

USASK

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE MAGAZINE

2022

CONNECTIVE ISSUE

Indigenous Health Research

Decolonizing institutional approaches
from the inside



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College of Medicine

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CONNECTIVE ISSUE

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Publication Date

November 2022

*Published by the College of Medicine,
University of Saskatchewan*

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Decolonizing institutional approaches to research from the inside

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Photo by Luke Heidebrecht

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Send us your ideas

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

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Your college continued its important work navigating the COVID-19 pandemic during 2021-22, while bringing education programs and research activities more fully and safely back to “normal.”



In line with the university's guidance, the college continues to adhere to safety measures as needed for in-person activities. We also continue with a more blended, or “hybrid” approach to learning and working that supports a balance of in-person and virtual work where practical and efficient. I have certainly noticed a lot more activity on our main Saskatoon campus this fall and it is exciting to see so many learners making their way about our health sciences and other spaces!

This past year, the CoM significantly advanced its work to create a new unit focused on Indigenous Health, recruiting Dr. Janet Tootoosis as interim vice-dean Indigenous Health this past June. The position was created to bring Indigenous health and issues more fully to the forefront in college priorities, while also serving to improve how these critical areas are addressed. The vice-dean will bring together a team to form the college's new Division of Indigenous Health and lead that team in coordinating and enhancing existing initiatives and laying the groundwork for the longer-term plans and work of the division. The vice-dean will provide key leadership in more effectively addressing Indigenous health needs in Saskatchewan and Indigenousization of the college.

The college has made important changes to its medical doctor admissions approach

to draw more applicants who reflect Saskatchewan's population and ultimately stay to practice medicine here, including in our rural areas. The changes will be in effect for the next round of applications to the program, which are open from early August to October 1, 2022, with successful applicants starting the program in August 2023. As well, an Indigenous admissions circle will help increase the number of Indigenous people applying and gaining acceptance to the program and an Indigenous studies pre-requisite will be added to course requirements starting with applications to the program in 2024.

Our postgraduate medical education programs have also seen exciting changes. The college announced in September 2021 the expansion of its family medicine residency program with the opening of training in key communities in southeast Saskatchewan, growing our family medicine residency seats from 48 to 52. Training will be provided in 12 rural Saskatchewan communities: Estevan, Humbolt, Moosomin, Weyburn, Yorkton, Esterhazy, Indian Head, Melville, Redvers, Strasbourg, Watrous, and Wynyard. And in other postgrad news, medical residents interested in cancer care now have the opportunity to train at home for the first time in Saskatchewan's history. The CoM is launching a new residency program in medical oncology, in collaboration with the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency (SCA), and the

Saskatchewan Ministry of Health. The two-year medical oncologist residency program will welcome its first resident in July 2023.

New staff awards were given out for the first time this past year, and features on the many deserving recipients are being shared regularly on our college website news section, while the annual process is underway for nominations and selection of next year's recipients.

The CoM continues to be fully accredited across all its education programs. Preparations are well underway for a full accreditation review of postgraduate medical education, taking place in 2023. Medical research led and supported by the college and its researchers continues to grow in presence and impact. Important progress has been made across critical areas of health including heart and stroke, multiple sclerosis, cystic fibrosis, childhood epilepsy, COVID-19, and much more.

Please take time to read through this issue of our annual magazine to learn more of the news from your college. You will note several new faces on our advancement team page, who you may already have met or will in future through their various outreach initiatives. ♥

Dr. Preston Smith
Dean, College of Medicine



Dear fellow alumni,

With pandemic restrictions easing up, there have been opportunities to meet in-person and participate in alumni initiatives and activities. This past year, the College of Medicine alumni association has hosted several events.

In June, medical alumni attended the annual Highlights in Medicine Conference and Reunion on the university campus. It was wonderful to connect with fellow graduates, attend educational sessions and participate in other special reunion events. I'd like to acknowledge the contributions of the class representatives, college staff, students and other volunteers who helped make the event possible. Planning is already underway for next year! The alumni association also hosted additional alumni events including the Knuckle Cup hockey game, a mentorship networking evening and a riverbank cleanup day.

The alumni association has also renewed its commitment to student support through donations to educational initiatives and student sponsorships. One example is the class giving campaign at Highlights, which raised over \$52,000 for our students. Additionally, the alumni association provided graduating medical students with complimentary one-year alumni memberships to welcome them into the college's alumni community.

Thank you to all members for your continued support of the alumni association. Your involvement provides an engaging community and connection for our fellow graduates. There are many opportunities to become involved with the alumni association – through your time, talents or resources. Our College of Medicine alumni are our best ambassadors. Your support encourages the continued success of students and growth of our college community.

Lastly, we have some exciting alumni-focused things planned for the upcoming year. Watch your inboxes, the alumni section of the college's website (medicine.usask.ca/alumni) and the college's social media channels for further details.

On behalf of the board, we are optimistic about the future of the alumni association and look forward to serving and sharing information with you in the year ahead. ♥

Dr. Terry Zlipko (MD'74)
President, College of Medicine, Alumni Association

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Join the Alumni Association Board of Directors

Did you graduate from the College of Medicine with a demonstrated record of leadership? Do you have the desire to steer meaningful change? Do you want to support the alumni community and make a positive impact on current medical students?

Please contact Alumni Relations at medicine.alumni@usask.ca for more information about joining the board of directors.

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Interim Vice-Dean Indigenous Health Dr. Janet Tootoosis ('99) started in her new role at the College of Medicine on June 1.*

Interim Vice-Dean Indigenous Health ‘optimistic’ in developing new division

Dr. Janet Tootoosis (MD’99) started her new role as Interim Vice-Dean Indigenous Health at the College of Medicine on June 1.

She is tasked with the challenge of building an administrative space for experts, researchers, clinicians, educators, as well as the community, to come together about Indigenous Health.

“Things need to change,” Tootoosis said. “And if I can play a small part in that, I’m willing to step up.”

Read more in the feature on Dr. Tootoosis in this edition of Connective Issue (page 12).

New assistant dean to strengthen mentorship program in Graduate Studies

USask biomedical sciences professor and researcher Dr. Erique Lukong (PhD) started his new position as Assistant Dean of Graduate Studies on July 1.

As a faculty member, Lukong strives to provide and encourage strong mentorship for graduate students. Strengthening and formalizing a mentorship process is something that he aims to accomplish in the role.

“I believe that I’ve been given that opportunity to shape the vision of health sciences graduate studies, and also by extension, the College of Medicine.”



Dr. Erique Lukong (PhD) is the new Assistant Dean Graduate Studies.*



Year 1 students at the Regina campus on the first day of classes.
Photo by Amanda Symynuk

College of Medicine Regina campus kicks-off academic year offering complete MD degree, campus expansion

The USask College of Medicine Regina Campus welcomed its first cohort of Year 1 students on Aug. 3. The arrival of the first-year students marks the expansion of the college's teaching and learning presence in Regina. The complete four-year medical doctor (MD) degree is now offered in two Saskatchewan cities.

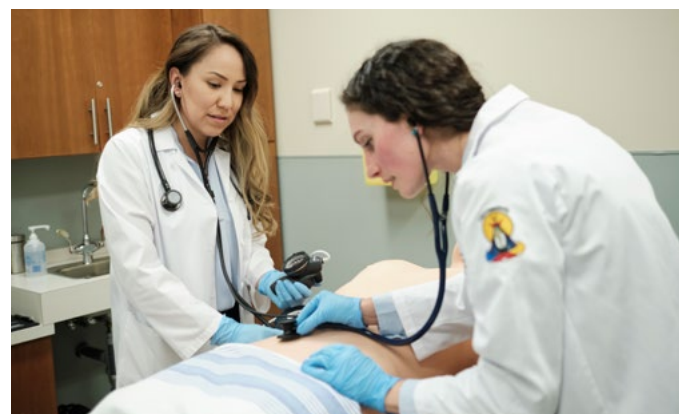
The Regina campus is located in the Regina General Hospital. Learners have access to study and classroom space, the Dilawri Simulation Centre, access to the Health Sciences Library, and an auditorium. The campus is expanding its learning facilities to include an anatomy lab and classrooms to accommodate the first year of the MD degree curriculum.

"I am thrilled to welcome the new class of first year medical students to the Regina Campus of the College of Medicine," said Dr. Susan Shaw, Chief Medical Health Officer, Saskatchewan Health Authority. "The expansion of medical training to be the full four years of medical school in Regina creates many benefits, not only for the students, but also for our clinical programs and teams." ▀

Saskatchewan to launch new medical oncology residency program

For the first time in Saskatchewan's history, medical residents interested in cancer care will have the opportunity to train at home. In collaboration with the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency and the Saskatchewan Ministry of Health, the college will be welcoming its first residents to the two-year medical oncology residency program in July 2023.

Medical oncologists are involved in the diagnosis, assessment, management, and survivorship care of cancer in all stages. Unlike surgical and radiation oncologists who perform surgery or use radiation to treat cancer, medical oncologists use systemic therapy or medication involving chemotherapy, targeted therapy, immunotherapy, hormone therapy, and other treatments. ▀



A new residency program in medical oncology will give post-graduate medical students an opportunity to train in cancer care. Photo by David Stobbe



Dr. Alan Rosenberg and College of Medicine Dean Preston Smith attend the Saskatchewan Order of Merit ceremony.
Photo: @usaskmeddean on Twitter

USask's Dr. Alan Rosenberg (MD) receives Saskatchewan Order of Merit

Dr. Alan Rosenberg (MD'74) received the Saskatchewan Order of Merit in September. The province's highest honour is presented to individuals in recognition of excellence, achievement and contributions to the social, cultural and economic well-being of the province and its residents. He was one of eight recipients this year, and joined 258 individuals who were previously invested.

