

THE DFCM AWARDS

April 21-22, 2016
Allstream Centre



Family & Community Medicine
UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

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Award for Outstanding Peer-Reviewed Publication - First Place

Dr. Jeff Kwong, UHN - Toronto Western Hospital

First place for the publication Kwong JC, Pereira JA, Quach S, Pellizzari R, Dusome E, Russell ML, Hamid JS, Feinberg Y, Winter AL, Gubbay JB, Sirtonski B, Moher D, Sider D, Finkelstein M, Loeb M; Public Health Agency of Canada/Canadian Institutes of Health Research Influenza Research Network (PCIRN) Program Delivery and Evaluation Group. Randomized evaluation of live attenuated vs. inactivated influenza vaccines in schools (RELATIVES) pilot study: a cluster randomized trial. *Vaccine*. 2015 Jan 15;33(4):535-41.

Outstanding Peer-Reviewed Publication - Second Place

Dr. Aisha Lofters - St. Michael's Hospital

Second place for the publication Lofters A, Vahabi M, Glazier RH. The validity of self-reported cancer screening history and the role of social disadvantage in Ontario, Canada. *BMC Public Health*. 2015 Jan 29;15:28.

Outstanding Peer-Reviewed Publication - Third Place

Dr. Tara Kiran - St. Michael's Hospital

Third place for the publication Kiran T, Kopp A, Moineddin R, Glazier RH. Longitudinal evaluation of physician payment reform and team-based care for chronic disease management and prevention. *CMAJ*. 2015 Nov 17;187(17):E494-502.

Research Mentorship Award

Dr. Nicole Woods - Women's College Hospital

Nicole brings a collegial spirit, skillful knowledge of when to guide or challenge, and a strategic vision as a research mentor. Using these talents, she has created synergistic connections among extra departmental units and hospital centres.

Faculty Award for Excellence in Global Health

Dr. Andrew Pinto - St. Michael's Hospital

Dr. Pinto has an open, thoughtful approach to leadership in advocacy organizations, and a true concern for using the privilege we hold as physicians to improve the health of those who face the most social challenges.

Dr. Megan Landes, UHN - Toronto General Hospital

Dr. Landes provides great leadership through the correct mix of compassion, sensitivity and cooperation - key components to a positive impact in global health.

Resident Award for Excellence in Global Health

Dr. Michael Benusic - St. Michael's Hospital

Dr. Benusic goes above and beyond his station as chief family medicine resident and has shown exemplary attributes for leadership.

Dr. John Ihnat - Michael Garron Hospital

Dr. Ihnat has a strong commitment and genuine enthusiasm for global health. He coordinates multiple obligations outside his family medicine training to foster learning opportunities for fellow residents in the global health field.

Jamie Meuser Award for Excellence in Leadership and Innovation in Professional Development

Dr. Abbas Ghavam-Rassoul - St. Michael's Hospital

Dr. Abbas Ghavam-Rassoul is an influential leader and top quality contributor to Professional Development. He is a dedicated and supportive coach of residency teachers at St. Mikes. Dr. Ghavam-Rassoul is the INTAPT co-founder and co-lead, inspiring multiple local and international faculty in scholarly academic careers.

Excellence in Faculty Development

Dr. David Esho and Dr. Andrew Sparrow - Toronto Western Hospital

Dr. David Esho and Dr. Andrew Sparrow have demonstrated sustained leadership in the creation and dissemination of an innovative faculty development program on Time Saving Technology. This work provides faculty with practical ways to incorporate technology in our busy work lives with the hopes of increasing efficiency.

Excellence in Faculty Development

Dr. Deborah Kopansky-Giles and Dr. Judith Peranson - St. Michael's Hospital

For over 10 years, Ms. Kopansky-Giles and Dr. Peranson have worked to enhance collaborative teaching skills amongst our faculty through implementation of best practice principles in team development and interprofessional education (IPE). Through their vision and efforts, learning and teaching together are now 'business as usual' at St. Mike's as evidenced by our interprofessional faculty development programs, a robust IPE curriculum promoting co-teaching experience, and policy development to support cross-professional education.

Excellence in Continuing Education

Five Weekend Course in Counselling and Psychotherapy for Family Physicians

This award is for the "Five Weekend Course in Counselling and Psychotherapy for Family Physicians", lead by Dr. Mel Borins and his team. The course has been running since 1997, and has educated hundreds of family physicians since that time. The course has had a significant impact on the education of family physicians in the area of counselling and psychotherapy, and is highly deserving of the PD award for Excellence in Continuing Education.

Team:

Dr. Mel Borins - St. Joseph's Health Centre

Dr. Ed Bader - Retired

Dr. Stephan Holzapfel - Women's College Hospital

Dr. Vince Poon - North York General Hospital

Dr. Ginny McFarlane - The Scarborough Hospital

Excellence in Continuing Education

Treating Poverty Workshop

This award is for the "Treating Poverty Workshop" team. This team is committed to empowering primary care providers to recognize poverty and effectively intervene through evidence-informed strategies for every-day clinical practice. The team supports a growing Community of Practice to enable ongoing learning and engagement in this area.

