like to get care, and so on. That really has made things more realistic in my research—what’s important and why.”

While the type of tangible benefits Chelico is used to seeing in scientific lab results remain elusive, working with King on the CAHR conference and through SHARE has generated a lot of ideas for how they could do research together.

In the meantime, they have some new areas of work to keep their partnership alive and developing. King is leading research, with Chelico as one of the investigators, on a new \$2.9-million Indigenous-led research centre to close gaps in prevention and care of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases. They are collaborating on a project to support better ethical approaches in Indigenous health research, with King bringing knowledge of community-based research and Indigenous perspectives and Chelico bringing her grounding in ethical requirements in biomedical science research. They are also working together for Sanctum 1.5, a 10-bed prenatal care home which supports high-risk and HIV positive pregnant women at risk of having their infants apprehended at birth.

For Chelico, the partnership has been about stepping out of her comfort zone and doing work that wouldn’t bring clear or immediate career benefit. For King, it’s an opportunity to work closely with someone whose interest and strength in basic science complements her own strengths in community-based research and as an Indigenous woman and medical expert.

So far, their work hasn’t involved King joining Chelico in the lab, but King said she is certain of this:

“If I was going to spend time in the lab, I would want it to be with Linda.” ♥

New opportunities open with hospital

As the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital opens its doors, there may also be a window opening for new research opportunities in children's health.



Dr. Darryl Adamko and Dr. Ron Siemens

 **KRISTEN McEWEN**

Moving from a ward in its former location at the Royal University Hospital to a facility dedicated to pediatric and maternal health care is no small feat—from recruiting more than 70 physicians in 20 specialties, to ensuring the right equipment and information technology needs are covered.

RESEARCH NEWS: NEW OPPORTUNITIES OPEN WITH HOSPITAL

“Too often we were advocating for needed clinical services for our young patients. Pediatric patients need different approaches for disease.”

DR. RON SIEMENS (MD)

The \$285.9 million venture has been a partnership between the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital (JPCH) Foundation, the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) and the Government of Saskatchewan.

Dr. Ron Siemens (MD), the current provincial head of the Department of Pediatrics, said that having pediatrics within a general hospital was challenging.

“Too often we were advocating for needed clinical services for our young patients,” Siemens said. “Pediatric patients need different approaches for disease. When dealing with children, you're dealing with people who are physically and mentally immature; they're vulnerable people.

“Now with the new dedicated facility, the opportunity is coming where we have the critical mass of health care staff allowing time for doctors to not only treat children and teach students, but also to develop children's research programs.”

Encouraging physicians to engage in research

Director of Pediatric Research, Dr. Darryl Adamko is excited about the increasing research possibilities in Saskatchewan.

“What needs to happen next is a refocus of resources, time and personnel,” Adamko said.

The College of Medicine (CoM) currently supports academic clinical funding plan (ACFP) contracts with physicians and the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA). These contracts are intended to ensure consistent compensation for both academic and clinical work.

While education in the medical school has been a critical need, the next goal is to develop doctors with time to do research and acquire resources to help these researchers.

Among research resources available to physicians is the Clinical Trial Support Unit (CTSU), which provides assistance in the administrative, operational and regulatory aspects of clinical research, including handling contracts, budgets, operations and ethical approvals.

Like all things, there's a cost to use CTSU services.

“We are working to align future funds from the JPCHF to go to the CTSU, which will create designated services for pediatric research,” Adamko explained.

“We have always been good at creating collaborations across disciplines in the university—from Kinesiology to the Edwards School of Business,” he said. “What we are expecting now is an expansion in these collaborations.”

“For example, epidemiologists are doing studies in children all the time, but need more access to the data and more funding for students,” he said.

Quality improvement research is critical.

“For example, how many referrals are we getting for inflammatory bowel disease from Prince Albert, Wakaw, Yorkton, or Regina?” Adamko said. “Who is being transferred, what's going out of province, how much are we spending on this disease? Surgeons, nurses, allied health professionals might all have ideas on how to make the current health care system better—how to keep people in their own communities.

“The taxpayers and health region want to know how to keep costs down while still providing best service, but they don't know how. The acquisition of clinical data is part of the research to understand and translate a problem into a better health solution.”

Possibility of a research institute

Adamko is interested in establishing a research institute at the facility, similar to those already established on the Prairies, including the Women and Children's Health Research Institute in Edmonton and the Children's Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba (CRIM) in Winnipeg.

The Department of Pediatrics currently has a research group called SPRING, the Saskatchewan Pediatric Research and Innovation Group. This diverse group of University of Saskatchewan researchers are engaged in child health research.

JPCH Foundation president and CEO Brynn Boback-Lane noted that discussions regarding a research institute are preliminary but quite positive.

“(The Foundation is) very much interested in hearing from clinicians, researchers and allied health teams across the province on what they would like to see in the future when it comes to research in maternal and pediatric care,” Boback-Lane said.

She added that conducting research and delivering care go hand-in-hand.

“We are 100 per cent dedicated to ensuring research continues and that new research is supported in Saskatchewan for our children, newborns, families and mothers to be,” Boback-Lane said.

“As we build a world-class facility, we support the involvement and commitment to research and other innovations that will take place throughout our province.” ■

The Student Medical Society of Saskatchewan (SMSS) executive is very excited to welcome the class of 2023 to the college.

We kicked off the year with a fun-filled Welcome Week, with events like our annual Welcome BBQ with students and staff, a bowling night, and a café evening with clerkship students. The week ended with our annual Healthcare Classic Slo-Pitch Tournament, which raised funds for the Student Wellness Initiative Toward Community Health (SWITCH).

Students also took part in the Medsters Golf Tournament with residents, physicians, and alumni. Following that, we held the 16th annual *Miles for Smiles* fundraiser in support of the Jim Pattison Children's Hospital Foundation. In addition to participating in and working for our local community in Saskatchewan, U of S also had one of the largest delegations at the 2019 Canadian Federation of Medical Students' Annual General Meeting in St. John's, Newfoundland. Our group included three SMSS executive members and five council members. Currently, four of us are preparing to attend the Western Dean's Conference in Edmonton to advocate for issues relevant to medical students.

Recently, the class of 2023 was officially welcomed into the college at their White Coat Ceremony. They also had the opportunity to meet fellow students and staff at the annual Fall Formal, a night to celebrate the accomplishments of our students and staff. All of these events help establish a sense of community and support within the College of Medicine (CoM), and many of them were supported by the CoM Alumni Association.

