HEARTS,
BRAINS,
WHITE GLOVE
THE CLASS OF 2016
Message from the Dean

SO MUCH HAS HAPPENED over the last 12 years and as such, we have decided to issue one issue of MUNMED for 2016 in tandem with a 12 year reflection to highlight many of the great achievements and advancements that faculty, staff and students have made possible for the Faculty of Medicine, Memorial University and communities across Newfoundland and Labrador.

Included in this issue is a tribute to the late Dr. Albert Cox, the Faculty of Medicine’s second dean. Dr. Cox served as dean of medicine from 1974-1987. He was also vice-president academic (acting) 1988-1990; and vice-president academic from 1990-1992, among numerous other positions he held while at Memorial University. Along with his many other contributions to the Faculty of Medicine, Dr. Cox can also be remembered for his Information Memoranda – the first manifestation of MUNMED – which he began writing in 1974.

You’ll also find a special interview with His Honour, the Honourable Frank F. Fagan, Lieutenant Governor of Newfoundland and Her Honour, Mrs. Patricia Fagan regarding their son, the late Dr. Richard Fagan and the newly named Dr. Richard Fagan Lecture Theatre in the Medical Education Centre and other stories from the past year.

I hope you enjoy this issue of MUNMED. There are many exciting developments in the Faculty of Medicine that we continue to be proud of each and every day, and we look forward to sharing them with you all.

Together we have been building a health tomorrow and we look forward to seeing what is to come as we celebrate the Faculty of Medicine’s 50th anniversary in 2017.
DR. ALBERT REGINAL COX,
who served as dean of medicine and vice-president academic of Memorial University, passed away from heart failure at the Cowichan District Hospital in Duncan, B.C., on Oct. 14, 2015.

Born in Victoria, B.C. on April 18, 1928, Dr. Cox was in the first class of Medical Studies at the newly opened Faculty of Medicine in 1950 at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver. It was there where he met his wife, Dr. Margaret Cox, who was also in the first class of Medical Studies, and where he earned his MD in 1954. Specializing in cardiology, he was invited to be professor of medicine at the newly established Faculty of Medicine at Memorial University in 1969. While at Memorial, Dr. Cox held a number of positions, including: associate dean for clinical affairs from 1972-1974; dean of medicine from 1974-1987; vice-president academic (acting) from 1988-1990; and vice-president academic from 1990-1992.

Dr. Cox received a number of awards and distinctions during his long career, including the Order of Canada in 1989 for his contributions to medical education. He was also awarded the Horner Gold Medal and Prize for highest standing in the subject of medicine.

During his tenure as dean of medicine, Dr. Cox saw many changes and developments in the Faculty of Medicine. In 1974, it was under his leadership that the first incarnation of MUNMED was developed and distributed, starting as an Information Memoranda which was circulated to all faculty and staff. They were created to record and recognize the new appointments, promotions, resignations and events of the rapidly growing medical school and continued until 1988. Today, MUNMED is now a full magazine available in print and online, with its purpose continuing to be the sharing of information and news about the Faculty of Medicine with its alumni, faculty members and staff.

In his personal life, Dr. Cox and his wife, Dr. Margaret (Peg) Cox, enjoyed 61 years of marriage together, and had daughters Susan and Kim and sons David and Steven. Upon his retirement in October 1991, he returned to British Columbia and his interest in organic farming of vegetables, specifically garlic, led him to sell organic produce at the Duncan Farmers’ Market for several years. He enjoyed photography and classical music and took clarinet lessons, and was an active member of the Sylvan United Church in Mill Bay, B.C.
A lasting impact for a healthy tomorrow

DR. RICHARD DOUGLAS FAGAN, Class of 2012, was passionate about medicine and the importance of patient care. On June 14, 2012, Richard passed peacefully away in the arms of his loving family after a long and courageous battle with cancer.

Lieutenant Governor, the Honourable Frank F. Fagan and Her Honour Patricia Fagan have made a generous contribution to the Faculty of Medicine in memory of their son. In recognition of this, the tiered lecture theatre, room M1M101, in the Medical Education Centre has been named the Dr. Richard Fagan Lecture Theatre.

For many years, Their Honours have felt a close connection to the medical school and part of that may be attributed to the fact that at a young age it was clear that Richard, as well as his older brother, Andrew, wanted to be physicians and they worked very hard to accomplish this goal.

“In a home economics class, Richard had to write an autobiography assignment when he was only 12 years old and in that, he said he was going to become a doctor,” said Her Honour. “In the coming years, he decided he only wanted to go to Memorial University and only applied to Memorial’s doctor of medicine program, despite the fact that he was invited to apply to many other schools across the country and one in the United States.”

Before applying to medical school, Richard completed a bachelor of science (hons.) in biochemistry at Memorial, where his family have established a scholarship for Academic Excellence and Innovative Thinking in his memory. It was during those years of study that you could see his passion and interest in medicine really begin to bloom.

Mentors, such as Dr. Andrew Furey, played an important role in Richard’s success as a medical student. “I felt an immediate connection to Richard and could see right away that he was dedicated to his studies and cared deeply for his profession and helping those in need,” said Dr. Furey.
Richard hadn’t been studying very long when he decided he wanted to be a surgeon and Dr. Furey felt that Richard was well suited to be an orthopedic surgeon.

Dr. Matthew Ryan, also from the Class of 2012, noted that Richard was known for the many hours he dedicated to studying, especially when it came to helping classmates understand some of the complex information that was part of their classroom lectures. But Dr. Ryan also recalls that Richard knew how to support his classmates during the stressful times of studying.

“Outside the classroom, Richie’s enthusiasm for life was contagious. He coined the term ‘Adventure Time’ which soon turned into a Class of 2012 term used to describe stress-relieving adventures, such as hiking the East Coast Trail, exploring Gros Morne and spending time in the wilderness.”

Another of Richard’s classmates, Dr. Janelle Taylor, described him as “fun, adventurous and effortlessly brilliant but still worked super hard. He loved his family and friends with all of his heart and he’ll always be remembered and missed.”

While in medical school, there was a change in Richard’s health and tragically, at the age of 25, Richard was diagnosed with cancer. His parents said that he tackled this disease the way he had always handled himself; quietly, courageously, positively and without complaint or attribution. He lived every day to the maximum of his slowly deteriorating ability.

“Richard wanted some greater good to come from his passing,” said His Honour. “He had a never-ending drive to help other people and recognized that when you work hard and do good, so much can come from it.”

During a special event to officially name the lecture theatre, Dr. James Rourke, dean of the Faculty of Medicine, spoke about Richard and the impact he had on his classmates, the faculty, staff and medical school as a whole.

“Richard was a remarkable student who, despite an illness, never gave up,” said Dr. Rourke. “His story is truly an inspiration to us all and is a reminder to physicians, as well as current and future students, that we are not immune to life’s challenges and diseases.”

“This gift, from the Fagan family, will be especially meaningful to faculty and staff, particularly to those of us that knew Richard and all of the students being educated here,” said Dr. Rourke. “I would like to thank the Fagan family for their generous contribution and for honouring their son.”

Since Richard’s passing, his family has learned more about him as a medical student, and hearing about ‘Adventure Time’ excursions and how he supported his classmates has helped them during these difficult times.

Because of their son’s love of medicine and the desire to help others, his parents wanted to support the province’s medical school. His love of life and family encourages them to take on a leadership role in the community and they continue to do things on his behalf. Through these acts of kindness, they are provided with some comfort and a strong connection to Richard and the way he would have lived his life.

“We have a fabulous medical school that is highly respected right across Canada,” said His Honour. “The new building is state of the art and will help to educate many more doctors for communities in Newfoundland and Labrador and being able to support this in Richard’s memory has been important to us.”