Rosenberg, a researcher and professor of pediatric rheumatology, provides care to Saskatchewan children and youth with various forms of arthritis and related rheumatic diseases. He also directs the activities of the Pediatric Rheumatic Disease Laboratory at USask. ▀



Dr. Alika Lafontaine (MD'06) was named president of the Canadian Medical Association, and is the first Indigenous leader and the youngest person ever to hold the prestigious position.
Photo: Canadian Medical Association

USask alum named president of Canadian Medical Association

USask College of Medicine alumnus Dr. Alika Lafontaine (MD'06) was named president of the Canadian Medical Association on Aug. 22, 2022. Lafontaine is the first Indigenous leader and youngest person ever to hold the prestigious position. Lafontaine will oversee 68,000 physicians and trainees in the role.

Having grown up in Regina, SK, Lafontaine received his Doctor of Medicine degree from USask and went on to become an anesthesiologist at Queen Elizabeth II Hospital in Grande Prairie and associate clinical professor in the University of Alberta's Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry. ▀

Decolonizing institutional approaches to research from the inside

Dr. Alexandra King is changing the way research is done with First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities

 SARAH MACDONALD

When Dr. Alexandra King (MD), a citizen of Nipissing First Nation and the Cameco Chair in Indigenous Health and Wellness at USask, made a mid-life career change to become a doctor of internal medicine, it was a move motivated by a recognition that she needed to be part of the solution, to help address the health inequities faced by Indigenous people.

As King sought to overcome the wrongs faced by her own family, she realized she could also help Indigenous people more broadly. Now, as one of the most prominent Indigenous health researchers in Canada, King is changing the way research is done with First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities and decolonizing the institutional approaches from the inside.

"I thought that if I moved into Indigenous health, this could have the possibility of a lasting impact. I recognized how privileged I was, and understood the responsibility attached to that," she said.

King, who grew up in Ottawa, was told that if she went to school, worked hard and got a good job, life would be wonderful. She realized this was not true for many Indigenous people, who faced health and socioeconomic disparities that were the lasting effects of colonialism.

To address these issues, King and her research team Pewaseskwan (the Indigenous Wellness Research Group), which she co-leads with her husband Malcolm King – a professor in community health and epidemiology – are increasing Indigenous health research capacity and supporting Indigenous communities take leading roles in research that addresses their own needs and reflects traditional ways of knowing, being and doing. For many projects, *etuaptmumk* (a Two-eyed Seeing approach that brings the best of Indigenous and Western ideas) also figures prominently in improving health outcomes. →

Alexandra King participated in a traditional *Skwxwú7mesh* (Squamish) canoe welcome to open the Indigenous DOHaD Gathering, which she co-chaired, in Vancouver, B.C. in August 2022. The event took place on the unceded territories of the *Skwxwú7mesh*, *Səlilwətaʔ/Selilwitulh* (Tsleil-Waututh) and *xʷməθkʷəy̍əm* (Musqueam) Nations.
Photo by Luke Heidebrecht

Over the past five years, her team has grown to more than 35 people who collaborate on numerous projects, sharing their expertise and building relationships with each other as well as within USask, the community and partner organizations. The team works with many communities in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, the Inuvialuit Settlement Region and Vancouver, B.C., to develop innovative research projects that address diseases such as HIV, hepatitis C, heart disease and others, and bring land- and culture-based healing to the forefront. The projects are community-led and include ceremony and culture. King describes this as potentiating communities' research ideas and needs and bridging the gaps between Western systems and Indigenous ways.

"We're learning and listening. We're figuring out how to create an ecosystem where this can happen on a larger and more sustainable scale," she says.

Onion Lake Cree Nation (OLCN) is one of the communities that has benefitted from King and Pewaseskwan's work. They are currently involved in two projects, Achimok, which will collect and preserve stories and knowledge from community, and Miyo-pimâtisiwin, which focuses on wellness from Indigenous perspectives. The community has strong leadership and an interest in research, but lacks the experience in navigating academic systems and grant applications, so Pewaseskwan has provided supported.



Alexandra King chaired the virtual 2022 World Indigenous Peoples' Conference on Viral Hepatitis on June 22-23, 2022. The event attracted over 160 participants from over 10 countries to discuss the burden of hepatitis on Indigenous peoples and look at the ways Indigenous communities are addressing hepatitis. *Photo by Sarah MacDonald*

"When we want to develop something...we don't have access to funding. Since I have been connected to Malcolm and Alex, it's just been a blessing and doors have opened. It's a perfect partnership," explained Dolores Pahtayken, a member of OLCN involved in the research.

Making academic institutions and systems more relatable and accessible to Indigenous people takes time, but King and



Alexandra King and Pewaseskwan held a ceremony to sign a letter of intent to do research on heart disease and Kennedy's Disease with The Key First Nation and the Yorkton Tribal Council on Aug. 12, 2022. *Photo by Sarah MacDonald*

Pewaseskwan are making changes. At USask, Pewaseskwan has sometimes opted to have pipe ceremonies instead of MOUs and are now working with the legal and contracts departments to change the wording in some of the service agreements so that they adhere to the First Nations principles of ownership, control, access, and possession (OCAP) and other Indigenous ways of doing things.

Métis Elder and Knowledge Holder Calvin Racette, who sits on King's management committee and who has provided ceremonial support to several of her research projects, has seen a change in the way the administration at USask relates to King and other Indigenous researchers. He said King's ability to build warm, diplomatic relationships, while simultaneously bringing in millions of research dollars, has led to systems changes that enhance the university.

"I believe they have become more open to listening as opposed to telling us what's good for us. Maybe it's good timing but things happen for a reason, and I attribute that to Alexandra and her team," said Racette.

King's work now has national impacts. Across Canada, researchers at other institutions are learning from her how to work more

"We're learning and listening. We're figuring out how to create an ecosystem where this can happen on a larger and more sustainable scale."

DR. ALEXANDRA KING



FSIN Third Vice Chief Aly Bear signs an MOU with Pewaseskwan as Alexandra King looks on. The MOU, signed June 24, 2022, will foster stronger research ties between Pewaseskwan and the Saskatchewan First Nations Women's Commission (SFNWC). *Photo by Sarah MacDonald*



A First Nations custom is to bring gifts to your hosts. At the Indigenous DOHaD Gathering on the unceded territories of the Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Selilweta?/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations (Vancouver), Alexandra King presented her Skwxwú7mesh host with a painting from Nipissing First Nation, where she is from. *Photo by Sarah MacDonald*

collaboratively with community, working with their heart and with people-centred values. Dr. Janet Jull (PhD), an assistant professor in the School of Rehabilitation Therapy at Queen's University, who worked with Alexandra and Malcolm King in developing the [Indigenous Community Research Partnerships training resource](#), said King has shown other researchers how to take time and space for research and to do it well by following the community's lead.

"Without Alexandra's leadership, the rest of us (researchers) could not benefit from Alexandra's potential and the outcomes of the work. That is a big advantage for academic systems, as we need time and space for Indigenous knowledges in academic settings, if things are going to change and address the inequities in our academic and social systems," explained Jull.

King noted that sometimes she reads her own work referenced in other people's work or hears her ideas quoted at conferences.

"When I'm hearing this coming back in different ways, I know we're making a difference," she said. ♥

Building an Indigenous space in the College of Medicine

Dr. Janet Tootoosis (MD) has a challenge ahead of her to establish the foundation of an administrative home for Indigenous Health in the College of Medicine (CoM).

KRISTEN MCEWEN

As of June 1, 2022, Tootoosis started in the role of interim vice-dean Indigenous Health. She is leading the creation of a new administrative body that oversees academic, research and community work in the area of Indigenous Health.



Dr. Janet Tootoosis

"My role is to ensure there's an established foundation, effective operations, and leadership," she said. "And to do the necessary groundwork to ensure the (new structure) becomes a reality."

As a graduate of the college, Tootoosis completed the medical doctor program in 1999 and her residency in the family medicine program two years later.

After graduating, Tootoosis has taken on many roles in leadership and administration at the college since becoming a faculty member in 2003. These roles include becoming a clinical professor and a residency program director in North Battleford, where she is currently a family physician.

North Battleford is located approximately 50 kilometres from Tootoosis' home community of Poundmaker Cree Nation.

She also has experience in governance, having been a founding member of the Saskatchewan Health Authority board of directors.

Division or department? Or something different?

Tootoosis has the task of building a new administrative structure for Indigenous Health from scratch.

"The actual unit, whether it be a division, department, school or centre, is currently in an exploratory state," she said. Depending on the identified needs within the college, the structure of the new administrative unit may be labelled in a different way.

During her conversations with academics, researchers and community members, it became clear to Tootoosis that a division may not be large enough defined structure to address needs from an academic research and community perspective.

As a result of those conversations, she is exploring the possibility of creating a Department of Indigenous Health. By definition, a department is larger than a division and has different administrative responsibilities.

It would also be the first Department of Indigenous Health in Canada, she added.

If a department is the administrative structure that Tootoosis and her team chooses to follow, it could potentially accommodate goals that extend beyond the college and university.

The functionalities of the new organization that the Indigenous Health Committee and leadership within the College of Medicine were hoping for, would be defined by how the new organization would be set up, she said.

"(Our) investigation is underway as to the best suited unit to achieve the overarching goals," she added.

Responding to TRC Calls to Action

Establishing a Division of Indigenous Health, or an administrative home addressing Indigenous Health, is a direct response to one of the goals of the college's current strategic plan.

In response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's (TRC) Calls to Action report, establishing an administrative home within the College of Medicine helps provide a space to →

define and address the present and emerging health needs in Indigenous communities, which will lead to positive and improved outcomes in communities.

The new administrative home for Indigenous Health would be working alongside existing initiatives focusing on Indigenous health in the college, such as the Indigenous Health Committee (IHC).

IHC comprised of more than 30 faculty, staff and community members who are dedicated to Indigenous health.