We are grateful for the generosity and commitment of the alumni in improving our experience at the College of Medicine. It is impossible to list all the different ways our alumni contribute to the student experience at the college, and we thank you for your



Left to right: Kiyana Ghavami, vice-president academic junior; Daisy Ko, vice-president external senior; Rishi Thakkar, vice-president internal junior; Sunny Lu, vice-president finance; Shaylin Pillay, vice-president external junior; Shivani Tauh, vice-president internal senior; Tayyaba Bhatti, president; and Jasleen Saini, vice-president communications.

(Missing: Lucas King, vice-president academic senior; Tyrell Wees, vice-president Regina; Kate Morrison, past president; and Ben Abelseth, past vice-president Regina.)

continuous support. We appreciate your involvement with the SMSS and the college so far this year and would like to invite you to the events we have planned for the upcoming months:

In Regina, we have Integration Weekend planned for November 1-2 and the Fifth Annual Curling Bonspiel in February 2020. In Saskatoon, the Alumni-Student Hockey Game will take place in April 2020. We would love to have you at these events. You will be receiving invitations for these events from the college's alumni relations officer and can find more details at: saskmedstudents.com. You can also contact our Vice-President External (vpexternal.smss@gmail.com) with inquiries about these events.

We look forward to working with you and getting to know you through our events. ♥

Sincerely,

The 2019-2020 SMSS Executive

Improving efficiency

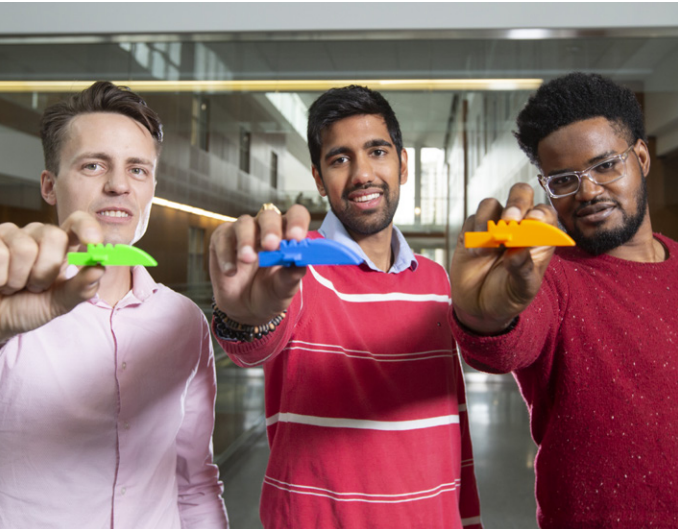


Medical student Kaishan Aravinthan is looking for ways to improve Saskatchewan's hospitals. He received a \$5,000 Dean's Research Award to visit ear, nose and throat (ENT) programs across Western Canada during the summer and learn about how each program delivers optimal care for their patients.

"I am extremely grateful for this award. Not only has it elevated the financial burden and allowed me to be a better student, but it has also allowed me to embark on this journey to conduct research that I am extremely passionate about," Aravinthan explained. ♥

From an article by Carlee Snow

New program opens doors for student start-ups



Soteria MedTech co-founders, from left, Cuylar Conly, Yash Shukla and Udoka Okpalauwaekwe hold a Lego-like airway device that could help save lives.

Students Cuylar Conly, Yash Shukla and Udoka Okpalauwaekwe are working to commercialize a device created by medicine professor Dr. William McKay. The device opens patients' airways without inserting tubes in the throat—it also stabilizes ventilation 40 per cent faster than current marketed devices.

The students were one of five teams assigned to explore the business potential of a new USask technology, as part of USask Innovation Enterprise's summer entrepreneurs program.

"This program was fantastic," said Cuylar Conly, a medical student and a co-founder of Soteria MedTech, the start-up working on the device for keeping an unconscious patient's airway open during emergency care or when undergoing surgery. ♥

From an article by Federica Giannelli



Supporting students

Dr. Alanna Danilkewich (MD’75) is a passionate alumna and former head of the department of Family Medicine. She is also a longtime College of Medicine donor.

“Philanthropy is an important thing to me. I like to pay it forward. It’s a gratifying feeling to help students,” she says.

Danilkewich is especially passionate about supporting students who are underrepresented in medicine—women, minorities and individuals from lower-income backgrounds. Supporting rural students is something that’s close to her heart. She was the first woman from Meadow Lake to get into medicine, overcoming personal barriers to enroll in the college, and later become a faculty member.

She worked with the college’s advancement team to set up an endowment for five annual rural medicine Family Medicine Resident Awards each year. She hopes it will inspire the next generation of rural medicine practitioners. ▀

“I was proud to receive this award because it felt like my efforts to further family medicine in regional and rural centres was being recognized.

I plan on continuing my efforts throughout my career, as I have never been one to stand by while work needs doing. Thank you again for this award, it means a lot to me.”

DR. KARISSA BRABANT
RECIPIENT OF THE DR. ALANNA DANILKEWICH
RESIDENT AWARD IN RURAL FAMILY MEDICINE

When you give to the College of Medicine, the province’s only medical school, your support is helping to train the next generation of leaders.

There are four critical areas of need within the College of Medicine:

Greatest need

Your gift will be used where it’s needed most, addressing the college’s highest priorities.

Student support

With medical school tuition approaching \$100,000, support for our students in the form of scholarships, bursaries, and awards for tuition or other critical student initiatives means deserving students can pursue their dreams of medical school.

Cutting-edge research

Our investigators are conducting research to advance the understanding of health issues and improve care. Thanks to donors like you, our talented research teams can search for clues to unlock the mysteries of illnesses like cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer’s or stroke. Your gift will help us discover new ways to diagnose, treat and ultimately prevent these illnesses.

Indigenous health

Collaborative and mutually beneficial partnerships with Indigenous peoples and communities are central to our mission. Your gift supports ongoing research initiatives to improve the health and well-being of Indigenous peoples.

To learn more about supporting these initiatives or any others, please contact the Advancement team or visit medicine.usask.ca/alumni-giving

Contact information for the Advancement team:



Gail Shivak
Director of Advancement
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Krista Sanderson (photo unavailable)
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306-966-8864

BY THE
NUMBERS

3,441
College of
Medicine alumni

1,434
of those are living
in Saskatchewan

Stories from the #MyMD Blog

Our medical students are invited to share their experiences through the #MyMD Student Blog. It's a space where our students chronicle their research projects, skill building and firsthand experiences in the communities they will serve.



How Dillon Taught Me that Building Community is a Clinical Skill

A regular contributor to the student blog, Jessica Froehlich was a first-year medical student who stayed in the community of Dillon, Saskatchewan during the summer of 2019 as part of the Making the Links program.

The program prepares students for work in underserved communities locally and globally. It involves course-based learning, volunteering at inner-city health clinics and practicums in rural Indigenous communities and abroad.