“Before his passing, one thing that Richard said to us was ‘I never got to practise as a real doctor for even one day,’ and as a parent, that was very difficult to hear,” said Her Honour. “The naming of the lecture theatre is a way in which we are able to keep Richard’s name alive. He worked so hard to complete medical school and now, it is wonderful to know that in a very special way, he will always be there.”

“HE HAD A NEVER-ENDING DRIVE TO HELP OTHER PEOPLE AND RECOGNIZED THAT WHEN THEY WORK HARD AND DO GOOD, SO MUCH CAN COME FROM THAT.”
Convocation 2016

On Thursday, June 2, 2016, Dr. Gary Kachanoski, president and vice-chancellor of Memorial University invited Dr. James Rourke, dean of medicine to address convocation. This is part of a new tradition that the president has extended to outgoing deans. Dr. Kachanoski noted that Dr. Rourke has served as dean for 12 years and under his leadership many great things have been accomplished.

REMARKS BY DR. JAMES ROURKE, DEAN OF MEDICINE
2016 CONVOCATION ADDRESS

Thank you Dr. Kachanoski. Madame Chancellor, Honourable Minister, members of the Board of Regents, members of the Senate and faculty, members of the graduating class, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. I am honoured to be asked to address this convocation.

All of us in this room are fortunate ones, and you the graduates especially so.

Those of you listening closely, may wonder why I did not say “the fortunate ones.”

Many of you know The Fortunate Ones, as the name of the very popular local music duo, with wonderful songs like Lay Me Down.

Some of you may know The Fortunate Ones, as the name of an exceptional album by the Ennis sisters. The title track song alludes to the special meaning of the phrase The Fortunate Ones: those born in Newfoundland and Labrador who are fortunate enough to have work to stay and live here in this wonderful place.

For my address today, however, I will use the broader term meaning of fortunate ones to include all of us at this convocation.

As graduating students, proud parents, family and friends, faculty and administrative staff we are all fortunate that Memorial College was established in 1925 in memory of the Newfoundlanders and Labradorians who lost their lives in World War I; and especially at Beaumont Hamel 100 years ago.

Following World War II, Memorial College became Memorial University of Newfoundland in the first act of Parliament of the new province in 1949.

I trust you will all agree with me that we are fortunate to have Memorial University as such an excellent place to learn and to work.

In the spirit of full disclosure, like some of you, I am a come from away (or CFA for short) having come here over 12 years ago, to serve as Dean of Medicine. However, I much prefer the term NBC or Newfoundlander by choice!

My wife, Dr. Leslie Rourke and I have been fortunate to come to this wonderful place we now call home.

A rugged land, with strong, caring and fun people. Where else can you go to the grocery store and be asked “have you got everything you need me love?” Where else is it so much fun getting together and “havin’ a time” singing and dancing the night away! Where you can catch your own fresh cod and pick bakeapples and enjoy capelin weather… well maybe not the weather!

Like most of you, my good fortune began with being born in Canada, and a few of you when you were born in the country of Newfoundland before 1949, and some of you who have been fortunate to come to this great country and province from other countries.

Like some of you, I grew up in a very rural community. My father was a farmer, and similar to many Newfoundlanders and Labradorians in that era, had only Grade 6 education; but like most of you here, I was fortunate to have great parents that supported my learning and development.

I went to a one-room school house with one teacher, Mrs. Georgina Smith, who magically juggled a Grade 1 to 8 split class of 25 students – indeed I was the only one in my grade for six years. Talk about being at both the top and the bottom of my class! Like mine, your primary school teachers have helped prepare you for the broader world.

And what a broader world it is! I was fortunate to be able to go to university and graduated with my MD degree in 1976. Seems like a long time ago now!

And like you, I will always be forever grateful to all those who helped make that possible.

Today you are graduating with your:
• Bachelor of Social Work
• Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy
• Doctor of Medicine
• Master of Social Work
• Master of Science in Pharmacy
• Master of Science in Medicine
• Master of Public Health
• and Master of Health Ethics

Congratulations on your hard work to reach this wonderful milestone. This is your time to celebrate a job well done!

I’m also sure that there are many other good things happened to you these last few years at university besides getting your degree. I’m sure you can think of many.

For me, the greatest thing was meeting my wife, Dr. Leslie Rourke, with whom I’ve shared a wonderful marriage, family life and shared careers for 42 years! I hope that similarly, all of you can find your own shared happiness and joy with many others in your lives.

I’ve seen tremendous advances in health care that were not
even dreamed about when I graduated 40 years ago.

New medicines to treat old diseases and new medicines to treat new diseases such as HIV/AIDS; amazing surgeries such as organ transplants and keyhole laparoscopic surgeries; technology such as CT scans and MRIs; and even cracking the human genetic code, which we do routinely now at the medical school.

You are fortunate as you get to look ahead in the next 40 years and beyond! What amazing things you will see and do.

As Dr. Seuss, said in The Places You’ll Go:

“Congratulations!
Today is your day.
You're off to great places!
You're off and away!

You have brains in your head.
You have feet in your shoes.
You can steer yourself in any direction you choose.”

But as you look ahead, you may not be feeling quite so fortunate.

This exciting but uncertain future can be very daunting as one graduates.

The flip side of exciting is unknown, uncertainty and doubt: Where will I go? What will I do? Will my job work out? Will the economy recover? How will I pay off my student debts? Etc. and etc.

I remember years ago, one of my older patients in my practice would come into the office and say “What do you know for sure today doctor?” And that sort of made me stop a bit and lean back in my heals, because we don’t always have all of the answers to face every question that we encounter.

But what I know for sure today is that as you graduate, your education and abilities that you have developed here at Memorial, will help you have the strength and the grace to be able to rise up to the many challenges the future may bring you in both your work and your life.

All of you today are graduating in helping professions: medicine, pharmacy, social work, health research and have chosen those fields because you want to serve humanity, and your skills will be needed.

The one constant since the beginning of time for health care professionals is caring for a people and patients. It is the providing the human touch and doing good for others that remains at the core of our humanity and will always be needed, no matter how much technology advances.

Mark Twain once said “Kindness is a language the blind can see and the deaf can hear” and that still rings true today. In your life and work recognize that others face enormous challenges and difficulties and that we are so fortunate to have the education and skills to help.

So in closing, to quote Dr. Minor Myers Jr: “Go out into the world and do well, but more importantly, go out into the world and do good.”

Thank you, graduates, for coming to Memorial for your studies.

We wish you success, good health, and much happiness as you strive to build a healthy tomorrow for yourselves, your families and friends, your communities and all those whose lives you will impact as doctors, pharmacists, social workers, researchers and other careers that you may develop.

Good luck to all of you. Thank you.

ON THE COVER

Dean James Rourke holds a replica of the 2016 graduating class tile, which will be hung in the student lounge at the Faculty of Medicine. Class tiles have been a tradition at the faculty for decades.

The 2016 tile was designed by Dr. Jessica Dawe from Nain. It features a heart and a brain in balance.

“The heart shown on the balance has more weight and reflects this class’ commitment to compassion and helping,” said Dr. Rourke. The 2016 class was also a “white glove” class which means all 64 students who started their undergraduate medical program in 2012 have finished and graduated together. “The tile represents how this unique class helped each other through the long and difficult but amazing journeys that they had from entry to medical school to graduation.”

2016: THE WHITE GLOVE CLASS

The Doctor of Medicine (MD) class of 2016 is unique. It’s what’s known as a “white glove” class because all 64 students who started their undergraduate medical program in 2012 have finished and graduated together.

It is rare. There are various reasons which may cause a pause in studies such as completing a MD and PhD simultaneously, which takes longer, or family reasons.

The last time the Faculty of Medicine had a white glove class was over 20 years ago in 1995. In fact, in its almost 50 year history, this is only the second time it’s happened.