IHC exists to strengthen culturally-based links between Indigenous world views and the medical community. The committee provides a number of services to the college, including:

- reviewing and vetting Indigenous curriculum through a community based approach
- working with Indigenous and non-Indigenous learners to provide unique experiential learning opportunities in Indigenous communities
- assistance in learning about Indigenous protocols, communities and Elders
- connecting faculty, staff and students with Indigenous communities for initiatives
- advocacy and other activities that enhance Indigenous health

Aligned with strategic pillars

As she is focused on what the new structure will look like, Tootoosis must also determine how it will serve the college and the community.

Academic and research work doesn't happen in a silo by itself, Tootoosis said.

A college and a university is responsible to the people and communities it serves – one of the pillars within the College of Medicine's strategic plan.

Part of the College of Medicine's vision and mission is to effectively serve and improve the health and well-being of the people of Saskatchewan, including Indigenous peoples. Indigenous peoples make up at least 16 per cent of the population in the province, according to Statistics Canada.

"How do we create a process for clinicians and academics to engage respectfully with the community in a standardized, structured way that is supportive to community as well as our university?" Tootoosis posed one of the outstanding questions the space is intended to answer.

Indigenous peoples face discrimination and challenges when interacting with Western

healthcare systems. Indigenous Health research conducted at the College of Medicine ranges from making interactions with the health care system more culturally responsive and accessible, to working in direct consultation with Indigenous communities to identify how research can effectively address needs.

"There is good work happening already in Indigenous research," Tootoosis said. "Modelling and scaling that (on a college level) is important. Highlighting individual discoveries (in research) is also important in this process."

"At the end of the day, identifying what's working well and supporting it, that's important," she added.

Serving the needs of academia and community

The new administrative home will need to meet a series of requirements in academia and research, and as defined by needs of the community.

"It's very clear what academia needs are," Tootoosis said. "It's pretty clear from faculty, whether they're clinical or academic, or both."

"What the community wants, or needs, out of this (structure), that's a little more challenging to create this concise picture," she added. "It's more challenging than on the university side, but still attainable."

While new structure won't solve every systemic problem regarding Indigenous health in the near future, Tootoosis hopes it will serve as a space where interdisciplinary research teams can work collaboratively to approach these discussions.

"Clinicians and academics, and faculty who are part of both groups, will be guided by an advisory council of community members, representatives of the Indigenous communities of Saskatchewan," Tootoosis said.

"The goal is ultimately creating a safe space for the good work of university faculty and community to thrive," she added.

Tootoosis is aiming to have the new structure for Indigenous Health in the College of Medicine approved and operational by Spring 2023.

"I think any (administrative) unit needs to benefit the academics and the community, and I honestly believe (the new structure) can absolutely do both,"Tootoosis said.

“I think any (administrative) unit needs to benefit the academics and the community, and I honestly believe (the new structure) can absolutely do both.”

DR. JANET TOOTOOSIS

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

Student support

School is expensive. Support in the form of awards and bursaries are necessary to help relieve the financial burden on students. Your donation will support deserving learners pursue education without worrying about financial barriers.

Cutting-edge research

Our talented teams are working on critical research to tackle illnesses like cancer, diabetes, Alzheimer's and stroke. Your gift will help us discover new ways to diagnose, treat and ultimately prevent these illnesses.

Indigenous health

Our researchers and clinicians participate in collaborative and mutually beneficial partnerships with Indigenous peoples and communities. Your support will help ongoing research initiatives in the college aimed at improving the health of Indigenous peoples and communities in culturally appropriate ways.

School of Rehabilitation Science

Our schools prepare high-quality collaborative physical therapy clinicians and rehabilitation researchers, who are focused on improving function while promoting mobility and participation. Your contribution will advance rehabilitation science and health-related learning, teaching, research, and mentorship.

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

GIVING TO THE COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Investing in medical education and healthcare research will make difference for our communities today and allow us to imagine a brighter future for tomorrow. But we need your support.

At the College of Medicine, the next generation of students are being prepared to lead tomorrow's health-care innovations as future medical practitioners and scientists. We are:

- Developing new treatments and supports that give hope to those struggling with mental health and addiction
- Helping to ease the burdens of chronic conditions like heart disease, asthma and diabetes
- Making discoveries right now that will win future battles as new health-care crises arise
- Working alongside Indigenous communities for improved, equitable, culturally-safe care
- Improving access to care for residents in rural and remote communities in Saskatchewan

As Saskatchewan's only medical school, generous philanthropic donations are critical to accelerating our work. Your gift means we can support tomorrow's doctors in their academic journey. It means we can train the next generation of physicians and physical therapists to excel in their fields, and it means we can work faster and more effectively at discovering cutting-edge treatment for diseases that are harming humanity. Together, we will advance the human condition.

Your Alumni Association membership supports medical students

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To purchase your membership, please visit medicine.usask.ca/alumni/membership.php or call 306-966-5763.

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A year of firsts for College of Medicine's Regina campus

✍️ AMANDA SYMYNUK

It's been a series of firsts for the medical doctor (MD) program on the College of Medicine's Regina campus. For some, it's their first time in Regina. For others, it's integrating a whole new year of curriculum, space planning and facilitating cultural experiences.

It was about 20 degrees outside, sunny and not a puff of wind. Forty first-year medical students assembled on the lawn of the First Nations University of Canada and followed Knowledge Keeper Lamarr Oksasikewiyin's lead in doing arm circles to get warmed up for traditional Indigenous games. Oksasikewiyin's workshop combined history with traditional games that build skills in hand-eye coordination, lung capacity and core strength.

Medical students work on their stamina while participating in an Indigenous Culture Workshop at the First Nations University, as part of their medical school curriculum at the Regina campus.
Photo by Amanda Symynuk

The workshop was organized by the campus's first Indigenous coordinator, Amanda Crowe, who is the first person in the new role on campus that connects students with cultural support and facilitates the implementation of Indigenous experiences in the curriculum.

"I would say that the treatment and understanding towards Indigenous people is not quite where it should be as health care professionals," said Crowe, whose career includes 15 years as a paramedic, primarily in Indigenous communities, and policy research. "So, I thought this (Indigenous coordinator) position at the College of Medicine would be a great way to help train future physicians so we can provide better healthcare to our Indigenous community."

Workshops like this aim to provide a history of the residential school system, Indigenous traditions, and to engage students and participate in cultural aspects of fun learning environment.

In addition to interactive workshops, the learning environment on the Regina campus is unique. The campus is in Regina General Hospital, where staff and physicians no doubt noticed more than the usual number of students, marked by their blue Canadian Medical Association (CMA) backpacks, navigating the corridors to the Health Sciences Learning Centre or lecture theatre in search of the location of their next class, or for a caffeine jolt at Robin's Donuts.

"I really enjoy the fact that we're in the hospital as part of our courses, even though we're not interacting with patients," said Alexandre Belisle, a first-year MD student whose academic journey has taken him from studying for the MCAT while working in a gold mine in Val-d'Or, Que. to the University of Saskatchewan (USask). "You always see patients walking around and you get an idea of the flow of things."

Apart from the setting, the small class size is seen as an added →



Medical students Alexandre Belisle and Sarah Bains stand in front of the First Nations University, where they participated in Indigenous traditional games. *Photo by Amanda Symynuk*

perk for attending medical school on a smaller campus, and the USask in general.

"The fact that there's only 40 of us here really does allow you to build those connections from very early on," said first-year MD student Sarah Bains, who moved from Vancouver, B.C. to pursue a bachelor's degree at the USask. "I've learned, if anything, (those connections) are super important for your growth as a student and then into a medical professional."

Medical education in Regina has evolved since the first Family Medicine residency in 1974. Clerks have trained in Regina since 1975. Since then, the campus's teaching and learning presence has expanded to include five residency programs, one enhanced skills program, and the entire four-year undergraduate MD program. On Aug. 3, 2022, the campus welcomed its first cohort of Year 1 students.

"We are excited to have these future physicians start their training in Regina," said Dr. Gill White (MD), associate dean of the College of Medicine Regina campus. "This is something that we have been working toward for many years."

Timing worked out well in 2020, when the college was beginning to implement a new curriculum, which coincided with plans to expand the campus's medical education programs.

Dr. Jaqueline Kraushaar (MD), Year 1 site coordinator and assistant professor, was involved in adding the first year of MD programming to Regina campus's offering. Beginning in 2021, she and a team of administrators, faculty, and campus stakeholders began the formal planning process.

"The team has been amazing," said Kraushaar. "I think the best part has been the level of excitement that's been here. Everyone's just really excited to be a part of, I think, a really big thing for our city."

The planning team began with the high-level picture and gradually dove into the details that make the student and faculty experience. They ensured the campus had classrooms, equipment, IT support, faculty, simulated patients (SPs), even anatomy models, to accommodate the first-year curriculum. It involved recruiting new SPs, hiring staff to facilitate the program, including a person to train SPs, a person to provide Indigenous cultural supports, and learning opportunities on campus. There was also the task of planning and developing a new learning space within the campus that has an anatomy lab, which Kraushaar said will help to strengthen the College of Medicine experience in Regina.

Prior to 2022, students completed the first year of their program in Saskatoon, then 40 of the class of 100 students would relocate to the Regina campus to finish their degree. One of the goals of the program expansion has been to avoid the disruption to students when transitioning between campuses.

With classes now in full swing, both Belisle and Bains are settling into medical school and life in Regina. Neither student had a preference to which campus they studied, and both relocated from Saskatoon.

"I thought that I would probably get very home sick because a new program and a new city is a lot at once," said Bains. "It did work out for the best, because I'm glad that I'm here, and I've been reassured by my experiences and interactions with everyone here. I'm really happy." 🍀



Led by Knowledge Keeper Lamarr Oksasikewiyin, first-year medical students participated in traditional Indigenous games as part of a workshop designed to provide a history of the residential school system, Indigenous traditions and to engage and participate in cultural learning environments. *Photo by Amanda Symynuk*



Inspiring a generation: Dr. Robert Hickie

Dr. Robert (Bob) Hickie was a faculty member and researcher at the College of Medicine for more than four decades. *Submitted photo*

AMANDA WORONIUK

Known for his strong work ethic and humility, Dr. Robert (Bob) Hickie (BSc'58, MSc'60, PhD) touched the lives of countless learners and colleagues during his 45 years at the University of Saskatchewan (USask), and whose legacy continues throughout the province to this day.

