Outstanding BC physicians receive College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia 2014 Award of Excellence in Medical Practice

VANCOUVER, BC: The Board of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of British Columbia announced the recipients of the 2014 Award of Excellence in Medical Practice. Honoured physicians were presented with their awards at the president’s annual dinner in Vancouver on May 28, 2014.

Oscar G. Casiro, MD, FRCPC – Victoria, BC
Dr. Casiro has lived and studied in three countries (Argentina, Israel and Canada) and speaks three languages. His unique understanding of different cultures made him the perfect candidate to be the first associate dean of the Island Medical Program in Victoria. His daunting task was to pioneer a model of distributed medical education on Vancouver Island. With patience, respect and long hours of listening he enabled the program to grow from 200 to over 900 enthusiastic clinical educators across Vancouver Island in ten short years, gaining the confidence of the medical community as it grew. His vision and perseverance has led to the development of a new research division, within the University of Victoria, and teaching sites
and new residency training programs now extend over multiple communities as far north as Campbell River and Port McNeil. His core belief, that physicians are more likely to practise in underserved areas if they are trained in those areas, led him to focus on making a significant contribution to alleviating the shortage of physicians in BC, particularly in small and mid-size island communities. Dr. Casiro is a highly regarded and well-published pediatrician and neonatologist. He has been president of the Medical Council of Canada and a member of the Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools.

**Noel Donnelly, MD, FRCSC – Williams Lake, BC**
A three-month contract to Williams Lake became more than 35 years of dedication for the Cariboo obstetrician and gynecologist, Dr. Noel Donnelly. Born, raised and educated in Ireland, with eight years at various hospitals in London on his credentials, Dr. Donnelly never imagined that he and his family would make a life for themselves in BC’s interior. For 22 years he was the only obstetrician and gynecologist for the Cariboo Chilcotin region of south-central BC and was on call 24/7. He has worked 29 out of 31 Christmas days and has never once refused a patient. He is known in his community for always treating his patients with utmost respect and kindness. He was able to utilize expertise gained over many years of clinical practice to mentor and train other physicians. He pioneered the technique of laparoscopic-assisted vaginal hysterectomies in the Cariboo. His legacy has helped shape the medical world of the Cariboo of today.

**L. Jean Hlady, MD, FRCPC – Vancouver, BC**
Dr. Hlady is a clinical professor of pediatrics at the UBC Faculty of Medicine and a general pediatrician at BC Children’s Hospital where she has worked full-time in clinical practice and medical education for more than 30 years. Initially, together with Dr. David Smith, she worked on developing the Pediatric Clinic, a core function at BC Children’s Hospital and was one of the earliest pioneers for pediatric emergency medicine. Her work exposed her to child maltreatment. In 1988 she was appointed director of the Child Protection Service Unit, BC Children’s Hospital. She served in this role until 2013 and has seen more than 4,000 cases of child abuse in her career. Regarded by her peers as the most experienced child abuse clinician in the province, she is often consulted by physicians and legal authorities to review particularly complex cases, some of which may be fatalities. Under her careful guidance and unflagging support, a network of Suspect Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) teams has been created throughout the province to serve families and children closer to home. Dr. Hlady’s work has been instrumental in protecting countless children who have been victimized by child maltreatment, often at great personal cost such as harsh cross-examination in court by lawyers. Yet, she has continued to show leadership year after year, demonstrating highly honed skills in medical diagnosis and treatment, and a very deep and human understanding of the legal system and court’s function to protect children and their families.

**Robin R.R. Love, MD, FCFP – Nanaimo, BC**
Dr. Love has been a leader in the community of Nanaimo since his arrival in 1988. He graduated from the University of British Columbia (UBC) and completed his residency at McGill University, Montreal. From there he went on to establish a family practice at the Medical Arts Centre in
downtown Nanaimo, described by colleagues as one the most impoverished populations in BC. For more than 20 years he has provided family practice health services to a diverse population. Dr. Love is best known for his tireless advocacy for, and creation of, a palliative care service in Nanaimo. Since the inception of the program in 1993, Dr. Love has been the medical director for the Palliative Care Inpatient Unit. Under his compassionate and skilled leadership the unit has grown from humble beginnings to a twelve-bed world class palliative care system that includes in-patient and outpatient consulting services and community house-call services. His work in palliative care has received international recognition for initiatives such as the palliative care twinning partnership between local palliative care programs in Nanaimo and a program at the Bhaktapur Cancer Hospital in Nepal. Practical and compassionate, he continues to impart his knowledge to students as clinical assistant professor, UBC and on the faculty of University of Victoria Island Medical Program.

*The College of Physicians and Surgeons is the licensing and regulatory body for all physicians and surgeons in the province. Governed by provincial legislation, the College’s role is to protect the public by establishing, monitoring and enforcing high standards of qualification and ethical practice across the province.*

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