“Many students from the Class of 2016 will speak of the cohesiveness of the class to help each other succeed,” noted Dr. James Rourke. “Throughout their four years of medical school, they worked together to support each other whenever someone needed additional support within their class network. We are very proud of this achievement.”
Convocation 2016

AWARDS DINNER

The 2016 Dean’s List: Front row from left to right, Dr. Matthew Bown, Dr. Daniel Duggan, Dr. Kyle Murnaghan. Standing from left to right: Dr. James Rourke, Dr. Rebecca McBriarty, Dr. Sarah Molloy, Dr. Michelle Pratt, Dr. Sinead Mercier, Dr. Alison Howley, Dr. Loni Slade and Dr. Susan Wakeham.

Drs. Jim and Lesley Rourke with graduate Lacey Corbett, recipient of the Dean’s Convocation Award.
The Class of 2016 recited the Oath of Hippocrates, led by Dr. William Pryse-Phillips.

Dr. John Smeda receiving the Silver Orator Award. Presented to him by Dr. Rebecca McBriarty.

Jan Warren and Dr. Don McKay receiving the Killick Award from graduates Drs. Amy Burton and Stephanie Power-MacDonald.

Dr. Craig Stone receiving the Dr. D.W. Ingram Award from Dr. Ingram.

Dr. Lynn Power receiving the Community Physician Teaching Award. Presented to her by Dr. Ashley Power.

Recipients of the Outstanding Intern/Resident Award, Drs. Chris Small and Mary-Beth Bissell

The MUN Medicine Ultrasound Choir performing at Shingles Night.
SHINGLES NIGHT

Fellow graduates Drs. Asher Prizada and Justin Oake.

Some of the grads hamming it up.

Proudly showing off their earned shingles.

Dr. Rourke with Dr. Jessica Dawe, the designer of the full-sized tile for the MD class of 2016.

Some members of the graduating class of 2016.
Achievements in graduate studies recognized

THE 2016 GRADUATE STUDENT Achievement Luncheon was held in May 2016 in the Medical Education Centre. This year’s luncheon commemorated the accomplishments of over 60 graduate students, who in the last year have received 97 individual prizes, fellowships and grants. Sources included Tri-Council funding awards to provincial research grants, internal awards for everything from academic standing to travel awards, and recognition from other national and international bodies such as the Canadian Institute for Health Research and Translational and Personalized Medicine Initiative (TPMI).

Three new awards were presented to graduate students thanks to the support of donors.

THE DR. SHARON BUEHLER COMMUNITY HEALTH & HUMANITIES CONVOCATION AWARD
This award has been established to honour the career achievements of Dr. Sharon Buehler during her 30 years of service at Memorial University’s Faculty of Medicine. After her retirement in 2001, she continued to be engaged in research and chaired Memorial’s Human Investigation Committee for many years. During the committee’s transition to the provincial Health Research Ethics Authority, Dr. Buehler worked tirelessly on the redrafting of the Policies and Procedures Manual.

Dylan Roskams-Edris - supervised by: Dr. Christopher Kaposy

DR. ROGER C. GREEN GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP IN HUMAN GENETICS
Dr. Green was a long-time educator and researcher in the Faculty of Medicine. He was one of the four founding members of the Discipline of Genetics and headed its graduate program for fifteen years until his retirement. During his career, Dr. Green mentored most of the genetics faculty and many of the graduate students. Students receiving this scholarship exemplify all-round excellence in scholarship and service, in memory of Dr. Green who embodied these qualities.

Daniel Evans - supervised by: Dr. Mike Woods

DR. HOWARD STRONG MEMORIAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP IN AGING
This fellowship was established by Mrs. Shirley Strong to recognize the contributions of her late husband, Dr. Howard Strong, to the mental health of seniors in Newfoundland and Labrador, and to encourage researchers to continue to study aging this province. Dr. Howard Strong, a professor of psychiatry with Memorial University and psychiatrist with Eastern Health’s Mental Health and Addictions Program, was central to the development of a geriatric psychiatry program in Newfoundland.

Jennifer Woodrow - supervised by: Dr. Peter Wang

The Faculty of Medicine’s graduate programs include a wide range of programs and disciplines, including M.Sc., MPH, MHE, PhD and assorted diplomas in graduate fields and includes an enrollment of over 250 students.
Genetics research centre officially opened

IN SPRING 2015, Memorial University officially opened the Craig L. Dobbin Genetics Research Centre.

Newfoundland and Labrador’s original gene pool and relatively closed environment provides unique opportunities to study genetic patterns and certain diseases. This state-of-the-art genetics research centre builds significant capacity for Memorial researchers to continue their important work in this area.

The Craig L. Dobbin Genetics Research Centre is housed in the new six-storey Medical Education Centre. The centre is housed on levels three, four and five, with space on level six shelled-in for future research. The research areas include both wet lab and dry lab research space for researchers and staff from Memorial University and Eastern Health.

The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador invested $17.9 million in the centre, while $11.2 million was provided by the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) through the Research Hospital Fund. The centre, a collaboration between Memorial University and Eastern Health, was one of only eight projects nationwide to receive funding through this rigorous competition.

“The exceptional facilities found at this remarkable centre will enable Memorial University’s researchers, along with their colleagues from other institutions, to conduct experiments that will reveal new dimensions of human genetics,” said Gilles Patry, president and chief executive officer, CFI. “Their discoveries and innovations will have the potential to improve the lives of the people of Newfoundland and Labrador for generations to come.”

Paul Davis, then premier, says that research from the new centre will have a profound impact on the people of the province as discoveries are found, treatments are determined and patients are able to directly benefit.

“The work that will take place at this state-of-the-art research centre will directly benefit the people of the province,” said Mr. Davis. “The research performed here will help to create a better understanding of the genetic causes of diseases and disorders, which we expect will lend to improved treatments and prevention methods and ultimately a cure.”

The genetics research centre is named in honour of the late Craig L. Dobbin, a successful Newfoundland businessman and philanthropist. The naming is in recognition of a landmark gift from Elaine Dobbin that will support undergraduate student bursaries, graduate student scholarships, two post-doctoral fellowships and a research fund in the Faculty of Medicine. For more information, visit http://bit.ly/29MULj0.

From left are Dr. Darin King, Dr. James Rourke, Premier Paul Davis, Chancellor Susan Dyer Knight, Elaine Dobbin, President Gary Kachanoski, Dr. Jane Green, Dr. Pat Parfrey and Dr. Richard Marceau.
Leaving a legacy

**DR. ANGUS NEARY** was an accomplished surgeon and compassionate man who showed great care and interest in his patients. He believed in the importance of seeing patients as whole people and was known for nurturing the patient-practitioner relationship to offer personalized, collaborative care. He died Dec. 28, 2014, leaving a legacy gift to the Faculty of Medicine, and a gift equal in value to the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra.

Dr. Neary's gift to the medical school has funded three bursaries, two for undergraduate medical students and one for graduate students in genetics.

The Dr. Angus J. Neary Bursary Endowment Fund for undergraduate medical students is particularly valuable because it is renewable for three additional years (four in total) if bursary standing is maintained and the student continues full-time enrollment in the MD program. This bursary will be awarded annually to a student enrolled in the Doctor of Medicine degree program who has graduated from a high school in Newfoundland and Labrador.

The Dr. Angus J. Neary Surgery Scholarship will be awarded annually to a student based on excellence in the surgical rotations (core and selective) during the third and fourth years of the MD program. To be eligible for this award, the student must have a confirmed surgery residency placement. The recipient must be in the fourth year of this program and meet the minimum academic requirements for a scholarship.

The Dr. Angus J. Neary Genetics Scholarship will be awarded annually on the basis of academic achievement to a full-time graduate student studying genetics in either the M.Sc. or PhD degree program of the Faculty of Medicine.