"He had a sense of pride in developing these programs," said his son Mark Hickie. "I think a lot of it boils down to the number of people that have been impacted, both professionally and personally by knowing him. It is with great pride realizing that my dad had an impact on the lives of so many people with the work that he did and by the human being that he was both in and out of the classroom."

Hickie passed away on May 29, 2022. His significant contributions to the college and in educating healthcare professionals are still felt in the college. Family and colleagues fondly remember Hickie's achievements and his impact on the world.

Hickie was a distinguished faculty member, esteemed researcher, beloved mentor and respected leader who inspired a generation of students and left a lasting impression on the College of Medicine and USask.

Born in Melville, Saskatchewan, Hickie earned bachelor's and master's degrees in pharmacy at USask before pursuing a doctorate in pharmacology at the University of Toronto. After graduation, Hickie returned to Saskatoon and joined the College of Medicine as an assistant professor in 1966.

He was instrumental in forming the college's pharmacology department (now the Department of Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology) and served as acting department co-chair where he taught both medical and dental students. Hickie was later promoted to professor where he continued to balance both research and teaching responsibilities.

"He was in the pharmacology department, so he was part of the College of Medicine," said his wife Doreen Hickie. "There were so many wonderful workers that we grew to know and love. You got to know a lot of people and you knew their strengths and →

"It is with great pride realizing that my dad had an impact on the lives of so many people with the work that he did and by the human being that he was both in and out of the classroom."

MARK HICKIE



Dr. Hickie’s impact is still felt throughout the college and university. *Submitted photo*

what they were looking for.”

Hickie was a renowned cancer researcher whose work focused on developing anti-cancer agents that increased the effectiveness of traditional anticancer drugs and reduced unpleasant side effects in patients. His contributions to the field included publishing hundreds of articles. Hickie also helped the Canadian Cancer Society with education and fundraising for both the Saskatoon Cancer Lodge, and the Saskatoon Cancer Clinic and Research Centre.

In 1987, Hickie was one of two Canadians selected as part of an international cancer research delegation to participate in a multi-city eastern European tour. The researchers shared information about cancer treatment and advances with their European counterparts.

“That was a real breakthrough to see other people in other countries doing the work that you were doing so they can collaborate,” said Doreen. “It’s amazing how science binds people. That was a wonderful trip.”

Hickie also fostered a sense of community among his students, some of whom didn’t have family nearby. During the holidays, Hickie would host students at his home for social gatherings.

“I remember at Christmas time, he had all these grad students over for an evening. Some of them were from out of town and were like family,” said Mark. “I think that’s important to put in perspective. He took on a professor and supervisory role, but there’s

a fatherly role to all these grad students that came and went under his tutelage.”

In 1985, Hickie was recognized with a teaching excellence award by students for his dedication to classroom instruction. In 2005, he received the Dr. Louis Horlick Spirit of the College Award, presented by the college’s alumni association for exceptional contributions over and above the call of duty, and involvement with alumni activities. Hickie was conferred the title of professor emeritus upon retirement for his distinguished service to the college. However, one of the recognitions that impacted him the most was when he was honoured as an Honorary Lifetime Member of the college’s alumni association.

“He received many awards and one that really spoke to his heart was when Dean Preston Smith and the alumni association made him a lifetime honorary member,” said Doreen. “That really touched him. When he opened up the envelope, the tears came down his cheeks. He was so happy to get that.”

Throughout his time at USask, Hickie served on numerous university committees and boards, including as a member of the Board of Governors, president of the University of Saskatchewan Alumni Association, chair of University of Saskatchewan Faculty Association, along with many subcommittees. He was also a dedicated volunteer with the college’s alumni association and a champion for cancer care in Saskatchewan.

When on the board of governors, he and Dr. Bernie Goplan worked tirelessly to obtain the set of priceless set of Amati instruments that were previously gifted to USask. They were loaned to the University of Victoria. When back, the Amati Quartet was formed, playing magnificent concerts. They are set to commence with another concert series soon.

“You’re helping your fellow mankind in all that you do, and Bob was very involved in all the service clubs. He gave his time for the cancer society and multiple sclerosis. He was on every board or every meeting board on health issues in the province and in Saskatoon. His love of people drove him to that,” said Doreen.

Even after retirement in 2004, Hickie continued to mentor students and continue his research.

“He retired but he still kept working for the

university in different pursuits. He still took on grad students and did cancer research,” said Mark who described his father’s career as “purposeful and intentional.”

Together with his wife Doreen, the Hickie family are generous supporters of the college and university, including making donations to the areas of pharmacology and ophthalmology. Their gifts ensure that talented students can pursue education without worrying about financial barriers.

“For more than four decades, Dr. Hickie was a dedicated teacher and mentor to countless students. He made tremendous contributions to the college through his work in cancer research. His legacy of kindness and humility continue to serve as an inspiration for our college,” said Dr. Preston Smith (MD), dean. “Through their giving, the Hickie family’s commitment to our students continues to have a direct impact as learners are able to pursue academics without barriers and reach their full potential.”

At the forefront of Hickie’s life was his family and his faith. He was a dedicated husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. He loved singing, sang in the University Chorus and even formed a men’s choir, called the ‘Young at Heart’, with his fellow church choir members.

“He lived with intentionality and integrity, with a lot of purpose, a lot of dedication and I think that says a lot but the other thing of course, family was everything to him,” said Mark. “He changed and inspired the lives of so many. There aren’t too many doctors in Saskatchewan that haven’t felt his direct impact.” ♥

Honouring a Family: The Bilokreli Family Funds



From left, Bryan Bilokreli, Donna Bilokreli and Charlene Ferguson. *Submitted photo*

A family fund is a way to remember family members and their contributions to society, and to carry on the family name in a meaningful way for generations to come. There’s no limit to where family funds can be directed, from the education of future doctors and health practitioners to the advancement of research in a particular area of medicine.

The Bilokreli family chose to honour their two aunts – Helen Bilokreli and Eunice Bilokreli – who were the only girls in a family of nine children. Both women were successful in their careers but never forgot their rural Saskatchewan roots, returning to their childhood home in Theodore regularly to help with the preparation of meals for the family harvest and later to provide care for their parents. The women’s strong commitment to health was clear by their continued support to the College of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) and Saskatoon City Hospital.

We talked to nephew Bryan Bilokreli about the inspiration for two funds: the Bilokreli Family Donor Advised Fund and the Eunice Bilokreli Research Fund.



From left, Helen and Eunice Bilokreli were long-time supporters of healthcare organizations. *Submitted photo*

How would you describe the two funds?

The original Bilokreli family fund was set up in 2011 when Eunice was still alive. We chose to support a cause called

Rural Dementia Action Research (RaDAR). Members of the RaDAR team at USask are challenged to improve the delivery of rural dementia care across the continuum, from early detection and diagnosis to end-of-life care.

Eunice passed away in 2014 and that’s when we started the Eunice Bilokreli Research Fund. We’ve been allocating those funds to the College of Medicine Graduate Student Awards (CoMGRAD). The purpose of the CoMGRAD is to provide support to graduate who demonstrate a passion for research.

How are they awarded? Does the College award them based on applications?

We try to allocate the funds based on the priorities that my aunt had identified when she was still alive in terms of the fields of research or the fields of medicine that she felt more strongly about. When we get the applications or the listings from the College of Medicine, we go through them and identify one, two or three that we feel more strongly about, but we leave it up to the college to make the final decision.

What inspired your family to create these funds?

Both my aunts had dementia. Eunice passed away from dementia although she had several other illnesses and Helen had a brain aneurysm that led towards dementia. We thought that was something we should focus on to recognize their needs and the illnesses they had, especially in the case of Eunice.

We talked to everyone in the family and worked with the development office at the university and her financial advisors. They all agreed that would be a very suitable direction to take.

What do you hope the funds will achieve?

What we’re trying to do is make this a legacy involving both my family and my sister’s family. When I’m not here, somewhere down the road, our family and our two daughters, and my sister’s family and her sons and daughters, and our two daughters and their husbands – will then take up the lead. Right now, we lead but we make sure they’re all involved and aware of what we’re doing.

Why did you choose to support the USask?

Before we set up the funds, both of my aunts were regular contributors to health on a regular basis, both to Saskatoon City Hospital and the College of Medicine. These funds were being consistent with their past philanthropy.

Was it difficult to create the funds?

Everyone from the development office was very good about it, whether it was the associate deans we worked with or the development people. Jeff Aramenko has been very good about keeping me informed and updated.

Do you think this will serve as a model for others to create this kind of fund?

I think so. We see this as a legacy to the Bilokreli name. I have two daughters, both married, and they’re not Bilokreli by name, so the name is going to disappear through time. This is a way of honouring the name and keeping it visible. That’s a very personal family approach, but it’s a good way to do it. We plan to maintain the funding in perpetuity, continuing to earn interest and keeping the principal as high as possible so we can keep it going for many years.

Would you recommend to people who can afford it that they consider creating a fund?

Yes, I found the college very flexible since we had areas we wanted to see the money go towards. You can designate it towards any specialty or niche program that is important to you, and they will give you advice and suggestions as to how to work through it.

There’s so much need for research funds and for scholarship funds for students that all money is welcome. Through CoMGRAD, the College of Medicine matches our donation, so if we give \$10,000 a year, they’ll give \$10,000 a year.

What would be your advice to donors to get them started?

Discuss it as a family – I think that’s what I would suggest – and determine what area you wish to support and then talk to the College of Medicine and the development office. Tell them you have some thoughts as part of annual giving or an ongoing commitment for research. Maybe it’s a one-year commitment, maybe it’s a five-year commitment. Then ask them how you can make this work so it’s in the best interests of you and the university. ♥

The Drs. Shashi and Pravesh Suri Awards in Undergraduate Medicine: An Ambition Realized



Drs. Shashi and Pravesh Suri Submitted photo

Two Regina physicians were inspired to make a difference for medical students.