In Froehlich's post, she passionately describes her experience in the Dillon community, from praying in a sweat lodge, to learning traditional methods of hunting and cooking. She writes about how Elder James talks about the impact Residential Schools have had on the community — the impact of which are still felt to this day.

Excerpt from Froehlich's entry:

Most early mornings were spent enjoying coffee alone with Martha before the house got busy. She shared of growing up in Dillon, attending the Beauval Residential School, and caring for her two daughters and elderly parents.

I loved hearing about Dillon's history and exchanging stories with her. Sometimes our discussions were solemn when topics such as poverty, violence, addiction, and suicide came up. I was moved by everything she revealed in our morning talks. ♥



Medical students take research projects to Belgium

Second-year medical students Hope Fast and Cadence MacPherson had the opportunity to embark on an adventure to Belgium to present their research on the perspectives of mental health and healthcare professionals about Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) in Saskatchewan.

The pair travelled to Ghent, Belgium in March 2019 to present their Dean's summer research project at the Third International Conference on End of Life Law, Ethics, Policy and Practice.

Excerpt from the entry:

Sadly, an end-of-life care conference must also end. So, we bid "vaarwel" to the fellow attendees with plans to stay in touch and we began our travels back to Canada. It felt very surreal to wake up in Belgium and then fall asleep in Saskatoon with our alarm set for our 9 AM Advanced Communications session scheduled the following morning.

We learned so much over the course of the conference and were inspired to continue learning and contributing to the conversations on end-of-life care. We are already planning for the next course of action in our research and are hoping to fit the 4th international conference into our 2021 schedules. ♥



Prep Part II: My textbook is now my real patient

In part two of a three-part series, Kate Morrison details her experience in the PREP program, a program intended for students transitioning from pre-clerkship to clerkship.

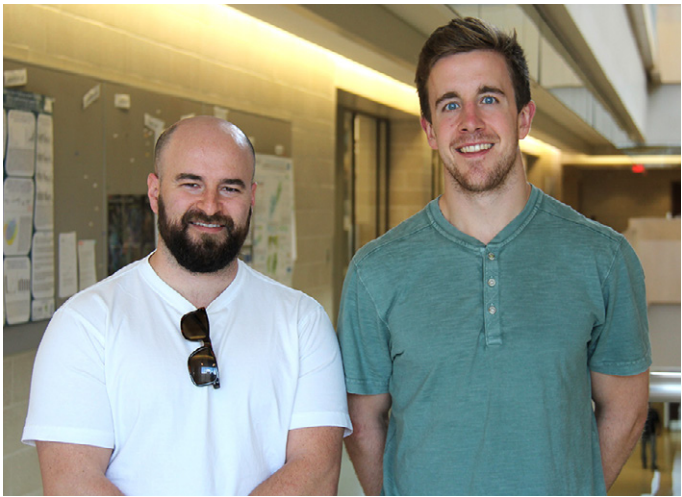
The Physician Recruitment Agency of Saskatchewan's Rural Externship Program (PREP), is an optional program for students to take part in between second- and third-year of medical school in Saskatchewan.

Morrison's placement was in Lanigan, SK, where she had the opportunity to work with Drs. Akinjobi and Dr. Sharma.

Excerpt from Morrison's entry:

I've patted myself on the back for feeling like a mini doctor-to-be in a few instances. For example, when I was looking at a patient's ear, I immediately recalled my dermatology notes on squamous cell carcinoma. Upon seeing a patient present with spoon shaped nails, I was transported back to exams where I had to diagnose iron deficiency anemia – little things these are, but these are the moments for me, at this stage in my training, that feel like huge achievements.

Two years ago I didn't know any of this and now I am explaining it to real patients—this is when I remember how cool medical school is! ♥



PRISM: Pre-clerkship Introductions to Specialties in Medicine

Third-year medical students Adam Neufeld and Preston Njaa are developing a summer program for first-year medical students to help them explore a wide-variety of medical specialties at the pre-clerkship stage.

This program is not part of the PREP program, however students will have the opportunity to engage in lunchtime didactic talks, Q&A sessions with residents and attending physicians, practice specialty-specific simulations and see what these physicians do for a living.

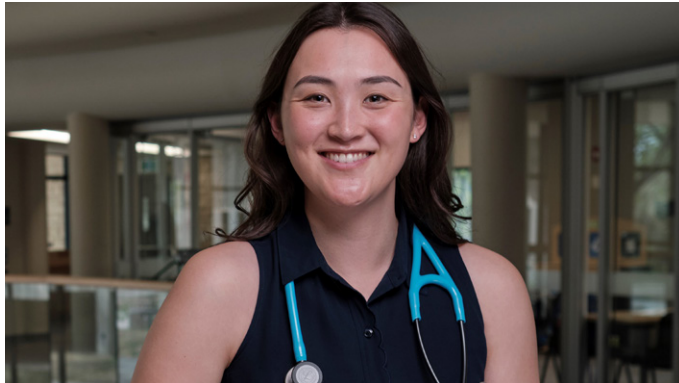
Neufeld and Njaa write that they were inspired to start developing this program at the University of Saskatchewan's College of Medicine based on the existing PREP program at Dalhousie University. ♥

Our students' #MyMD
blogs can be found at
medicine.usask.ca/mymd.php

Student Awards

Hall of fame laureate

Third-year medical student Laura Neuburger was among the 2019 Canadian Medical Hall of Fame (CMHF) Award recipients from across the country. The award involves a \$5,000 cash prize and a trip to the 2020 Canadian Medical Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony in Vancouver. The ceremony will also serve as an opportunity to meet other CMHF Laureates and health leaders from across Canada. 🍀



Third-year medical student Laura Neuburger has been selected to become a 2019 Canadian Medical Hall of Fame Award laureate.
Photography: David Stobbe

Helping her community

Medical student Annette Pegg was the recipient of a 2017 USask Aboriginal Student Achievement Award for Leadership. She grew up on Kawacatoose First Nation and in Regina's inner city, and her experiences have encouraged her to learn more about her communities. 🍀



Indigenous student leadership recognized

Health sciences PhD student Cindy Deschenes was one of two students selected for a \$20,000 award from the College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (CGPS). The Indigenous Graduate Leadership Award recognizes student leadership through community engagement. Deschenes is learning from both Western and traditional Indigenous knowledge to encourage leadership among Indigenous youth. She is studying how leadership affects student mental health and well-being. 🍀



Marhanda Keeping, Emma Phillips-Mosmann and Ashley Trampe

Shinerama campaign success

Three master of physical therapy (MPT) students, Ashley Trampe, Emma Phillips-Mosmann and Marhanda Keeping received national recognition for revamping a social media campaign for Shinerama. The trio received the Best Online Presence award from Shinerama Canada for their fundraising campaign in 2018. Shinerama is the largest post-secondary fundraiser for Cystic Fibrosis Canada.