Dr. Michele Neary, niece of Dr. Neary, noted that the reason for establishing a bursary was to offer support to students from Newfoundland and Labrador who may face financial barriers to achieving their dream of a medical education. “Uncle Angus felt that as long as someone has an interest, passion and aptitude for medicine, they should be supported to pursue that goal.”

With respect to the surgery scholarship, Dr. Neary was a very caring and dedicated general surgeon who worked with both adults and children. According to his family, he was very committed and passionate, constantly researching and reading in his field and going over and above to do his best for patients.

The genetics scholarship for graduate students is related to Dr. Neary's interest in tracing family diseases. “He did family trees back in the 1950s and 1960s, looking for connections,” said Michele. “He was ahead of his time.”

Graduate scholarship in honour of faculty

**DR. ROGER C. GREEN** passed away unexpectedly at home on Aug. 9, 2015 at the age of 69. Roger was a long-time educator and researcher at Memorial University, involved in teaching in the undergraduate medical school curriculum since 1969. He was one of the four founding members of the Discipline of Genetics, which was created in 1999, and in one way or another, mentored most of the genetics faculty and all our past and current graduate students. Roger ran the discipline's graduate program for 15 years until he retired in September 2014. In 1999, working with an interdisciplinary team, he created a colorectal cancer database which he oversaw and maintained until he died.

Roger obtained his undergraduate degree in medical biochemistry from Birmingham University in England in 1966. He began his PhD soon after in Birmingham, however, as fate would have it, his supervisor moved to St. John's to work at Memorial, where Roger finished his PhD and remained for the next 45 years. Roger was an excellent teacher and the consummate professional. He considered one of his greatest achievements in life was that he taught every graduating physician from Memorial’s Faculty of Medicine.

His superb wit and keen mind were on exhibit during all facets of his life. He could make difficult material interesting and he had a penchant of conveying obscure concepts in a manner that was understandable to all. Roger also had the remarkable ability to see directly to the heart of the matter, regardless if it was during a lecture, in a committee, or examining graduate students. Students (including myself ) found his ability to assimilate data and ask difficult, but fair, questions daunting - but it made us all better scientists too.

Roger had recently retired and was holding an Honorary Research Professor position. His commitment to our discipline was admirable. He had a measured and calm personality that lent itself well to anyone needing professional advice. He was the backbone of the Discipline of Genetics and he will be sorely missed.

Roger is survived by his wife, Gemma Giovannini and their son, Zachary Giovannini-Green; son Jason (Jennifer) and daughter Zoe (Kevin), ON; grandchildren Nathan, Callum, Targan, and Quillan; brother Brian (Patricia), England. Roger also leaves behind a group of exceptional colleagues and friends and extended Newfoundland family.

In Roger’s memory, donations can be made to The Dr. Roger C. Green Graduate Scholarship in Human Genetics. (Online giving: www.munalum.ca/giving or toll free: 1-877-700-4081).
Best in Canada for producing rural doctors

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY’S Faculty of Medicine has received a prestigious national award for rural medicine. The Society of Rural Physicians of Canada (SRPC) has awarded Memorial with the 2016 Keith Award, given annually to a Canadian postgraduate medical program that has excelled in producing rural doctors.

This year’s Keith Award looked at the largest number of graduates practising in rural areas 10 years after graduation. As the top medical school in the country, Memorial’s average was 38.9 per cent; the national average was 18 per cent.

Memorial’s postgraduate residency training program in family medicine is a unique training model that includes streams sites in Newfoundland and Labrador ranging from eastern, central and western regions, as well as the NorFam training centre in Goose Bay, N.L., and the new site in Nunavut. These locations allow training residents to complete the vast majority, if not all, of their training within a particular geographical area.

Medical student Loni Slade recently graduated. She is starting her family medicine residency in the central stream.

“I chose the central Newfoundland and Labrador family medicine stream because in addition to being close to my hometown of Deer Lake, I will get to train in several rural communities throughout the area and each site will provide unique training exposures and hands-on experiences,” she said. “Thanks to Memorial, I will receive excellent training that will fully prepare me for any situation or challenges I may face in my future career and practice.”

Dr. James Rourke, dean of medicine, said that to help establish a strong connection to rural medicine, all students in the degree of doctor of medicine (MD) program have extensive training and exposure to rural teaching sites throughout the province, as well as opportunities to visit sites in Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Nunavut and the Yukon.

“Recognizing our province’s demographic make-up and the location of many communities in rural and remote areas, the Faculty of Medicine has always made rural medicine training a priority,” said Dr. Rourke. “We take every step of their training seriously to ensure they can be the best health-care providers in any location.”

As well, the MD program provides a spiral curriculum with rural content interwoven with clinical skills right from the beginning. This innovative curriculum incorporates a narrative approach that allows students to learn about the people and places of Newfoundland and Labrador.

The award was presented at the annual Rural and Remote Medicine Course in Charlevoix, Que. Dr. Wendy Graham, an associate professor and family physician who has more than 17 years of practice in Port aux Basques, N.L., was on hand to accept the award.

“It was an honour and a privilege to accept the Keith Award on behalf of Memorial University and the Faculty of Medicine,” said Dr. Graham. “Memorial’s MD program and family medicine program prepared me to practise in my rural community with competence, confidence and clinical courage. This is essential in our setting of rugged geography, unpredictable weather and isolation.”

This is the fifth time Memorial University has received the Keith Award since it was introduced in 2000. In 2009 Memorial also received the society’s rural education award for excellence in producing MD graduates headed to a career in rural medicine.
Recognizing rural medicine dedication

DR. MOHAMED RAVALIA, assistant dean of the Faculty of Medicine’s Rural Medical Education Network (RMEN), has received the Order of Canada. The appointment recognizes Dr. Ravalia for his contributions to rural medicine in Newfoundland and Labrador as a family physician, mentor and community leader.

His Excellency the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, presided over an Order of Canada investiture ceremony at Rideau Hall in Ottawa, Ont. on May 13, 2016 as 48 distinguished Canadians joined or were promoted up the ranks.

“Dr. Ravalia’s contributions to Memorial University and the Faculty of Medicine shine a spotlight on the importance of rural medical education,” said President Gary Kachanoski. “We are proud of his many achievements and pleased to see him recognized for his hard work.”

During Canada’s centennial year in 1967, the Order of Canada was created to recognize outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation. Since its creation, more than 6,000 people have been invested.

“Dr. Ravalia has been instrumental in growing the rural medicine network in Newfoundland and Labrador,” said Dr. James Rourke, dean, Faculty of Medicine. “The Faculty of Medicine has always viewed rural medicine as both a unique need, as well as an opportunity for pioneering work, and Dr. Ravalia has been at the forefront of this initiative.”

Originally from Zimbabwe, Dr. Ravalia came to Twillingate, N.L., more than three decades ago and has been actively engaged in the community ever since. His contributions to rural medicine across the province have earned him numerous accolades, with the Order of Canada being the most recent.

“It was an honour to receive the Order of Canada today and I’m proud of the contributions I have been able to make for the town of Twillingate and all of the rural communities in Newfoundland and Labrador,” said Dr. Ravalia. “As an immigrant to this wonderful country, I feel a profound sense of gratitude for the sense of fairness and equality that Canada affords all its citizens.”

The way back home

WHAT DOES IT TAKE for you to get home in an emergency? A car? An ATV? A boat?

For Desmond Whalen it took “everything short of an airplane” to travel to his home in Trinity Bay after Hurricane Igor struck Eastern Newfoundland in September 2010. He would find out, though, that sometimes good can come from bad.

Mr. Whalen, a second-year undergraduate student at the time, was in St. John’s when Igor hit. His hometown of Caplin Cove was one of the communities that fell victim to the destruction and ruin caused by the ferocious storm.