Bursaries and scholarships are two of the many ways to encourage excellence in a field of study that is special to you. Bursaries are aimed at students who wouldn't otherwise have the financial resources to continue their pursuit of knowledge in their chosen fields.

While scholarships can be awarded based upon the same financial criteria, they can also be directed to people who have proven themselves worthy of academic merit through outstanding achievement.

The inspiration for Drs. Shashi and Pravesh Suri to create their awards in undergraduate medicine at the University of Saskatchewan (USask) College of Medicine began several years ago and, with the pandemic beginning to ease, they decided 2022 would be the inaugural year.

Dr. Shashi Suri (MD) works in the Department of Anesthesiology in Regina and is a clinical assistant professor at the College of Medicine. Dr. Pravesh Suri (MD), her husband, is a family physician in Regina. Both of their children graduated from the College of Medicine with great distinction. Rita is currently the director of nephrology at McGill University and Ryan is a general surgeon in Regina.

We chatted with Dr. Shashi Suri about the family's motivation to create the award.

What inspired you originally?

We've been thinking about setting up scholarships and bursaries for a long time. We

wanted to support medical education since we are all physicians in the family, and both my children went to USask for medical school. A little bit of help can make a difference in a person's life. It's something that came into our heads, and we talked to our children, and they said, "yes, that's a very good idea."

How is it set up?

It is an endowment fund where most of the earnings will be going to the scholarship and bursaries every year. We established a minimum amount for the awards, so the recipients are going to get that funding on an annual basis.

Do your motives extend beyond the financial assistance you're providing?

Well, people are more likely to give when they get something. All these students who are going to become physicians in the future will give back and the community will benefit. They might support other budding doctors, so I think that's part of the idea behind it.

Was it difficult to create the award?

It wasn't a difficult thing to do. We were fortunate that we had the money to establish it, that's why we decided to go ahead with the process. We discussed with my daughter what we wanted to achieve, what kind of students we wanted to help, what kind of criteria we were going to use, so it was a family effort.

How did you go about setting it up?

We worked with Steph Bodnar, a former development officer in the college, she was

very good to work with. It wasn't that hard; it took us only three months once we started. We had many conversations back and forth about the details of the gift.

Do you think the awards will continue in the future?

It's an endowment fund, so it's supposed to go on forever if it can. If the economy does well and the money grows, they can increase the amount of the scholarship and bursaries, or they can establish one or two ad hoc scholarships. That's up to the college. We established the minimum, but they can increase it if they want to, or they can add more recipients.

Do you think this will serve as a model for others to create this kind of award?

I hope so! When you plant the seeds, sometimes people may think, "this is another way we can help out." It's good to set an example, but we can't predict what will happen.

If someone came to you with a similar idea for creating an award, what would be your advice to them?

I will tell them sure, go ahead and do it. They have to decide how much money they're going to donate and they have to establish their criteria for the award.

We in the profession have been established as doctors for so long, we can help the new doctors coming through. This award is something that gives back, as the recipients are all going to be good doctors, making a good living, so the people who receive the scholarships can go on and start something similar of their own.

Are you happy with the outcome?

We're very happy we did it. It gives us mental happiness that we are trying to do something good for some people who may be in need. We wanted to create it in our lifetime so that we will have the opportunity to see these doctors graduating, maybe meet them, and know that we have done something to help.

If you have any questions about how you can give to the College of Medicine please contact the Director of Advancement sherry.buckler@usask.ca or call 306-966-2600. ■

The LGBTQ2S+ Bursary in Undergraduate Medicine: A First for the College of Medicine



Dr. John (Jack) Wilkie Submitted photo

The creation of a bursary that recognizes a group you feel strongly about is one of the most effective ways you can leave a legacy for generations to come. It's a way to support a college or vocation while making a larger, more universal statement. It's also a way to continue to make a difference in the lives of others, even after you're gone.

Such was the motivation for Dr. John (Jack) Wilkie (MD'64), an alumnus of the University of Saskatchewan (USask) College of Medicine. His studies eventually led him to a career in ophthalmology in San Francisco where he officially came out and joined the LGBT community in the 1970s.

He was membership chair of the Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights and a founding member of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (now the American Association of Physicians for Human Rights).

These two organizations were instrumental in removing homosexuality from the American Psychiatric Association's classification of mental illnesses, a significant step forward in achieving human rights for gay and lesbian individuals everywhere.

We talked to Dr. Wilkie about what the LGBTQ2S+ Bursary means to him.

Who is the LGBTQ2S+ Bursary intended for?

It is a bursary for members of the queer community; that is, individuals who identify themselves as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer or Two-Spirited. First Nations communities have referred to bisexual individuals as two-spirited since

pre-contact times. As well, it is for individuals who have demonstrated significant support for the queer community. Recipients must be accepted into any of the four years of medical school.

In my day, the actual LGBTQ2S+ community was many times larger than the self-identified or "out" community and it probably still is in a relatively rural area such as Saskatchewan. The purpose of the bursary is to help queer students and to encourage accomplished members of the queer community to become more visible.

What inspired you to create this bursary?

Several things inspired me. Around 2015, I saw an article in the USask alumni online publication, Green and White, about two graduates of the USask Law School. Brad Berg (LLB'92) and Brian Rolfes (LLB'91) established a scholarship specifically recognizing students for their involvement in advancing LGBT rights.

I am a member of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, a working partner of the American Medical Association, which has bursaries for gay medical students. It seemed to me that a similar bursary would raise the profile of queers, or LGBTQ2S+ people, and their accomplishments in medicine and in society at large in Saskatchewan.

When did you begin to think about creating this legacy?

I have always been very appreciative of the University of Saskatchewan for preparing me for such an interesting profession that is so important to humankind all over the world. When I went to the United States after practicing for only seven years in Canada, I felt that I owed more to my alma mater.

How many awards will be given?

At present, there will be one bursary of \$4,000 annually. In the future, when my estate is settled, I expect there will be four or five additional, similar bursaries. Or perhaps there will be fewer bursaries of larger value, depending on the funds available and the number of qualified applicants.

What do you hope the bursary will achieve?

On a basic level, I hope it will make life

easier for a number of gay and lesbian medical students. On a broader level, I hope it will draw attention to their participation in the medical profession and their contributions to it. The presence of out LGBTQ2S+ medical students and staff will also lead to better care for queer patients.

Was it difficult to create the bursary?

It was not difficult to create the bursary. I presented my ideas and an estimate of the current funds available to Steph Bodnar, a development officer in the college. She gave me a form that listed and described the features of a bursary or scholarship that need to be understood by the donor in advance. It included the way the funds are managed, the number of the awards and their amounts are discussed and agreed upon. It is a straightforward process and she was a great help.

Do you think the awards will grow in the future?

The plan is for the awards to continue in perpetuity. The hope is that the LGBTQ2S+ community will become more accepted and mainstream in the not-too-distant future and then the bursaries will be awarded mainly based on need.

When my estate is finally settled, depending on the housing and stock markets, my plan is to increase the funding five-fold. So yes, the awards should grow substantially.

Do you think this will serve as a model for others to create this kind of award?

Yes, that would be nice. Already, advances in human rights brought about by LGBTQ2S+ people in the areas of law and medicine have had a profound effect on the lives of queer people throughout the Western World.

What is your advice to help people get started?

Visiting the Advancement Office in-person or viewing the website would be a good place to start after you have decided what you want to achieve and the funds you want to put towards that end.

To learn more about how to establish a bursary to support students, please contact the Director of Advancement sherry.buckler@usask.ca or call 306-966-2600. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

2022

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

OCTOBER 2022–NOVEMBER 2023
STEPS Virtual Classroom Series

OCTOBER 2022–NOVEMBER 2023
Continuing Medical Education Webinar Series

OCTOBER 14
Disordered Eating Conference

OCTOBER 20 – 22
Advancing Interprofessional Management of Substance Use Disorders in Saskatchewan (AIMS-SK) Modules

NOVEMBER 25–26
Pain and Therapeutics Conference 2022

2023

JANUARY

JANUARY 19–22
CanREACH-SK Patient-Centered Mental Health in Pediatric Primary Care (PPP) Mini-Fellowship

APRIL

Canadian Conference on Medical Education (Date/location TBD)

*** Due to ongoing pandemic restrictions and the fluid nature of pandemic event planning, we are unable to provide specific dates for some alumni events in the next year.**

Please keep an eye on your email for specific dates as they become available or check the alumni section of the College of Medicine website: medicine.usask.ca/alumni

JUNE

JUNE 15–17
2022 Highlights in Medicine Conference and Reunion

JUNE 16
Alumni Association AGM

JUNE (DATE TBD)
PGME Resident Boot Camp

JUNE (DATE TBD)
Research, Innovation and Scholarship in Education event

OCTOBER

OCTOBER (DATE TBD)
MD Class of 2027 White Coat Ceremony

OCTOBER 11–13
International Conference on Physician Health (Palm Springs, CA)

OCTOBER 19–21
2023 International Conference on Residency Education (Halifax)

2022 – 2023 Online Courses:

The following self-directed courses begin on October 17:

- Role of Practitioners in Indigenous Wellness
- Building an Awareness of Cultural Humility
- Is Your Patient Fit to Drive?

Continuous intake:

- Pain and Therapeutics Online Course 2022–2023

Please keep an eye on your email for specific dates as they become available or check the alumni section of the College of Medicine website: medicine.usask.ca/alumni

Save the date June 15-17, 2023

Planning is already underway for the **2023 Highlights in Medicine Conference and Reunion**. Be sure to save the date for this reunion. We will honour classes ending in "3" or "8."

Thank you

2022 Class Giving Campaign

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the 2022 Class Giving Campaign. Because of you, we raised \$52,800 to support undergraduate students in financial need. We encourage classes to start thinking of ideas to raise funding for students in financial need, such as starting their own fund.