The 2019 graduating MPT class raised more than \$22,000 during the 2018 fundraising campaign. 🍀

Undergraduate medical student awards

Anatomy Award:
Emma Maelde

Arthur Lyle Bell Memorial Scholarship:
Preston Njaa

Canadian Medical Association Award:
Samantha Robinson

2019 Canadian Medical Hall of Fame (CMHF) Award:
Laura Neuburger

Department of Pediatrics Prize:
Alex Lei

Dr. Beattie Award in Psychiatry:
Brigid McFadden

Dr. Eric Lepp Memorial Award in Medicine:
Shahmir Sohail

Dr. Ernest McBrien Award:
Cadence MacPherson

Dr. G. Ernest McBrien Award:
Emmett Harrison

Dr. Gertrude Crabtree Undergraduate Scholarship in Medicine:
Conley Kreigler

Dr. Hugh MacLean Prize and Silver Medal in Surgery:
Jennifer Mann

Dr. J. W. Gerrard Award in Clinical Pediatrics:
Stephanie Ardell

Dr. Karl E. Oberdieck Prize:
Marelize Muller

Dr. R. Neil Beck Memorial Scholarship:
Zachary Huschi

Dr. Robert G. Murray Undergraduate Award in Medicine:
Mary Lynn Beaulieu

Dr. Vince Matthews Prize in Community Health and Epidemiology:
Katherine Ross-Hopley

Dr. Werner Wohlfarth Memorial Leadership Prize:
Joel Scott

Drs. Epstein and Schnurr Award in Integrative Medicine:
Brendan Groat

Drs. Ivan Jen and Suzanne Yip Award:
Shahmir Sohail

Emergency Medicine Book Prize (Regina):
MaryLynn Beaulieu

Emergency Medicine Book Prize (Saskatoon):
James Im

Gary L. Stoik Memorial Award:
Chris Bell

Gregory A. Stilwell Memorial Scholarship:
Zhuoran Wu

Henry and Cheryl Kloppenburg Prize in Psychiatry:
Annalise Kudryk

Hilliard Silver Medal and Department of Medicine Prize:
Ali Jamal

Internal Medicine Achievement Award (in-province):
Anton Moshynsky

Internal Medicine Achievement Award (out-of-province):
Shahmir Sohail

James Walker Wood Award in Medicine:
Emmett Harrison

John Hall Wedge Scholarship in Medicine:
Kayla Lett

Jon N. Lambi Memorial Scholarship:
Molly Rayner

Lawrence and Penny Clein Scholarship in Palliative Care:
Jacqueline Carverhill

Lindsay Gold Medal:
Shahmir Sohail

MacLeod Silver Medal:
Ali Jamal

Obstetrics and Gynecology Silver Medal:
Zachary Turcotte

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Award:
Brigid McFadden

Professor Popkin Prize in Obstetrics and Gynecology:
Lauren Gillespie

Professors' Prize in Surgery:
Bonnie Liu

Reuben Brant Scholarship in Medicine – academic achievement in year 4:
Kevin Durr

Reuben Brant Scholarship in Medicine - overall academic achievement:
Shahmir Sohail

Reuben Brant Scholarship in Medicine:
Belma Kamencic (year 1),

Reuben Brant Scholarship in Medicine:
Amanda Ames (year 2)

Reuben Brant Scholarship in Medicine:
Lindsay Richels (year 3)

Saskatchewan Medical Association Prize:
Amanda Ames

Saskatchewan Psychiatric Association Award:
Annalise Kudryk

Senior Stick:
Jennifer Knibbs

Shirley A Bergman Award in Integrative Medicine:
Helen Tang

Spirit of the Class Award:
Steven West

Sylvia Turner Scholarship in Medicine:
Zachary Huschi

2019 USask Aboriginal Achievement Award:
Annette Pegg

2019 USask Life and Health Sciences Research Expo (best basic science paper):
Zoe Gillespie

Resident, masters' and PhD student awards

22nd Annual Applied Ergonomics Conference - Creativeness in Ergonomics (CE) Student of the Year Award:

Robin Reist, master's student (Community Health and Epidemiology)

CanMEDS Collaborator:

Dr. Jennifer Woo (Psychiatry, Regina)

CanMEDS Communicator:

Dr. Karen Ho (Internal Medicine, Regina)

CanMEDS Health Advocate:

Dr. Maria Giroux (Obstetrics and Gynecology, Regina)

CanMEDS Leader:

Dr. Jessica Harris (Family Medicine, Saskatoon);
Dr. Sey Shwetz (Emergency Medicine, Saskatoon)

CanMEDS Professional:

Dr. Riley Hartmann (Emergency Medicine, Saskatoon)

CanMEDS Scholar Awards - 1939 Resident Teacher Award:

Dr. Nicole Shedden (Family Medicine, Saskatoon); Dr. Quinten Paterson (Emergency Medicine, Saskatoon)

College of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies - Indigenous Graduate Leadership Award:

Cindy Deschenes, PhD student

Consortium on Multiple Sclerosis Centres - Whitaker Track Research Award:

Hannah Salapa, PhD student (Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology)

Canadian Society for Clinical Investigation and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CSCI-CIHR) Research Award:

Dr. Tara Sander (Anesthesia, Saskatoon)

Exemplary Resident Award:

- Dr. Guerman Rolzing (Family Medicine, La Ronge)
- Dr. Amanda Hall (General Surgery, Saskatoon)

Provost's Graduate Student Teacher Award:

Zeinab Momeni, PhD student (Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology)

2018 Resident Doctors of Saskatchewan (RDoS) - Dr. Brad Ardell Spirit Award:

Dr. James Ardell

2018-19 Resident Doctors of Canada (RDoC) Puddester Award - Resident Wellness:

Dr. Jonathan Dean

Resident Research Day – Top poster in clinical category:

- First place: Dr. Christopher Olivier (Internal Medicine, Saskatoon)
- Second place: Dr. Kayla Parker (Internal Medicine, Saskatoon)
- Third place: Dr. Amanda Halpin (Nephrology, Saskatoon)

Resident Research Day – Top poster in what works category:

- 1st- Dr. Quinten Paterson (1st) – Emergency Medicine, Saskatoon
- Second place: Dr. Joel Buhiire (CCFP Anesthesia, Saskatoon)
- Second place: Dr. Adam Mildenberger (CCFP Anesthesia, Saskatoon)
- Third place: Dr. Raza Naqvi (Diagnostic Radiology, Saskatoon)

2019 Society of Rural Physicians of Canada - Resident Leadership Award:

Dr. Mira Pavani

Medsters Golf Tournament August 24, 2019

The second annual Medsters Golf Tournament took place at the Willows Golf and Country Club on August 24, 2019. Seventy-five doctors, students and friends attended the fun scramble format event. A number of prizes were given out including best team score, best dressed team and closest to the pin. Thank you to all attendees, sponsors and event day volunteers.