“I was in St. John’s watching it all unfold on Facebook and I didn’t know it was going to be as severe as it was,” Mr. Whalen said. “It really took me by surprise to be quite honest.”

He knew he had to go home to check on friends and family.

“I remember I took everything short of an airplane to get to my house. I was on an ATV, I was in a car, I was in a boat and I was even in the back of an Atlantic Grocery truck just so that I could get home.”

Once he finally arrived, Mr. Whalen witnessed immense natural destruction and the resulting limited health care and resources for the people affected. It was the serious situations due to the washed out roads that resonated with him the most.

“I remember one woman went into labour while the roads were washed out,” recalled Mr. Whalen. “I remember one particular man; he was trying to cross a wash out and had a heart attack.”

The extreme experience helped Mr. Whalen recognize he didn’t just want to help people—he recognized that there is a specific and urgent health-care need in rural communities in Newfoundland and Labrador. He felt he could contribute in a vital manner. He decided he would become a doctor in rural Newfoundland and Labrador.

When asked what triggered his desire to concentrate on small, rural communities like his own, he says a situation like Igor can really bring a community together.

“You realize that small communities can band together in a tough time and really do a good thing. After seeing how my community came together, I decided I wanted to go into medical care.”

Upon finishing his undergraduate degree, Mr. Whalen applied to Memorial’s medical school, and began his program in August 2013. He hasn’t looked back since.

To see more, visit: www.gazette.mun.ca/student-life/the-way-back-home.
 WHAT DO YOU DO when you want to offer the best learning experience but the right software doesn’t exist? You build it yourself.

The Faculty of Medicine at Memorial University has received an AMX Innovation Award for its creation of an original and unique interface design for the new learning spaces in the Medical Education Centre on the St. John’s campus.

The award, which includes $25,000 in AMX hardware and software for Memorial, was received at UBTech 2015 in Orlando, Fla., celebrating innovative higher education institutions and their use of audiovisual and information technology.

There were more than 90 submissions worldwide. From those, 19 universities were selected for review; four winners were chosen in specific categories. Memorial University was one of four universities nominated in the non-traditional learning spaces category.

In 2014 the Faculty of Medicine opened the Medical Education Centre. Along with the construction of the new teaching facilities, the faculty introduced a new curriculum in 2013. With this in mind, it was determined the new building would need two large lecture theatres and 13 small group learning spaces designed to enhance collaboration.

During the curriculum renewal, new integrated learning sessions were designed within the curriculum and would require innovative spaces to enable these events.

“We were given the challenge of designing new spaces for learners that contained advanced education technology,” explained Steve Pennell, lead designer for the new learning spaces and software UI and manager of the health education technology and learning team in the faculty’s Health Sciences Information and Media Service (HSIMS) unit. “After the decision was reached to use AMX equipment, we explored how the new spaces would be used and determined how the interfaces for the equipment should be designed. The systems had to be easy to navigate and enable an end user to use the in-room PCs or allow their own device to plug into the space and just work.”

AMX touch panels allowed the education technology and learning team to design a user interface for the small group learning rooms with video conferencing. The interface permits users to switch easily between input devices to two different displays. When using video conferencing, they are able to share data on one screen and have video on the other, which allows offsite teachers and learners to be active participants.

“Instead of having students lined up to look at a microscope to view a slide, they now use digital programs to explore this information in a team setting,” said Mr. Pennell. “During breakout sessions on the side wall displays, learners are able to share their onscreen content with any other display in the room. That means the medical students are discussing differential diagnoses and can share each of their team’s findings with any other team or the entire room.”

Sean O’Neill, director, HSIMS, says the award will enable the Faculty of Medicine to install the same type of touch panel controls in the remaining rooms with the same award-winning design principles applied in the new spaces.

“In medical education, it’s essential to have the best teaching and learning environments available,” said Mr. O’Neill. “The health-education technology and learning team identified a need and have created spaces that provide maximum technical and collaborative flexibility that also support traditional teaching and learning.”

“Our new curriculum enables instructors to provide students with a self-directed, active and experiential learning experience to enable them to become world-class doctors,” said Dr. James Rourke, dean of medicine. “The new learning spaces and technology in the Medical Education Centre are some of the most technologically innovative and collaborative teaching spaces at Memorial University.”

Dr. Rourke explained further that collaboration and teamwork are important skills that benefit all medical professionals. He hopes the continued development of these skills will continue throughout the students’ medical careers, improving health outcomes for the general population.

Mr. O’Neill noted that like the final product’s purpose to encourage team work, the original vision of the end user experience became a reality thanks to collaboration among a number of teams across campus: the health education technology and learning team in HSIMS; the graphic design team in HSIMS; computer support team in HSIMS; Centre for Innovation in Teaching and Learning, Learning And Teaching Support; the Memorial expansion team; Engineering Harmonics; Genesis Integration Inc; and faculty and staff in the Faculty of Medicine.
ON NOV. 9, 2015, the Faculty of Medicine celebrated Commemorating our Legacy, a symposium reflecting on Dr. Cluny Macpherson, Newfoundland medical doctor and inventor of the first gas mask in the First World War.

The full-day event featured a range of speakers who delivered talks on Dr. Macpherson and the many medical military contributions the province has made through the years.

Presentations throughout the day focused on various aspects of war, from the use of the gas mask in the First World War to a glimpse of modern-day medicine from a Faculty of Medicine alumnus currently serving in the Canadian Armed Forces.

“We had professors, archivists, physicians and a former lieutenant-governor all speaking at the symposium,” said Stephanie Harlick, archivist, Faculty of Medicine Founders’ Archive. “The assortment of discussions appealed to a variety of people.”

The plenary speaker of the day, Andrew Robertshaw, is a military historian, broadcaster and educator from the United Kingdom and is well known for his work on combining archaeological techniques with archival research to show what life was like on the frontlines of the battlefields. His talk discussed the gases used during the First World War and the impact Dr. Macpherson made on the Great War.

The Faculty of Medicine also recently acquired an original gas mask from the First World War, which was unveiled during the symposium and will be on permanent display in the Medical Education Centre.

“Having one of Cluny Macpherson’s original gas masks on permanent display in the Faculty of Medicine is something we are very excited about,” said Ms. Harlick. “It is a piece of history that will live on in the Medical Education Centre for years to come.”
A Monte Carlo homecoming

MEMORIAL UNIVERSITY’S undergraduate medical students are devoted, hard-working and compassionate to say the least. Every year, they plan, organize and carry out the Monte Carlo Charity Gala, choosing specific charities to receive the funds that are donated through the tremendous event. For 2015, the recipient charities included the Dr. H. Bliss Cancer Care Foundation, the Pottle Centre, Parkinson Society Newfoundland and Labrador, CNIB-NL and Team Broken Earth.

Upon receiving the cheque on behalf of the Parkinson Society, CEO and Executive Director Derek J. Staubitzer explained why the contribution from the Monte Carlo gala is so important. “We have a small budget and increasing demands for our programs and services. This donation will allow us to continue with the development of specialized, community-based Parkinson’s exercise programs and caregiver support groups throughout the province.”

Dr. James Rourke, dean of medicine, remembers how challenging medical school was when he was a student, said that the Faculty of Medicine is proud to support the hard-working students who spend countless hours ensuring the major community event is a success. “It never ceases to amaze me how deeply Memorial’s medical students care about our community and the lengths to which they go to raise funds for charities in Newfoundland and Labrador,” said Dr. Rourke.

The Monte Carlo Charity Gala was started in 1977, with the goal of aiding a fellow medical student, Conor Maguire, who sustained a spinal cord injury in a diving accident which left him a quadriplegic. A group of students organized a fundraiser to help facilitate the purchase of a vehicle wheelchair lift for their classmate so that he could continue his medical education. Today, Dr. Maguire is an associate professor of radiology (nuclear medicine and radiology) at Memorial University.