If your class is interested in donating, please contact Sherry Buckler at sherry.buckler@usask.ca.

EVENT RECAP

2022 Highlights in Medicine Reunion and Conference

June 16-18, 2022

The Highlights in Medicine Reunion and Conference took place from June 16 to 18 on the University of Saskatchewan campus. Alumni connected with each other and returned to their College of Medicine roots. This marked the first time in three years the event returned to an in-person celebration. Honoured years ending with two and seven gathered in Marquis Hall on Saturday evening for a celebratory banquet after the culmination of activities which included educational lectures, campus tours and an afternoon barbeque in the Bowl.

The conference included the annual honorary alumni lecture by Dr. David Mulder (MD'62), the Clara and Frank Gertler Lecture in Medicine presented by Dr. Malcolm King, the Dr. Anita Chakravarti Lecture in Wellness by Patty Stewart McCord and the Betty-Ann and Wade Heggie Lecture in Integrative Medicine with Dr. Trevor Hancock. Attendees also participated in campus tours that included VIDO and the Health Sciences Building.

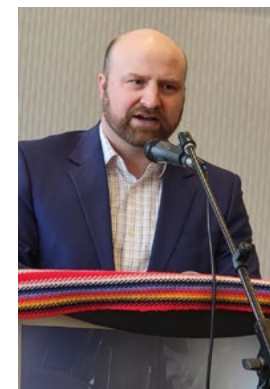
Dr. Trustin Domes was presented with the Louis Horlick Spirit of the College Award at the banquet and each class representative gave an update from their respective years. More than \$1,100

was raised at the silent auction to support student initiatives and over \$52,800 was raised through class donations in support of the student bursaries.

To encourage donations to the Class of 1977 Fund at their 45-year class reunion, fund-raisers Drs. Toby Rose (MD), Don Stefuk (MD) and Dennis Lanigan (MD) took a light-hearted approach, using a K-Tel type offer. For a \$500 minimum donation, alumni received a memory stick of the *Greatest (Photo) Hits of the Class of '77!* including their original class photo from 1973, graduation memorabilia and photos from previous class reunions. Familiar phrases from K-Tel infomercials like "Have we got an offer for you!" and "But wait, there's more!" raised a total of \$20,000 to support medical students in need. Thank you to all classmates who donated.

Help us organize the 2023 conference by representing your classmates.

For more information, contact Kelsey Kougiya, alumni relations officer at 306-966-5763 or kelsey.kougiya@usask.ca.



Attendees at the 2022 Highlights in Medicine Conference and Reunion. *Submitted photos*



SAVE THE DATE for the 2023 Highlights in Medicine Conference and Reunion

June 15-17, 2023

Honoured years:

1953, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983,
1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008, 2013, 2018

In the wake of the tragedy at James Smith Cree Nation and Weldon communities in September, the Student Medical Society of Saskatchewan (SMSS) offers heartfelt condolences to the victims, their families and loved ones, and to everyone in the community impacted by the horrific events. In this time of mourning, may you find strength in community bonds, comfort in culture and tradition. Our hearts are with you.



Back row, from left: Lauren Fraess, Emma Foreman, Erin White, Hope Anderson. Front row, from left: Zoher Rafid-Hamed, Yousef Omar, Grant Yao.

“There comes a point where we need to stop pulling people out of the river and instead go upstream and find out why they keep falling in.”

DESMOND TUTU

Indigenous peoples across Canada face inequitable disparities that crosscut several indicators of well-being – be it employment, food insecurity, education, access to healthcare, mental health, among others. Medical education, providers and learners have been focused on addressing the urgent needs in the community. The COVID-19 pandemic revealed the extent of existing disparities that were further compounded by the pandemic. There is a need for upstream approaches to address health disparities experienced by Indigenous peoples at all levels of healthcare.

Together, with the guidance of faculty, staff, and preceptors, we hope to begin addressing the upstream issues facing Indigenous people in Saskatchewan while simultaneously advocating for Indigenous health sovereignty.

This past summer, students from the College of Medicine had the opportunity to work with students at Westmount

Community School as part of their urban inner-city practicum for *Making the Links: A Global Health Certificate Program*. Through this initiative, students hosted small interactive group sessions and shared knowledge at the school. Through similar activities, medical students hope to share their passions with the younger generation, bridge the education gap, and replace barriers with pathways to care.

While there are several remarkable student-led initiatives, Students for Harm Reduction & Informed Policy (SHRIP), has had great success advocating for harm reduction. Last year, SHRIP created an evidence-based, open letter to the Saskatchewan provincial government, urging them to provide more significant funding for safe consumption sites in the province. Through their work, they met with Members of Parliament in Regina and later with Honourable Dr. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and Associate Minister of Health, to further discuss the state of harm reduction efforts in the province and the country.

The 2022-2023 school year requires cognisant and tactful navigation as we move into a post-pandemic world. The SMSS is aware of the current state of the pandemic and continues to work with the UGME, SHA, and SMA to ensure that we offer as many safe events as possible for students. As well, with the introduction of first year medical students to the Regina campus site, the

SMSS is working diligently to ensure ample integration for students between both cities to foster community, support, and a collective spirit.

With the support of the College of Medicine, we eagerly look forward to continuing student engagement and fostering the sense of community upon which medicine is built. We also wish to express our deepest gratitude to the Alumni Association for the continued support that allows us to host successful events for students at the College of Medicine.

We have many exciting events planned for the year to come. This year, we are hosting Ice Bowl, a hockey tournament for medical schools in Western Canada in April. We also want to highlight the annual Alumni-Student Hockey Game, tentatively scheduled for April. Along with the White Coat Ceremony and Fall Formal, these events are long-held traditions by students at the College of Medicine and are essential for building community and collegiality among medical students.

If you have any questions about events, or are interested in partnering with the SMSS, please contact our VP External at vpexternal.smss@gmail.com, and see our calendar at saskmedstudents.com.

The SMSS Executive

Young Innovators: USask researcher says pain assessment tools can be more inclusive

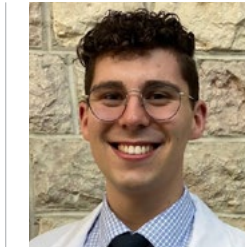
School of Rehabilitation Science (SRS) graduate student Tayah Zhang is conducting a research project that examines how pain assessment tools used to assess chronic musculoskeletal pain may not be universal or culturally responsive.

“Feelings and expressions of pain are subjective, meaning the way in which I experience pain and the way in which I express myself when I’m in pain differs from another person,” said Zhang. “That is because experiences and expressions of pain are influenced by an individual’s culture, by the way they were brought up, and by their own lived experiences.”

Zhang, her research supervisor Dr. Stacey Lovo (PhD), a SRS assistant professor, and the rest of the research team plans to build new relationships in La Loche and Waterhen Lake First Nation to work with community members on community-directed needs assessments and pain scales.



USask School of Rehabilitation Science graduate student Tayah Zhang.*



USask graduate researcher and medical student, Kirk Haan.*

USask researcher examines how our bodies regulate water

USask physiology researcher and medical student Kirk Haan and his research team have identified a chemical signal that allows the body to sustain water regulation changes over longer periods of time. This chemical helps the body to retain enough water to continue internal operations running during physical exertion, such as ensuring the body stays cool while exercising in the sun.

“Problems with water balance are some of the most prevalent issues in our health care system, especially in elderly and chronically ill populations,” said Haan. “This research can potentially lead to the development of new preventive and treatment strategies for these patients to decrease the burden on our health care system financially and to improve patient outcomes.”

Haan’s work was supervised by professor Dr. Thomas Fisher (PhD).



Oyin Magbadelo graduated from the University of Saskatchewan with a Bachelor of Science (BSc) in Biomedical Neuroscience with a minor in Psychology.*

Black student makes history graduating from USask biomedical neuroscience program

Oyin Magbadelo was one of the first Black students to graduate from the new biomedical sciences degree program at the 2022 USask Spring Convocation in June. She also received a minor in psychology.

“The No. 1 thing is don’t undervalue yourself,” she said. “You’re more talented than you realize. High expectations for yourself can push you (to excel) but at the same time, it can also have you second-guessing yourself. So, be your best critic but also your greatest supporter.”

Magbadelo is interested in working in clinical neuroscience, possibly as a clinical laboratory technician specializing in neurological disorders.

USask Métis medical student realizing lifelong dream of becoming family physician

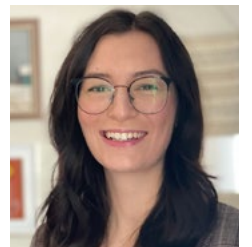
Hanna Dunnigan, who is Métis, graduated the medical doctor (MD) degree program at the 2022 USask Spring Convocation celebrations in June. Since she was a child, Dunnigan always had an internal drive to help people.

“In kindergarten, I told my parents I wanted to be a firefighter in the morning, a police officer in the afternoon, and a doctor overnight so I could fix up all the people I rescued during the day,” she recalled.

Dunnigan started her residency at the Red Deer Family Medicine program in July.

She had a piece of advice for Indigenous students considering medical school, applying, or currently in the MD program.

“Don’t give up,” she said. “It’s going to be a lot of hard work, but you definitely belong there. It’s important that you’re there. Keep working hard and look to your friends and your family for support when you need it.”



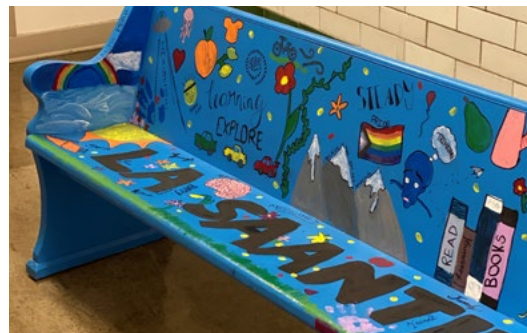
Hanna Dunnigan, who is Métis, is a fourth-year medical student set to graduate from USask on June 9.*

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.