This event was presented by MD Financial Management and organized by the College of Medicine Alumni Association, the Saskatchewan Medical Association and the Student Medical Society of Saskatchewan. Special thanks to all sponsors and supporters:





As we head into another year of classes at the College of Medicine it reminds me of how I felt on my first day of medical school.

The thrill of learning innovative techniques and technology, the buzz and energy felt in the crowded hallways, and the anxiety of navigating a new class schedule in a strange new building. I'd like to welcome all of our students to an exciting year ahead, congratulations! I'm confident you will enjoy your time here at our college.

On October 4, myself, along with nine other medical doctors and alumni, had the distinct honour of presenting our first year medical students with their white lab coats, a tradition started many years ago by your alumni association. Did you know that the funding for the white coats comes directly from your annual membership dues? A big thank-you to all of you who purchased an alumni association membership last year.

At our June AGM we said farewell to board members Dr. Nora McKee, Dr. Brian Ulmer and Daniel Lee (Senior Student Medical Society Senior Rep.). Their service was greatly appreciated and their contributions will be sincerely missed. We also adopted a new Memorandum of Understanding with the College of Medicine. And we updated the alumni association's Constitution. Copies of both can be obtained by emailing medicine.alumni@usask.ca The AGM occurred during Highlights in Medicine 2019, read on in this magazine for more details and photos of this incredible event.

At our first board meeting in September we welcomed four new volunteers to our board: Dr. Stella Blackwell, Dr. Terry Zlipko, Dr. Del Haug and Shaylin Pillay (SMSS Jr. Rep.). Thank you for your commitment of time, talent and energy and I look forward to working with you all this year!

Last year, our association continued

engaging students by supporting many of their initiatives and programs. Some examples include providing a lounge and refreshments during exams, sponsoring the Knuckle Cup Hockey Tournament, the Healthcare Classic, Medsters Golf Tournament, Integration Weekend, White Coat Ceremony, and Miles for Smiles, to name a few. Funding to support student initiatives comes directly from your annual membership fees, so thank you again for your support.

As you may know, Dr. Preston Smith has accepted another five-year term as dean of the college. I speak for many when I say we look forward to working with Dr. Smith during his next term.

We have been busy travelling to many cities hosting alumni receptions with Vice-Dean Education Dr. Kent Stobart and Dean Preston Smith this fall. At the time of publishing, we visited Regina, Calgary, and Saskatoon, and will be arriving in Edmonton mid-November. These receptions provide a forum for you to network, socialize and learn about what's happening at your college. I encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities, and I hope to see you soon! ♥

Sincerely,
Dr. Craig Hubbard
President, College of Medicine Alumni Association



Left to right: Dr. Adam McInnes, Shaylin Pillay, Daisy Ko, Dr. Craig Hubbard, Dr. Terry Zlipko, Dr. Donna Skwarchuk, Dr. Steve Sanche and Dr. Del Haug.
(Missing: Dr. Stella Blackshaw, Dr. Wayne Clarke, Dr. Robert Hickie, Dr. Karen Shaw, and Dr. Charlie Simpson.)

College of Medicine Alumni Association board members

- President:**
Dr. Craig Hubbard
- Vice-President:**
Dr. Terry Zlipko
- Professor Emerita:**
Dr. Stella Blackshaw
- Member at Large (Regina):**
Dr. Wayne Clarke
- Member at Large:**
Dr. Del Haug
- Professor Emeriti and Vice Chair Alumni Membership:**
Dr. Robert Hickie
- Student Medical Society of Saskatchewan Senior Representative:**
Daisy Ko
- Member at Large:**
Dr. Adam McInnes
- Student Medical Society of Saskatchewan Junior Representative:**
Shaylin Pillay
- Member at Large:**
Dr. Steve Sanche
- Member at Large:**
Dr. Karen Shaw
- Highlights Consultant:**
Dr. Charlie Simpson
- Member at Large:**
Dr. Donna Skwarchuk

Driving healthcare innovation

A health emergency changed the trajectory of Melinda Richter’s career, launching her from telecommunications into medical innovations.

AMANDA WORONIUK

“I found it very frustrating then, at that moment, that all this impressive money and talent was going over here (to a tech company) when a pretty basic human healthcare gap existed in the healthcare system.”

MELINDA RICHTER (BCOMM’93)



Consider this scenario: while on an overseas work assignment, a bug bite puts you in the hospital. Despite all the available technology and equipment, doctors can’t help you.

Melinda Richter (BComm’93) experienced exactly this. After obtaining a business degree from Edwards School of Business, she joined a management team in a telecommunications company and took on several international roles.

While stationed in China, she was bitten by an unknown insect and experienced a severe reaction, which landed her in the hospital for several days. While in that hospital room, she realized doctors couldn’t access her crucial health information.

“I found it very frustrating then, at that moment, that all this impressive money and talent was going over here (to a tech company),” said Richter. “When a pretty basic human healthcare gap existed in the healthcare system.”

Richter was the Gertler Lecturer at the college’s 2019 Highlights in Medicine alumni reunion conference in June. She spoke about the importance of driving healthcare innovation, high-quality patient care, and the need for technology to bring people and processes together.

The founder of Prescience International, a company dedicated to accelerating research to the patient, Richter went on to partner with JLABS, a division of Johnson & Johnson Innovation, where she now serves as Global Head of Innovation.

JLABS is a global life sciences network of 13 incubators across the pharmaceutical, medical device, consumer and health tech sectors that accelerates the research and development process, and helps companies deliver innovative solutions to patients faster. JLABS provides access to specialized

equipment, research and office space and labs—things that normally would be cost-prohibitive for emerging companies in the industry.

“We provide big company infrastructure to early-stage life science businesses so all they have to do is focus on their science,” said Richter of the tools JLABS offers. “We had to make it just as fast, easy and inexpensive to start a life sciences company as to start a tech company.”

One of the ways she would like to see healthcare innovation move forward is the increased use of technology to access healthcare information, similar to how a consumer uses their cell phone to pay a bill, make a purchase, or check banking information.

“We can’t, but we should be able to do that with our healthcare information, so that people can see how we are doing every day,” she said. “We can grant access to people, whether it’s our care team or different kinds of doctors. Or if we want to be a part of a clinical trial, we can say we are available in this space.”

Richter acknowledges that accessing personal medical records is not top-of-mind for people until the records are needed.

“At the end of the day, we don’t realize how important our care is until we get sick and then we feel very vulnerable. Then we get really angry because the system is failing us,” she said.