Last year’s theme for the gala was Step Right Up. On Nov. 21, 2015, the 39th annual Monte Carlo was held at the Medical Education Centre. In recent years, Monte Carlo was held at large venue locations like the St. John’s Convention Centre. But with the completion of the Medical Education Centre, Monte Carlo was able to return to its roots on campus where it was first held almost 40 years ago.

Each year, the selection committee receives many high-calibre applications from deserving charities across the province. This year, individual donations of $21,500 were given to four chosen charities. As well, Team Broken Earth received $5,225, which came from the pie throwing contest held during the event.

Dr. Andrew Furey, a member of on the Board of Directions for Team Broken Earth, said, “Our biggest supporter is Memorial University and it’s through events like Monte Carlo that there is an opportunity to raise not just funds, but awareness.”

“It’s really meaningful to see so many people in the community coming together and working together for a common cause and it’s great to see our medical students showing an interest in global health early in their careers.”

The 40th Monte Carlo Charity Gala will be held in Nov., 2016.
Professorship in spine biomechanics established

A LEADING-EDGE RESEARCHER in spine biomechanics has joined the Memorial University research community as the inaugural Canadian Chiropractic Research Foundation Professor in Spine Biomechanics.

In November, Dr. Drew Potter, chair, Canadian Chiropractic Research Foundation (CCRF), joined Memorial University in welcoming Dr. Diana De Carvalho as an assistant professor in the Faculty of Medicine with a cross-appointment in the School of Human Kinetics and Recreation.

The new professorship was made possible by a generous donation of $500,000 from the CCRF, originally received during Memorial’s successful Dare To fundraising campaign.

The CCRF supports clinical research, biomedical research, health services research and population health studies. The new professorship will open more opportunities for collaborative research.

Dr. Potter said that the chair position at Memorial demonstrates CCRF’s ongoing support of chiropractic research, as Dr. De Carvalho becomes its eleventh chiropractic research professor.

“Her work highlights the detrimental effects of our increasingly sedentary lifestyle and the need to support high-level research through the CCRF.”

“Memorial University is dedicated to creativity, innovation and excellence in research, scholarship and teaching, but we cannot do this alone,” said Dr. James Rourke, dean, Faculty of Medicine. “It is through partnerships with the CCRF that allows us to work with leading experts like Dr. De Carvalho so that together we can help patient-focused research grow.”

Lab space for Dr. De Carvalho will be available in the Faculty of Medicine. She will also work closely with researchers in the School of Human Kinetics and Recreation as they aim to answer questions related to low back pain and other spine-related issues.

“Dr. De Carvalho’s research program on the topic of spine biomechanics while seated will influence the conversation she has already begun through her impactful papers and presentations,” said Dr. Heather Carnahan, dean, School of Human Kinetics and Recreation. “Prolonged sitting can now be added to the list of health risks such as smoking. I look forward to seeing her work shed a light on this new area of research for Memorial with the potential for widespread clinical application.”

“It’s exciting to be joining the Memorial University research community,” said Dr. De Carvalho. “Through this professorship, we will be able to propel research in the area of the early diagnosis, prevention and intervention strategies for low back pain.”
Alumnus aims to have an impact on patients and doctors-in-training

AS A KID GROWING UP IN ST. JOHN’S, N.L., Dr. Doug Angel always knew he wanted to be a doctor.

Now, the Memorial alumnus hopes to have a positive impact on young physicians-in-training.

“I had to see an eye surgeon when I was probably eight or nine years old and I remember telling my parents, “That’s it, I’m going to be doctor,”” he said with a proud grin. “I was always fascinated with surgery shows on TV and thought I’d end up in medicine.”

A 2008 graduate of the Faculty of Medicine, Dr. Angel recently set up practice in his hometown as an otolaryngologist — a head and neck surgeon with Eastern Health.

He specializes in ear, nose and throat (ENT) surgery, head and neck oncologic surgery, thyroid and parathyroid surgery, skin cancer and microvascular reconstructive surgery of the head and neck.

“From an academic standpoint, the medical training you receive here exceeds some of the top places in the country,” added Dr. Angel. “The faculty are with you 100 per cent of the way and they definitely helped shape the physician I am today.”

He says he embraced medical school to its fullest and was active with student leadership, charity fundraisers, the faculty choir and clinical advisory committees. He was also honoured academically, receiving several scholarships and bursaries; made the dean’s list multiple times; and was recipient of the prestigious University Gold Medal for Academic Excellence in Medicine. Dr. Angel, also holds a music degree (honours) in piano performance from Memorial. His dad is also a graduate of the Faculty of Medicine and practises psychiatry in St. John’s.

Finances aside, he says, the accolades pushed him to aim higher. “As a medical student and resident, you’re always striving to be on the top of your game. I firmly believe that the scholarships and awards help make you want to be a better student, trainee and physician,” he said.

After graduation, Dr. Angel moved to London, Ont., where he completed his residency in otolaryngology at Western University. He moved back east in 2014.

In addition to running a busy office practice, Dr. Angel is in the operating room twice a week, sees patients at the Dr. H. Bliss Murphy Cancer Centre, lectures in the Faculty of Medicine, mentors student clerks and is the undergraduate medical director for students doing ENT electives.

“I’m loving it,” he says of his hectic life and practice. “I especially enjoy undergraduate medical education. That’s one thing I’ve always remembered about Memorial’s medical school — the exceptional faculty. Good teachers and mentors can really make a positive impact on young physicians-in-training and I’m really hoping I can make a difference in the lives of the students I work with.”

Memorial professor named Pioneer of Family Medicine

DR. MARSHALL GODWIN, a professor in the Discipline of Family Medicine and director of the Primary Healthcare Research Unit has been named one of the Top 20 Pioneers of Family Medicine Research by the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC).

The award recognizes contributions to the advancement of health care in Canada and throughout the world, and for Dr. Godwin, it recognizes his research on hypertension treatment in community settings in Canada.

“As a family doctor and a generalist, I bring the knowledge I’ve gained through my work experience to my research,” said Dr. Godwin. “I am passionate about being able to improve what we do as family doctors by studying what we do as family doctors.”

Dr. Godwin’s work, which studies the utilization of community-based pragmatic clinical trials, focuses on hypertension in Canadian adults. Appointed Director of Research for the Department of Family Medicine at Queen’s University in 1993, his research with Dr. Richard Birtwhistle studied the necessity of following up with hypertensive patients if their blood pressure was controlled. The study received funding from the Medical Research Council and was published in the British Medical Journal.

After receiving grants from the Heart and Stroke Foundation in 2001, Dr. Godwin began two separate studies: one focusing on blood pressure monitoring at home and the other involving an algorithm to rapidly bring blood pressure under control. In 2010, the first study was chosen as one of the 10 Most Notable Family Medicine Research Studies in Canada.
Breastfeeding symposium a success

**ACCORDING TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY OF CANADA,** breastfeeding rates in Newfoundland and Labrador are the lowest in Canada. However, increasing breastfeeding rates is a complex challenge, shaped by our individual cultural context, social structures and support, and life circumstances.

The Breastfeeding Research Working Group, an arm of the Baby Friendly Council of Newfoundland and Labrador, is working to understand and develop interventions to address the complexities of our province’s low breastfeeding rates. To this end, over 100 delegates came together at the Health Sciences Centre in November to discuss the latest local, national, and international research and best practices around breastfeeding.

*Breastfeeding in NL: Committing to Best Practices* featured keynote speakers Dr. Sharon Unger, neonatologist at Mount Sinai Hospital, Dr. Anne Eglash, medical director of University of Wisconsin Health Lactation Services, and Ms. Kathy Venter, Baby Friendly Initiative master assessor.