From left, Medical students Graham, Lucas, Cande and Kayla in front of Westmount Community School. *Photo by Anne McLellan*



Westmount Wellness Bench. *Photo by Kayla Cropper*

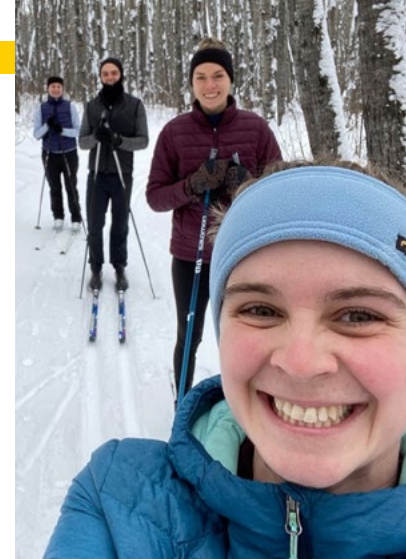
MOVING MOUNTAINS: THE UPHILL BATTLE WESTMOUNT STUDENTS FACE WITH MENTAL HEALTH

Medical students Graham Beresh, Lucas Fisher, Candelaria Aristizabal and Kayla Cropper spent the spare time of their second semester of their first year of medical school at Westmount Community School. The experience was part of an inner-city practicum for Making the Links: A Global Health Certificate Program.

The medical students and Grade 8 students connected through the program Let's Lead – Nikānētān. The program aims to provide students with the opportunity to build leadership skills through holistic, experiential education. The medical students shared their passion for anatomy, physiology, and respiratory, cardiovascular, musculoskeletal and reproductive systems. The Grade 8 students shared what health and wellness means to their generation.

"There were also old church pews purchased to be used as benches within the school. These church pews can represent the Catholic Church and for many, may feel like a symbol of the Residential School system. We saw an opportunity to change the church pews from a symbol of the past into a symbol of health, inclusion, and wellbeing.

"Our goal was to engage the Let's Lead class in a project to revamp a church pew and paint it with imagery of health and wellness. Students did a brainstorming session about what these concepts meant to them." ♥



From front to back: Dr. Anna Redekop, Jamie Vander Ende (SLIC student), Ryan Labossiere (SLIC student), Desiree community member.*

SMALL COMMUNITY WITH BIG MEDICINE: HANDS-ON LEARNING IN MEADOW LAKE

Medical student Jamie Vander Ende wrote about her experience – completing her third-year of medical school in Meadow Lake – through the Saskatchewan Longitudinal Integrated Clerkship (SLIC) program.

SLIC is a program that third-year medical students can apply to and complete 10 months of clerkship training in rural centres. Instead of a rotation-based program, SLIC is a longitudinal program, meaning students are hands-on with different areas of medicine each day.

"I have delivered many babies, helped manage the emergency room, performed diagnostic procedures, assisted in the OR with specialists, and spent time in remote locations at outpost clinics. I have had hands-on experiences and have been involved in most clinical presentations due to the one-to-one preceptor/student ratio, which is a significant reason why I chose the SLIC program.

"Due to the location of Meadow Lake, the centre provides care to rural and remote areas. This has provided me insight and empathy into intergenerational trauma and the barriers to receiving sound health care." ♥

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: THE IMPORTANCE OF REPRESENTATION AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

Medical student Vivian Murungi wrote about her experience as a Black medical student in Saskatchewan, navigating the daily nuances of the health care system and intersectionality of race, gender, and class. In the MyMD blog, Vivian writes about the Black Medical Student Association (BMSA), which began in 2020. The association opened opportunities to plan events that celebrate diversity and history.

"As we shared our stories, I found myself humbled and in admiration of the resilience and what many of us had to overcome to be able to live and serve in this province. Black physicians come from all walks of life, and their passion for medicine has dramatically benefitted the province of Saskatchewan. To me, they have encompassed Black excellence." ♥



From left, Class of 2022 medical students Vivian Murungi, Gift Madojemu, Joshua Onasanya, Nafisa Absher, and Bukunmi Adesina.*



Second-year medical student Adrian Teare.*

THE IMPORTANCE OF MEANINGFUL, COMMUNITY-LED RESEARCH PROJECTS

Adrian Teare was one medical student who participated in a community-based research project with Pewaseskwan Indigenous Wellness Research Group. The experience was part of a Dean's Summer Research Project in 2021.

The project was focused on developing good relationships with the community of Grandmother's Bay, and conducting interviews to determine what community members felt would be most beneficial as a research partnership was formed. The findings from the project would be used as guiding principles when developing future research projects in Grandmother's Bay.

"There is so much valuable learning to be had by sitting and listening to people tell their stories, and I was so thankful to have been welcomed into that by the community. I was initially a little nervous to conduct my interviews, as I was worried that community members may be suspicious of a stranger coming in and asking questions.

"Instead, I found myself overwhelmed with the level of openness the people I interviewed displayed and how graciously I was welcomed by the community. They shared their traditional foods with me, took the time to sit and speak with me, and shared so generously from their personal experiences and wisdom."

QUEERING THE MEDICAL CURRICULUM

Medical students Kirti Garg and Alexa McEwen write about their Dean's Summer Research Project, in which they worked with College of Medicine faculty to review literature and provide suggestions for best practices for including queer content in the medical curriculum. School of Rehabilitation Science assistant professor Stéphanie Madill (PhD) and Department of Family Medicine assistant professor Dr. Carla Holinaty (MD) worked with the students to create recommendations to inform the training of medical students at USask to prepare them to care for queer-identifying patients.

"These projects came at a particularly exciting time, since the College is actively working on curriculum renewal. We were approached by the Curriculum Committee to discuss our findings and suggestions, along with other individuals known in the College for their queer-related work. The passion and energy for the topic was evident within a couple minutes of the meeting. We ended up in a lengthy discussion about the need for improved faculty education materials to go alongside any improvements made to the medical curriculum."



From left clockwise, medical student Kirti Garg, School of Rehabilitation Science assistant professor Stéphanie Madill, and medical student Alexa McEwen.*

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

AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

LEARNERS

Undergraduate medical education

2022 Canadian Medical Hall of Fame (CMHF) Award: Emma Yanko

2022 USask Indigenous Achievement Awards
• Leadership Award: Hanna Dunnigan
• Research Award: Gabriella (Gabby) Antaya

Dr. Vince Matthews Prize in Community Health and Epidemiology: Belma Kamencic

Dr. G. Ernest McBrien Award in Family Medicine: Erin Neville

Lawrence & Penny Clein Scholarship in Palliative Care: Nathan Baron

Hilliard Silver Medal and Department of Medicine Prize: Belma Kamencic

Dr. Vernon and Mrs. Christine Hoepfner Award for Excellence in Internal Medicine:
• Kayla Lett (In Province)
• Michelle Brabant (Out of Province)

Dr. Eric Lepp Memorial Award in Medicine: Michelle Brabant

Department of Pediatrics Prize: Tyrell Wees

Dr. J. W. Gerrard Prize in Clinical Pediatrics: Kyra Ives

Dr. Professor Popkin Prize in Obstetrics and Gynecology: Richard Chaulk

Obstetrics & Gynecology Silver Medal: Belma Kamencic

Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Award: Rylie Bonokowski

Henry & Cheryl Kloppenburg Prize in Psychiatry: Gift Madojem

The Dr. Karl E. Oberdieck Prize: Logan Hahn

Dr. Beattie Award in Psychiatry (Regina): Kayla Lett

Saskatchewan Psychiatric Association Award: Logan Hahn

Dr. Hugh MacLean Prize and Silver Medal in Surgery: Belma Kamencic

Professor's Prize in Surgery: Richard Chaulk

Emergency Medicine Book Prize Award:
• Bryden Hughton (Saskatoon)
• Ethan Emslie (Regina)

Dr. Robert G. Murray Undergraduate Award in Medicine: Corey Ziegler

Drs. Epstein and Schnurr Award in Integrative Medicine: Jessica Froelich

The Reuben Brant Scholarship in Medicine:
• Belma Kamencic (Overall Academic Achievement)
• Tyrell Wees (Academic Achievement in Year 4)

Drs. Ivan Jen and Suzanne Yip Award: Belma Kamencic

The James Walker Wood MD Award in Family Medicine: Jessica Froelich

Drs. Shashi and Pravesh Suri Award in Medicine: Danielle Earis

Lindsay Gold Medal: Belma Kamencic

MacLeod Silver Medal: Michelle Brabant

Dr. Walter J. Hader Scholarship in Medicine: Anthony Tobechukwu Ojukwu

Spirit of the Class: David Luu

Senior Stick: Shivani Tauh

Postgraduate medical education

2022 Rising Star Certificate of Excellence Award, Canadian Association for Medical Education (CAME): Scott Adams (Department of Medical Imaging)

Award for Young Leaders (Resident), Canadian Medical Association: Amit Persad (Division of Neurosurgery)

CSCI-CIHR Resident Research Prize: Zarrukh Baig (General Surgery)

1939 Resident Teacher Award
• Cole Picot (Family Medicine Saskatoon)
• Jessica Bruce (Anesthesia)

CanMEDS Awards:

• Collaborator: Loreanne Manalac (Family Medicine Regina); Varun Srivatsav (Internal Medicine Regina)

• Communicator: Jeffrey Elder (Emergency Medicine)

• Leader: Kristin O'Neill (Emergency Medicine)

• Professional: Isabelle Hedayat (Family Medicine Regina); Nebojsa (Neb) Kuljic (Orthopedic Surgery)

• Exemplary Resident Award: Mackenzie (Mac) Russell (Emergency Medicine)

PGME Award for Excellence in Enhancing Resident Learning: Lynsey Martin (Emergency Medicine)

Graduate students

Graduate Research Fund:

- Megha Rohamare (PhD program; Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology)
- Akosierem Sokaribo (PhD program; Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology)
- Greg Guenther (MSc program; Health Sciences)
- David Livingston (MSc program; Health Sciences)
- Mackenzie Macauley (MSc program; Health Sciences)