She sees a bright future for healthcare innovation and the role technology will play.

“I think now that tech and healthcare are beginning to merge, (we’re) thinking about wrap around solutions for healthcare, and how we can have more patient engagement with digital solutions, where we can understand everyone’s data better. I think we are just at the cusp of a revolution. It’s such an exciting time for it.

“It’s in all of our best interests to invest in the healthcare system that’s not just providing us cures, but providing us with an opportunity to live to our fullest potential, and for long, full, healthy lives.”

Highlights In Medicine

Reunion and Conference

June 20–22, 2019

This year's Highlights in Medicine alumni reunion conference was a success. Alumni connected with each other and returned to the College of Medicine for the 34th annual conference, held on the USask campus from June 20 to 22.

Honoured years ending with four and nine gathered in Marquis Hall on Saturday evening for a celebratory banquet after the culmination of activities which included interactive workshops, lectures and campus tours.

Dr. Annette Epp (MD'88) was presented with the Louis Horlick Spirit of the College Award at the banquet and each class representative gave an update from their respective years.

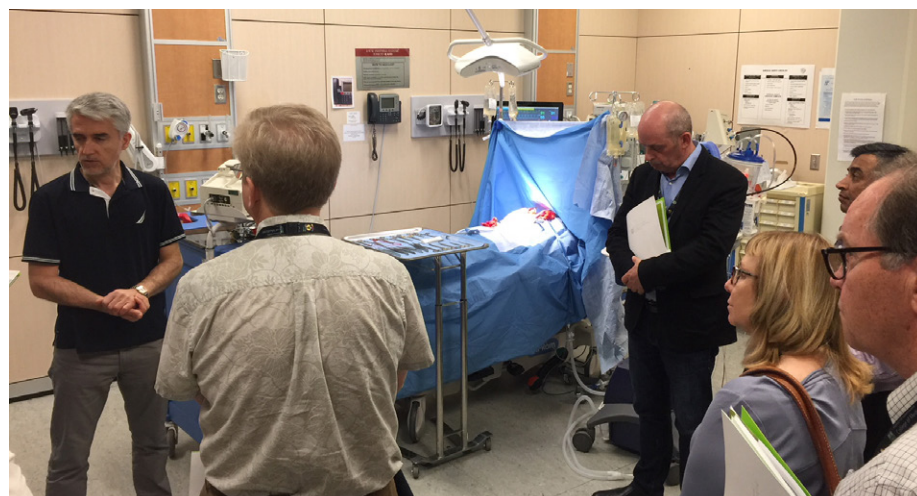
More than \$3,800 was raised at the silent art auction to support student initiatives and over \$80,000 was raised through class donations in support of the Reunion Medical Student Bursary and two memorial bursaries fundraised by the Class of 1994.

The conference included the 34th annual honorary alumni lecture by Dr. Michael Kelly (MD'99), the fifth annual Dr. Anita Chakravarti Lecture in Wellness by Betty-Ann Heggie, the 15th annual Clara and Frank Gertler Lecture in Medicine presented by Melinda Richter and the 12th annual Betty-Ann and Wade Heggie Lecture in Integrative Medicine with Dr. Rob Rutledge.

Delegates attended hands-on workshops in the anatomy lab and the Clinical Learning and Resource Centre. Tour options included visits to the Canadian Light Source and the Diefenbaker Canada Centre. 🍀



Alumni and guests learn, connect and reminisce at Highlights in Medicine



Alumni and guests enjoy an interactive tour of the Clinical Learning Resource Centre

Thank you classes of 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004 and 2009!

This year, class representatives and their classmates generously supported our College of Medicine undergraduate students by raising over \$80,000.

Our alumni at Highlights 2019 by class year:

Class of 1959



Class of 1964



Class of 1969



Class of 1974



Class of 1979



Class of 1984



Class of 1989



Class of 1994



Class of 1999



Class of 2004



Class of 2009



SAVE THE DATE FOR
HIGHLIGHTS 2020
June 18–20, 2020

HONOURED YEARS:
1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970,
1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995,
2000, 2005, 2010, 2015

Help us organize the 2020 conference by representing your classmates.
For more information, contact Anne-Marie Cey at at 306-966-5763 or annemarie.cej@usask.ca

2019

- NOV. 12
Management of Emergency Delivery
- NOV. 13–14
S.T.A.B.L.E. Assessment and
Stabilization Care of Sick Newborns
Post-Resuscitation and Pre-Transport
- NOV. 16–17
Heart Disease and Stroke Conference
- NOV. 22-25
CanReach
- NOV. 30
Saskatchewan Emergency Medical
Annual Conference (SEMAC)

DECEMBER 2–13
Year one and year
two final exams

2020

FEBRUARY
Resident Awareness Week

MARCH
SaskSono

APRIL 18
Knuckle Cup: Alumni versus students
hockey game

APRIL 18-21
Canadian Conference on Medical
Education (Vancouver, BC)

APRIL 25-26
Conference on pediatrics

MAY
Conference on disordered eating
Conference on older adults
Resident Wellness Week

MAY 1–3
CanREACH

MAY 1–11
Year one and year two term
two final exams

JUNE
PGME Resident Research Day
PGME New Resident Bootcamp

JUNE 4
College of Medicine Convocation

JUNE 12
Medical Education Research and
Scholarship Day

JUNE 18–20
2020 Highlights in Medicine

JUNE 19
Alumni Association annual
general meeting

AUGUST
Medsters Golf Tournament
Healthcare Classic

SEPTEMBER
Family Medicine Conference
PGME Celebration Night

SEPT. 14–16
International Conference on Physician
Health (London, England)

SEPT. 24–26
International Conference on Residency
Education (ICRE) (Vancouver, BC)

SEPT. 25–27
CanREACH

OCTOBER
Choosing Wisely Conference
Pain and Therapeutics Conference

OCT. 2
White Coat Ceremony

OCT. 3
SMSS Fall Formal

Share your story. Tell us about recent highlights of your career, achievements, or personal updates and it may be shared in the next *Connective Issue*.

Email us at medicine.alumni@usask.ca

1940s

Dr. Doreen Macdonald (MED’48): I recently celebrated my 92nd birthday. I’m living in a retirement home where I enjoy three meals a day and play Rummikub each afternoon. Many happy memories of my childhood and life as an undergrad in Saskatoon.

1950s

Dr. Alice Briggs (MED’53): Practicing consulting allergy and clinical immunology three days a week. Active in community work: parent support GP and "education" person for a dog obedience club; volunteer with a drop-in centre for street youth (health clinic). Two remarkable sons and six grandchildren. I have never for a moment regretted going into medicine.

1960s

Dr. James Dosman (MD’63): Inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame on May 2, 2019.