There was a focus on local breastfeeding research, including a promising intervention study by Nurse Jennifer Kean and Dr. Jill Starkes, to increase skin-to-skin contact after cesarean birth. Dr. Unger’s keynote talk described the preliminary results from the Donor Milk Improved Neurodevelopmental Outcomes trial in Toronto. It described the inner workings of a Canadian human milk bank, and suggested linkages to incorporate donated human milk into local neonatal intensive care to improve the health of our province’s most vulnerable infants.

Ms. Venter closed the symposium with a comprehensive workshop, offered free to the public on breastfeeding support, including making milk, breastfeeding trajectories and assessing effective breastfeeding in the neonate. The workshop was well-attended by community breastfeeding supporters, including representatives from La Leche League, the Doula Collective and the provincial social media peer support group, Breastfeeding Support in NL.

For more information on the work of the Breastfeeding Research Group, please contact Julia Temple Newhook, research associate, Janeway Pediatric Research Unit, at jtemple@mun.ca.

Members of the community, including representatives from the La Leche League, postgraduate residents and provincial health-care providers attended a symposium to promote and discuss research on and best practices for supporting breastfeeding families.
Psoriatic arthritis research published by highest ranking journal in its field

IN 2015, DR. DARREN O’RIELLY published an article in a prestigious international journal for their research on a particular form of arthritis.

Dr. O’Rielly is a senior research scientist in the Faculty of Medicine with Memorial University and is the director of the Molecular Genetics Laboratory with Eastern Health.

Their research focuses on psoriatic arthritis, which is a type of inflammatory arthritis that attacks the joints in combination with psoriasis, an autoimmune disease that attacks the skin.

“Private rare deletions in SEC16A and MAMDC4 may represent novel pathogenic variants in familial axial spondyloarthritis” was accepted in the Annals of Rheumatic Diseases, which is the official scientific publication of the European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) and a journal that focuses on rheumatology.

EULAR is an organization that represents people with arthritis/ rheumatism, health professional and scientific societies of rheumatology of all the European nations. Each year, clinicians and researchers from around the world gather at the EULAR conference to discuss the latest research in rheumatology. The conference this year included participants from 120 countries.

Also working on this research with Dr. O’Rielly is Dr. Proton Rahman, who is the associate dean for clinical research in the Faculty of Medicine. Dr. Rahman is a clinician scientist and professor of medicine at Memorial and staff rheumatologist at Eastern Health.

While the Rahman-O’Rielly research team was responsible for design of the study, whole exome sequencing using next-generation sequencing technology and subsequent analyses was performed at The Centre for Applied Genomics in Toronto.

With the opening of the translational genomics laboratory and the Centre of Health Information and Analytics (CHIA) in the Craig L. Dobbin Centre for Genetics Research, whole-exome sequencing is now routinely performed and an analysis pipeline has been developed for analysis of next-generation sequencing data – a big step forward for genomics research in the province.

This research has been funded in part through the Atlantic Canada Opportunity Agency – Atlantic Innovation Fund (ACOA-AIF), the Research & Development Corporation of Newfoundland and Labrador (RDC) and the Canadian Institute for Health Research (CIHR).
I HADN’T BEEN BACK IN A LONG TIME. Sure, I had been back to St. John’s a bunch of times – sometimes planned, sometimes unplanned – but I hadn’t been back to the Faculty of Medicine in what must have been a decade or more.

I had driven past the new building while it was under construction and had seen the pictures. I used to wonder what it would be like in the new place: would the character be the same? Would the things that made our medical school unique still be there? What would it be like?

The answers are: yes; mostly, and; pretty cool.

The character of the spunkiest med school in Canada doing really neat things is not just still there, but brought alive through soaring walls, thoughtful spaces for learning and efficient design. This time around, the med school is still spunky, and also confident and mature all at the same time. Dr. Jim Rourke and the team that created the Medical Education Centre deserve great praise for creating such a functionally useful and beautiful learning and medical science environment.

Most of the things are still there: the mailboxes and Theatre B appear to be untouched. I’m not sure if any of us can quite forgive the removal of “the chairs”. The chairs. The chairs whose name uttered in just that way: “I’ll meet you at the chairs,” meant clearly and solely one important congregation of chairs by “the stairs”.

We liked the new donated benches, with solid wood and strong slats, placed here and there to create spaces for people to sit and share. They added to the whole modern, yet, secure look to this great medical school.

I’ve been saying “we”, because I was not alone. The occasion that brought me back to the Faculty of Medicine and the new Medical Education Centre was the 2015 Reunion for the classes of 2005, 2000, 1995, and so on. I was there, thrilled to see classmates whom I hadn’t seen in up to 20 years. We also had the chance to see graduates from the other 0 and 5 classes. Most were from years before and many had been my skilled teachers; Sean Hamilton and Susan King stood out for me. Some from the more recent years had been my students when I used to practice in Placentia; it was a delight to see them having grown in professional maturity, reconnecting with their own classmates.

But the time, the moment, that stood out for me and many was the presence of Dr. Jack Hand. While not there in person, his classmate Barbara Maddigan, gave a tribute, almost a eulogy, to Jack, who had become ill just days after the last reunion five years before. Jack Hand.

His name stands as almost the only thing you need to say to encapsulate outstanding patient-centered care.

I was his clerk for a time and witnessed first-hand his ferocious commitment to listening, caring, curing, connecting. I also worked with him on PAIRN; he was devoted to ensuring the development and implementation of proper working conditions for residents to enable them to grow into their best physicians. He also introduced me to the virtues of scarfing steamed mussels while downing bottles of cold beer on a Charlottetown deck. He was complete. A solid physician and friend. A person who would give you the time if you needed it for anything.

When I think of the new medical school building, I think of it as a bricks and mortar manifestation of the determination of Memorial medicine to train outstanding physicians, deeply rooted in caring and the vocation of helping patients. Just like Jack was the physical embodiment of a capable, caring, competent and balanced physician, the best that we could be.

That the very first formal event in the new medical school theatre included the tribute to Jack Hand was right, consecrating the building, cementing in it’s mortar the echoes of the words about how Jack brought physician-ship to life.
Dean’s awards recognize remarkable faculty and staff

ON APRIL 27, the Faculty of Medicine recently recognized recipients of the Dean’s Research and Service Excellence Awards, and the Max House Teaching Award for Excellence in Continuing Medical Education and Continuing Professional Development.

The Dean’s Research Awards, created by Dr. James Rourke, recognize faculty members whose contributions to research in their fields have made them active and valued participants in Memorial’s vibrant research community.

The Dean’s Service Excellence Awards recognize outstanding contributions by non-academic staff in a division or discipline for job performance, service and dedication to faculty, staff and students, and contributions to the achievements of goals for educational programs.

SERVICE AWARD (MANAGERIAL)
JANET MCHUGH, MPM

Ms. McHugh joined Memorial in 1981, and is currently an admissions officer with the Faculty of Medicine. In her role, she interacts daily with the admissions committee, interview committee and prospective and current students. Additionally, she liaises with other departments within the medical school and the university. She was a key player in development and implementation a major change in the interview process to a hybrid of the Traditional and Multiple Mini Interview (TaMMI) in 2013. Ms. McHugh is a member of the MCAT (Medical College Admissions Test) Psychological, Social and Biological Foundations of Behavior (PSBB) Committee and the MCAT Validity Study Committee of the Association of American Medical Colleges.

SERVICE AWARD (NON-MANAGERIAL)
RHONDA ROEBOTHAM

Ms. Roebotham began her career at Memorial in 2000 and is currently the academic program administrator with the Office of Research & Graduate Studies (RGS). Ms. Roebotham is responsible for providing academic advising and administrative support for graduate programs within the faculty.