Graduate Teaching Fellowship:

- Nataliya Tokarska (PhD program; Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology)
- Lai Wong (PhD program; Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology)
- Jacob Alhassan (PhD program; Community Health and Epidemiology)
- Razieh Safaripour (MSc program; Community Health and Epidemiology)
- Jacob Alhassan (PhD program; Community Health and Epidemiology)
- Razieh Safaripour (MSc program; Community Health and Epidemiology)

College of Medicine Dean's Scholarship:

- Timothy Onofrychuk (MSc program; Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology)
- Elsa Van Ankum (PhD program; Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology)
- Miranda Messmer (MSc program; Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology)
- Todd Stang (MSc program; Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology)
- Arshdeep Jagait (MSc program; Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology)
- Spencer Orvold (MSc program; Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology)
- Md Sabbir (MSc program; Community Health and Epidemiology)
- Humayun Kabir (MSc program; Community Health and Epidemiology)
- Kamrun Koly (MSc program; Community Health and Epidemiology)

Graduate students
cont'd

- Kh Shafiur Rahaman (MSc program; Community Health and Epidemiology)
- Helana Boutros (MSc program; Community Health and Epidemiology)
- Una Goncin (PhD program; Health Sciences)
- Samaneh Bayati (PhD program; Health Sciences)

CIHR (Canada Graduate Scholarship):

- Christopher Chivers (MSc program; Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology)
- Ethan Jansen (MSc program; Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology)
- Mikaela Vancoughnett (MSc program; Community Health and Epidemiology)
- Una Goncin (PhD program; Health Sciences)
- Cole Libner (PhD program; Health Sciences)
- Jared Price (MSc program; Health Sciences)
- Xinyi Zhang (MSc program; Health Sciences)

NSERC (Canada Graduate
Scholarship):

- Elsa Van Ankum (PhD program; Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology)
- Spencer Orvold (PhD program; Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology)
- Ilne Barnard (PhD program; Anatomy, Physiology and Pharmacology)
- Ananna Arna (MSc program, Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology)
- Michelle Gerber (MSc program; Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology)
- Aimen Khan (MSc program; Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology)

Saskatchewan Innovation and
Opportunity Scholarship:

Vincent Maranda (PhD program; Health Sciences)

STAFF
AWARDS

2021 Sydney Inskip Award

Barb Smith, Saskatoon family residency

Living Our Values:

- Sherrill Bueckert, Admissions – Undergraduate Medical Education
- Stephanie Kehrig, Department of Community Health and Epidemiology
- Cindy Matthews, Department of Psychiatry

Team Achievement Award:

- Sonja MacDonald and Cheryl Pfeifer, Undergraduate Medical Education
- Administrative personnel team, Department of Pediatrics – Jeanine Dice, Michelle Haley, Nancy Groenveld, Mary Grace Benedicto, Christie Klein, Kathy Tunnicliffe, Jennifer Simpson, Laurel Scherr, Sheri Olain, Kathy Doell, Jody Garnett, Susan Jackson, Jenel Vogelsang, Mila Jovic, Cecile Tuerca, Roxanne Rathgeber, Rebecca Florizone, Gina Kangas, Heather Sobrey, Kelsey Heagy, Kristy Lang, Larysa Noehring, Kerilyn Yaholnitsky, Debbie Milhomens and Angele Thiessen

Create-it Award:

- Bruna Bonavia-Fisher, Biomedical Sciences, awarded for “*Invaluable Facilitator*”
- Cathy Cuddington, School of Rehabilitation Science – Regina, awarded for “*Advocacy in Action*”
- Cassie Eskra, Regina Campus, awarded for “*Rookie of the Year*”
- Amy Winik, Faculty Development, awarded for “*Figures it Out and Gets it Done*”

FACULTY
AWARDS

Canadian Academy of Health Sciences Fellow:

Dr. Vivian Ramsden (PhD), Department of Academic Family Medicine

Saskatchewan Order of Merit

Dr. Alan Rosenberg (MD), Department of Pediatrics

Excellence in Teaching Award, Resident
Doctors of Saskatchewan:

- Dr. Jason Baserman (MD), Department of Emergency
- Dr. Vickie Martin (MD), Division of Oncology
- Dr. Andriyka Papish (MD), Department of Psychiatry
- Dr. Vipul Parekh (MD), Department of Academic Family Medicine
- Dr. Shaqil Peermohamed (MD), Department of Medicine
- Dr. Vikas Sharma (MD), Department of Ophthalmology
- Dr. John Shaw (MD), Department of Surgery

Canadian Certified Physician Executive Award,
Canadian Society of Physician Leader:

Dr. James Barton (MD)

Saskatchewan Association of Laboratory
Medicine Lifetime Achievement Award:

Dr. Rajendra K. Sharma (SOM, PhD, DSc)

Excellence in Research Award, Saskatchewan
Health Research Foundation (SHRF)

- Dr. Ali Rajput, Department of Medicine — Achievement Award
- Dr. Anil Kumar (PhD), Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology – Excellence Award: Top Establishment Grant (biomedical)

2022 Certificate of Merit Award, Canadian
Association for Medical Education (CAME)

Dr. Sharon Card (MD), Department of Medicine

ALUMNI

Spirit of the Class Award

Dr. David Luu (MD’22)

The College of Medicine Alumni Association is thrilled to present the Spirit of the Class Award in 2022 to Dr. David Luu (MD’22). The Spirit of the Class Award is presented annually to a member of the College of Medicine graduating class that clearly portrays their class spirit over the entire four-year program.

Throughout his journey as a student in the college, Dr. Luu exemplified the true spirit of what it means to be a dedicated student, supportive classmate, and compassionate physician. He is highly respected by his peers and has shown incredible fortitude in the face of adversity, particularly during an unforeseen and disruptive pandemic. Despite these challenges, Dr. Luu has been a source of inspiration and positivity for his classmates.

Congratulations, David! The entire alumni body of the College of Medicine is proud of you!

The Louis Horlick “Spirit of the College of Medicine Award” was established by the Alumni Association in honour of Dr. Louis Horlick, Professor Emeritus, Department of Medicine, for his contributions to the College of Medicine.

The annual award is presented to an individual associated with the college who has contributed over and above the call of duty and shows the spirit, dedication and enthusiasm that Dr. Horlick has exemplified over his career. The first presentation of this award was made to Dr. H.J. Spooner in 2003, at the College of Medicine 50th anniversary celebrations.

Nominations for the 2023 Spirit of the College Award will be accepted until May 31, 2023.

To obtain a nomination form, please visit the medicine alumni webpage at medicine.usask.ca/alumni/awards.php or contact medicine.alumni@usask.ca.

Spirit of the College of Medicine Award

Dr. Trustin Domes

The 2022 Louis Horlick “Spirit of the College of Medicine Award” recipient is Dr. Trustin Domes. Dr. Domes is an adjunct professor of surgery, director of undergraduate surgical education, and director of admissions at the USask College of Medicine. He sits on numerous College of Medicine and Royal College committees. His academic and research interests include developing and evaluating strategies to improve the delivery of medical education, including competency assessments, surgical simulation, and team-based learning.

Some of the comments from nominators include:

“Dr. Domes has gone above and beyond the call of duty during his 11-year career in the College of Medicine. His spirit, dedication and enthusiasm to inspire and empower others, to improve ways of teaching and to reform medical education to improve access and meet the needs of the province.”

“He has been consistently ranked by undergraduate students as well as residents, as a superb teacher.”

“Above all, Dr. Domes is a role model for the surgeon-educator and has inspired countless medical students to choose surgery as a career. He also is an inspiration for all our faculty members to become committed undergraduate educators. I can truly say that Dr. Domes embodies the spirit of the college for his dedication and enthusiasm for undergraduate medical education in Saskatchewan.”

“Time and time again, Trustin has gone above and beyond the call of duty in every aspect of his college activities. He gracefully accepts feedback from students and colleagues and is always improving to better serve the student body and faculty. He is a dedicated and humble clinician and educator and is wholeheartedly deserving of this award.”

USask Alumni
Achievement Awards

Alumni Lifetime Achievement Award

2022 – Dr. Sherine Gabriel (MD’82)

As the highest honour presented by the University of Saskatchewan Alumni Association, this award recognizes an alumnus/alumna for an outstanding lifetime of accomplishments and contributions to the social, cultural and economic well-being of society in any area, such as academics, athletics, arts, business, not-for-profit, public, or private sector.

Called a “triple threat” by her peers for her excellence in clinical practice, research and education, Dr. Sherine Gabriel is a leading physician in the United States, a Fellow of the National Academy of Medicine and an elected member of the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons.

Emigrating from Egypt to Canada as a child, Dr. Gabriel challenged cultural and gender roles in the College of Medicine at USask and stood out as a leader among her peers. She started her career at Mayo Clinic as a resident physician and continued there as a physician, researcher, educator and leader for nearly 30 years, culminating in her appointment as dean of Mayo Clinic College of Medicine in 2012.

Dr. Gabriel’s research has resulted in more than 250 publications addressing rheumatic diseases. In 2019, she became the President of Rush University in Chicago, where she is preparing the next generation of healthcare professionals to thrive in a changing environment.

Congratulations, Dr. Gabriel!

Alumni from the College of Medicine
who have received an Alumni
Achievement Award in the past few
years include:

- 2018: Drs. Suzanne Yip (MD’60) and Ivan Jen (MD’60)
- 2017: Dr. John Conly (MD’78)
- 2017: Dr. David Mulder (MD’62)



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.

USask is one of the top research-intensive, medical doctoral universities in Canada, and is home to world-leading research in areas of global importance, such as water and food security and infectious diseases. Study and discovery is enhanced by our outstanding facilities, including the Canadian Light Source synchrotron, VIDO-InterVac, the Global Institute for Food Security, the Global Institute for Water Security and the Sylvia Fedoruk Canadian Centre for Nuclear Innovation.

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University of Saskatchewan
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