1970s

Dr. Walter Duncan (MD’74): Looked forward to 2019 reunion (45 years!). Planning retirement for December 2019. In good health and enjoying cycling, golf and water skiing. Spending summers in Saskatoon and winters in Florida.

Dr. Kenneth Silver (MD’74): Completed neurology training at McGill university and remained there on academic faculty for 17 years as neurologist and associate professor. Additional 18 years was spent on faculty at the University of Chicago School of Medicine. Program director for Pediatric Neurology Training and nurtured 22 residents to become successful child neurologists. Currently treating patients at the Shriners Hospital for Children Chicago.

Dr. Vivian Gooding (MD’76): I retired from doing general practice of psychotherapy in 2014 and I am loving retirement.

Dr. Christine Molnar (MD’76): was president elect of the Alberta Medical Association (AMA) and president for 2019-2020. I am an AMA and Canadian Medical Association member emeritus, I am in full clinical practice in Nuclear Medicine and PET/CT at Foothills Medical Centre in Calgary, and have worked for EFW Radiology since 1985.

Dr. Nan Schuurmans (MD’77): Started women's wellness program and multi-disciplinary menopause clinic 25 years ago. This is still running, and is one of the few (if not unique) fully funded menopause clinics in the country. Clinic runs at Grey Nun's Community Hospital and Lois Hole Hospital for Women and includes advice and treatment of menopausal conditions as well as chronic pelvic pain and vulvar dermatology.

Dr. Steven Rollheiser (MD’79): Department Head Hospital Medicine at Royal Inland Hospital (RIH) in Kamloops and still working full-time in clinical, teaching and administrative roles. As well, I am past president of the RIH medical staff. I am an enthusiastic but mediocre squash player and enjoy downhill skiing. I spend as much summer time at our Shuswap Lake cabin as possible. I'm newly and proudly a grandpa.

1980s

Dr. James Crandell (MD’80): Retired and living in Kelowna, the preferred spot for skiing and fly fishing. Worked as a volunteer teaching anesthesia in Bhutan for a month this year, and looking to do some more volunteer work in Vietnam.

Dr. Bryan Barootes (MD’80): Teaching Family Medicine residency within Louisiana State University Health Sciences - New Orleans at Lake Charles Memorial Hospital since 2000. Received the Canadian Academy of Sport and Exercise Medicine Mentor Award in 2018. Chief examiner for diploma Sport and Exercise Medicine 2017-2020.

Dr. Ron Siemens (MD’82): became interim provincial head of Pediatrics for the Saskatchewan Health Authority and the USask College of Medicine in 2019.

Dr. Gordon Bennett (MD’82): Welcomed a new grandchild June 2019. Daughter Danielle getting married in November 2019.

Dr. James Kirkpatrick (MD’84): Managed care of adolescents and adults with eating disorders in private practice, community-based programs and hospitals for over 30 years. Clinical assistant professor at UBC, member of the Academy for Eating Disorders, and member of the World Health Organization's Global Clinical Practice Network. Latest book, Taking a Detailed Eating Disorder History—A Comprehensive Guide for Clinicians, recently published by Routledge. In 2015, received a BC Community Achievement Award for work in eating disorders.

Dr. Richard Bigsby (MD’86): 2018 recipient of the Department of Surgery Golden Scalpel Award for Pre-clerkship Education from the USask College of Medicine. This award is presented annually to the faculty member demonstrating the highest level of teaching excellence as acclaimed by the surgical residents.

Dr. Elaine Woo (MD’89): Practiced in Richmond Hill since 2002, along with my sister, who is an optometrist. Since 1998, volunteered on many eye medical missions with Medical Ministry International of Hamilton, Ontario, going to Ecuador, Guyana, Peru, Bolivia, Colombia, Nepal and Rwanda. In local Ontario medical association politics, and a previous delegate to my section and region. Proud big sister and fellow alumnus of 2019-2020 Saskatchewan Medical Association president, Dr. Allan Woo!

1990s

Dr. John Thiel (MD’91): Excited to welcome first two grandchildren in 2019.

Dr. Karla Khan (MD’95): In obstetrics and gynecology and semi-retired, living in Okotoks, Alberta, doing locums 30-34 weeks a year, with the same guy from 1992! Have a 20-year-old son, Harry, and a daughter, Ellie, in grade 11, as well as a big old dog, Boh. Fortunate to still be in pretty good health and very fortunate to be happy. Plan to attend 25-year med school reunion in June 2020 and hope to see many of you from Class of ’95, and catch up on life.

Dr. Michael Plewes (MD’95): In a very busy family practice, work in the ER for entertainment and maintenance of skills, and am Chairman of the Brandon Clinic. Oldest child going to World Championship Triathlon, middle child starting university and youngest going to Canada Games in Red Deer in skiing.

2000s

Dr. Rob Woods (MD’02): Recipient of the USask 2019 Provost's College Award for Outstanding Teaching for the College of Medicine.

2010s

Dr. Kiel Lunning (MD’14): Nearing the end of a wonderful five year experience in Nova Scotia.

Dr. Sarah Miller (MD’14): 2018 recipient of the Department of Surgery Bronze Shovel Award from the USask College of Medicine.

Dr. Amanda Gall (MD’19) and Dr. Spencer Gall (MD’19): Husband and wife doctor duo, married in 2012, got into med school together in 2015 and graduated together in 2019. Moving to Winnipeg together for residency: anatomical pathology (Amanda) and radiology (Spencer).

Dr. Emmett Harrison (MD’19): Excited to be in Swift Current for family medicine residency.

Let us remember those who have walked through our doors, and have since passed on.

Included are those who passed away since October 1, 2018. Names are listed by decade of receipt of their first medical degree.

1940s

Joseph Treleaven
MED’48
Salem, OR
d. October 8, 2018

Sidney Sharzer
MED’49
Palm Desert, CA
d. January 9, 2019

1950s

Doreen Mitchinson
MD’58
Victoria, BC
d. November 6, 2018

1960s

Lionel Painchaud
MD’61
Powell, OH
d. August 29, 2019

1970s

Alan Rich
MD’71
Swan River, MB
d. January 21, 2019

Robert Barnes
MD’72
Woodstock, ON
d. June 19, 2019

Larry Wine
MD’78
Saskatoon, SK
d. April 16, 2019

1990s

Omar Shokeir
MD’91
Battleford, SK
d. March 28, 2019

Tim Clugston
MD’94
Medicine Hat, AB
d. March 28, 2016*

Elisabeth Wagner
MD’94
Calgary, AB
d. September 16, 2018

**information received in 2019*

2000s

Rob Billington
MD’03
Saskatoon, SK
d. July 23, 2018

ALUMNI AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

2019 Canadian Medical Hall of Fame:
James A Dosman (MD'63)

2019 Carl Nimrod Award for Teaching Excellence - Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada:
Jennifer N Duda (MD'07)