She assumed the role of academic program assistant in 2007 and academic program administrator in 2011. Ms. Roebotham was involved in creating a practical, extracurricular workshop for graduate students in the Faculty of Medicine called Thesis Club. This workshop focuses on practical topics geared to graduate student success and has received very positive feedback from participating students.

MAX HOUSE TEACHING AWARD
DR. SUSAN MACDONALD

The Max House Teaching Award acknowledges outstanding contribution of an individual to advancing CME/CPD planning, teaching and/or scholarly activity for physicians and health professionals.

This year the awardee for the Max House Teaching Award, Dr. MacDonald, is recognized for her excellence in continuing medical education and continuing professional development, and dedication and commitment to providing teaching to healthcare professionals, students and the general public.
JUNIOR FACULTY AWARD (CLINICAL)
DR. PETER DALEY

Dr. Daley has been an assistant professor of medicine since 2011, with cross-appointments to laboratory medicine and clinical epidemiology. He is also the sole appointed infectious disease physician and functional chief medical microbiologist for the province of Newfoundland and Labrador. His contribution to clinical research is in the field of diagnosis and management of infectious diseases of humans. His work involving a randomized clinical trial of vitamin D as a treatment for tuberculosis was published in 2015. He has also published 15 other papers in diagnosis and epidemiology of tuberculosis.

He and his students have investigated urinary tract infection in long term care facilities, transfer of bacteria between humans and animals in an Aboriginal village, mastitis among cows, the impact of laboratory tests on physician behavior, algorithms of diagnostic tests, performance of commercial diagnostic tests, and recruitment of patients into corporate clinical trials of novel antibiotic therapies.

SENIOR FACULTY AWARD (CLINICAL)
DR. SEAN CONNORS

Dr. Connors is an associate professor of medicine and a staff cardiologist/electrophysiologist with Eastern Health. He completed his training at the Ottawa Heart Institute. When he began work in Newfoundland in 1999, a research cardiac genetics clinic was created and became an Eastern Health-funded clinic in 2004, due primarily to Dr. Connors advocacy and passion. He has headed this clinic since its inception.

Dr. Connors was the cardiac clinical lead for the team genetic/cardiac research projects which were aimed at elucidating the underlying genetic cause of arrhythmia and early sudden cardiac death (SCD). The team discovered a new causative gene for several families with arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy (ARVC) causing early SCD in Newfoundland. The team has subsequently learned that this gene is not limited to families in Newfoundland. This gene is now included in all commercially available genetic panels used for the diagnosis of ARVC worldwide.

JUNIOR FACULTY AWARD (NON-CLINICAL)
DR. ATANU SARKAR

Dr. Sarkar joined the Division of Community Health and Humanities in 2010 as an assistant professor of environmental and occupational health. His primary interest is in the area of environmental contamination and its potential threat to human health. His focus area is in remote, rural communities of the province, particularly Aboriginal communities, and he is studying food security among vulnerable communities. Additionally, he is involved in studying aspects of occupational health such as the status and trends in employment benefits at Memorial.

As a principal investigator, Dr. Sarkar has led 11 research projects, and has been involved as a co-investigator in four additional research projects. In the last five years at Memorial University, Dr. Sarkar received several grants to carry forward his findings to an advanced level of research. Much of Dr. Sarkar’s research is of a collaborative nature with other faculties, campuses and universities as well as communities, community based organizations and governments.
DISTINGUISHED PUBLICATION

Dr. Jennifer Connor, professor of medical humanities in the Discipline of Psychiatry was awarded the Marie Tremaine Medal and the Watters-Morley Prize for 2015 by the Bibliographical Society of Canada at the Bibliographical Society of Canada’s annual general meeting. The Marie Tremaine Medal is awarded by the Society for outstanding service to Canadian bibliography and for distinguished publication in either English or French in that field.

TEACHING EXCELLENCE RECOGNIZED

Dr. Luis Gai, clinical assistant professor of pathology, has been awarded the Dr. John G. Williams Clinical Teaching award by the Professional Association of Residents of Newfoundland and Labrador (PARNL). An award for the best clinical teacher of the past year, the award recognizes a person’s exemplary dedication in the important role as a teacher, while fulfilling their duties in a cheerful, positive manner with a high degree of knowledge, professionalism and skill.

PRESTIGIOUS INTERNSHIP FOR MEDICAL STUDENT

John Hennessey was the first medical student from Memorial University to receive the American Association for Thoracic Surgery Summer Intern Scholarship. Only one to two Canadian students are selected for this award each year. The scholarship funds an eight-week internship at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Ont., where Mr. Hennessey participated in cardiothoracic surgery procedures as well as lab research.

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD

Desmond Whalen, a Phase III medical student, was awarded the Charles Tabachnick Canadian Medical Hall of Fame (CMHF) Award for future leadership and innovation in health care in Canada. The CMHF award is for second-year medical students that demonstrate leadership thorough community involvement, superior interpersonal and communication skills, academic excellence and an established interest in advancing knowledge.

RADIOLOGY RESIDENTS WIN INTERNATIONAL ‘YOUNG INVESTIGATORS AWARD’ TWO YEARS IN A ROW

First year radiology resident, Dr. Andrew Dalton was honored with the Young Investigator’s Award at the International Symposium of Endovascular Therapists 27th Annual Meeting, for his poster “The use of drug eluting balloons for treating critical limb ischemia in patients with infra-popliteal disease”. Last year at the same meeting, radiology resident Dr. Hilary Coffey was presented with the same award for her poster Drug Eluting Balloon Outcomes: Single centre experience.
In memory

DR. JABEZ (JAVE) MACPHERSON NORMAN passed away at the Health Sciences Centre in St. John’s, N.L. on April 30, age 73. Born on Sept. 28, 1941, and raised in Port Union, N.L., he was predeceased by his parents John and Bertha (Johnson) Norman, brother Maxwell, nephew Edgar Norman Jr., and his brother-in-law Cyril Porter. Dr. Norman graduated with a BA (Education) in 1969, a B.Sc. (medicine) in 1977 and a MD in 1979. As a physician, he spent the last 33 years practising family medicine in his home area, serving his community with clinics in Catalina and Bonavista.

Outside of medicine, he served his community in volunteer roles and in his private life he had many interests and passions. He loved to golf and looked forward to fishing and moose hunting trips with friends. He played recreation hockey for several years, completed the Tely 10 four times, was a certified diver and bronze medallion swimmer. He loved reading but his passion was music, with eclectic and varied musical tastes. His tremendous sense of humour and sharp wit will be greatly missed.

He leaves behind his loving wife and best friend of 46 years Wilma (Mouland); his treasured son and daughter John and Jessica; his son-in-law Colin Campbell and his daughter-in-law Leann Pardy; and his adored grandson Andrew Campbell, along with a large circle of family, friends and colleagues.

SHEILAGH RAHAL, a long-time employee of the Faculty of Medicine, passed away at home on Oct. 23, 2015. She is predeceased by her parents John P. (Jack) Rahal and Mary (Harrington) Rahal, her brother Brian and her sister Margaret. Celebrating her life are her brothers and sisters, John (Betty Ann), Mike (Darlene), Patricia, Maureen Connors, David (Gail), and Mary Geralyn, her sister-in-law Joan Rahal, and her nephews, nieces, and grand nephews and nieces: Margaret Connors (Kevin), Patrick Connors, Paul Connors, Geoff (Rula), Lucas and Matthew Rahal, Heather (Luca), Isabella and Nicholas Santolin, Stephen (Bonnie) Rahal and Andrea Rahal (Daniel).

CHECK OUT THE COMPANION ISSUE TO MUNMED, REFLECTIONS AS WE REVIEW THE LAST 12 YEARS OF PROGRESS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS MADE TO HELP BUILD A HEALTHY TOMORROW.

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