2019 Louis Horlick Spirit of the College Award:
Annette Epp (MD'88)

President, Rush University (February 2019 - present):
Sherine E Gabriel (MD'82)

2019 SMA Physician of the Year:
Sean M Groves (MD'03)

2019 Vanier Canada Graduate; Director, 2019 - 2020 Greater Saskatoon Chamber of Commerce:
Adam McInnes (MD'15)

The Calvin L. Gutkin Family Medicine Ambassador Award 2018; College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta Registrar (2018 - present):
Scott A McLeod (MD'93)

Town of Eston's new family health centre will be named in his honour (2019):
David S Mulder (MD'62)

2019 Mentor of the Year Award (Region 1), Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada:
Michael E Trew (MD'77)

YWCA Women of Distinction Award (Regina):
Renatta Varma (MD'98)

Provost's College Award for Outstanding Teaching:
Robert A (Rob) Woods (MD'02)

Secretary, Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (August. 29, 2019 - present):
Marianne C Xhignesse (MD'83)

Canada's Family Physician of the Year 2019; The Reg. L Perkin Award (Saskatchewan), Foundation for Advancing Family Medicine:
Cheryl A Zagzeski (MD'83)



helping students and residents

EXPLORE_{their}OPTIONS

There are countless opportunities for new physicians across Saskatchewan, from big cities to small towns, southern grasslands to northern lake country. Trying to decide between these options can be overwhelming so the SMA's Committee on Rural and Regional Practice and the Specialist Recruitment and Retention Committee launched the Roadmap Program. Every year the Roadmap Program takes students and residents on tours of rural and regional communities around the province to give them a taste of life and practice in rural Saskatchewan. They connect with local physicians, see a variety of practice choices and get a snapshot of what they can expect out of life in each community.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- Host a Roadmap Tour in your community
- Welcome students to shadow in your rural/regional practice
- Become a preceptor

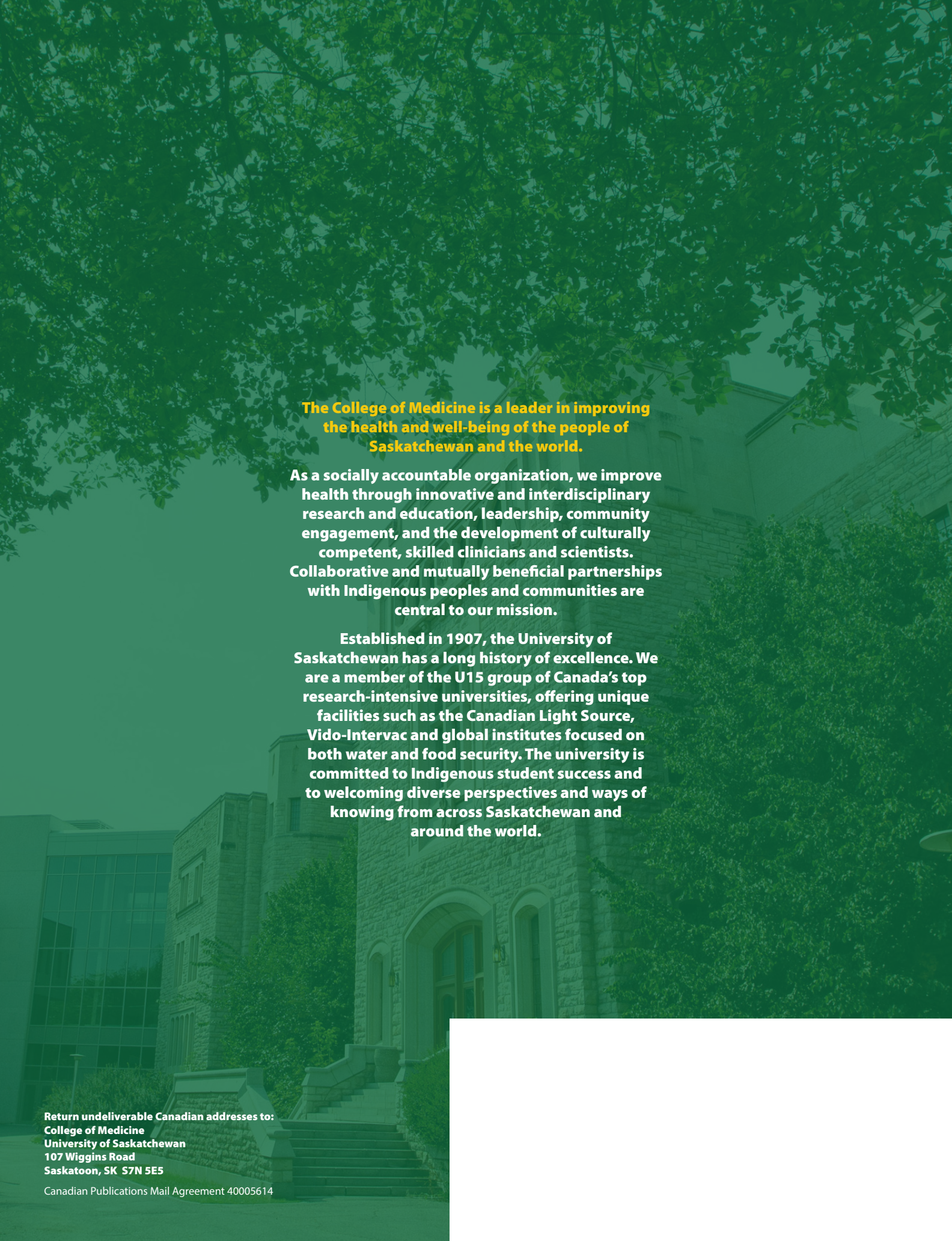
If you're interested, please contact us at:
roadmap@sma.sk.ca
306.244.2196



SASKATCHEWAN
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

✉ roadmap@sma.sk.ca

🌐 www.sma.sk.ca/roadmap



The College of Medicine is a leader in improving the health and well-being of the people of Saskatchewan and the world.

As a socially accountable organization, we improve health through innovative and interdisciplinary research and education, leadership, community engagement, and the development of culturally competent, skilled clinicians and scientists. Collaborative and mutually beneficial partnerships with Indigenous peoples and communities are central to our mission.

Established in 1907, the University of Saskatchewan has a long history of excellence. We are a member of the U15 group of Canada's top research-intensive universities, offering unique facilities such as the Canadian Light Source, Vido-Intervac and global institutes focused on both water and food security. The university is committed to Indigenous student success and to welcoming diverse perspectives and ways of knowing from across Saskatchewan and around the world.

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