Team:

Dr. Gary Bloch - St. Michael's Hospital

Dr. Esther Ernst - St. Michael's Hospital

Dr. Danyaal Raza - St. Michael's Hospital

Dr. Samantha Green - St. Michael's Hospital

Dr. Ritika Goel - Office-Based Physician

Dr. Larissa Eibisch - Sherborne Health Centre

Excellence in Research in Professional Development

Dr. Kirsten Wentlandt - UHN - Toronto Western Hospital

Kirsten Wentlandt has led a large project that includes the roll-out of the Physician Quality Improvement Initiative (PQII)- a physician led project designed to provide physicians with feedback to encourage improvement in their clinical service provision. This work has been presented at a national healthcare leadership conference, garnered interest at an international level, as well as a local focus, as other Ontario hospitals require support in implementing the PQII.

New Leadership in Professional Development

Dr. Kathleen Doukas - St. Michael's Hospital

Dr. Doukas is committed to working with homeless youth and mentoring and educating her colleagues to continuously improve the care provided to them. As the Inner City Health Associates Education Lead, Kathleen oversees the homeless health elective for medical students and residents. In order to improve the quality of the elective experience, Kathleen developed an online module for Inner City Primary Care providers to assist a disparate group of physicians in improving their teaching skills to benefit the learners rotating through shelters.

Learner: Contributor to Professional Development

Dr. Neil Dattani - Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

Dr. Neil Dattani is a second year resident who has demonstrated significant interest and contribution to the professional development of his peers and DFCM faculty, and has shown tremendous passion for academic medicine at this early stage in his career. He enjoys supporting Junior Medical trainees and has worked with and mentored four University or Toronto medical students through his residency research project.

Community-based Contributor to Professional Development

Dr. Rebecca Stoller - North York General Hospital

As the NYGH Professional Development Lead, Dr. Stoller has distinguished herself as an outstanding leader in Professional Development. Dr. Stoller stands out as an inspiration to our new, mid- and late-career faculty; her drive, enthusiasm and competence cause many of us to want to advance academically.

Mentorship Award

Dr. Sheila Dunn - Women's College Hospital

Dr. Dunn has been an immensely valuable mentor for many years. For the past nine years she has been the Research and Program Director for the Bay Centre for Birth Control and for the past seven years, she has been the Research Director for the WCH family practice. Dr. Dunn is energetic, approachable, knowledgeable and supportive.

Mentorship Award

Dr. Fok-Han Leung - St. Michael's Hospital

Dr. Leung provides professional and personal guidance that is both practical and motivating. He encourages others to incorporate self-reflection into their everyday routines to develop a better understanding of how they can improve on patient care and how to reach professional fulfillment. And despite his busy schedule, he regularly makes himself available to discuss anything from difficult ethical issues, to questions around billing, to work-life balance.

Mentorship Award

Dr. Judith Peranson - St. Michael's Hospital

Dr. Peranson is an extremely positive role model for learners and colleagues alike. She was a founding physician lead for the newest Sumac Creek family medicine site, and consistently excelled in this role. She personally connected with new physicians and has provided them with invaluable support. Dr. Peranson is willing to share her expertise and provide guidance with regards to both personal and professional matters, making her a respected member of the team.

Continuing Education or Graduate Studies Instructor

Dr. Candice Holmes - St. Michael's Hospital

Dr. Holmes' contributions to professional development have been immense in her role as instructor for the Applying and Appraising Evidence to Assist Clinical Decision Making graduate level course. This course is a staple in the Master of Community Health (FCM/HPTE) and Master of Public Health programs through the Dalla Lana School of Public Health, both popular paths for many academic health care providers.

Continuing Education Student Award for Overall Excellence

Dr. Waleed Alsulami - Student

Dr. Alsulami is a family physician from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia enrolled in the Medical Education Fellowship. Dr. Alsulami was nominated for this award by several instructors. He has distinguished himself by his excellent work ethic. In class Dr. Alsulami listens quietly and attentively, and his contributions demonstrate his deep engagement and understanding of the material and help to advance the discussion.

Faculty & Staff Impact Award

Proton Pump Inhibitor DePrescribing Initiative - Choosing Wisely QI Project
Dr. Kimberly Wintemute - North York General Hospital

Dr. Wintemute has worked hard to educate physicians, allied health personnel and patients about the merits and rationale for trying to get patients off these medications and has used QI techniques to further the cause. Kimberly has shown leadership skills through her work in developing this initiative, recognizing and capitalizing on the skill set of her team and gaining the support of the departmental members.

The Patient Experience Survey
Ms. Nicole Bourgeois - Women's College Hospital

Ms. Nicole provided excellent leadership and guidance in the development and implementation of the Patient Experience Survey.

Finding the Ticking Time Bomb
Dr. Joanne Laine-Gossin and Dr. Harvey Blankenstein - North York General Hospital

Focusing on increased screening for Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms, this project built on several successful family medicine resident projects and targeted spread and sustainability of processes related to this important screening intervention. Through technical capability with QI methodology and an awareness of the important contextual reality in primary care practices, Dr.'s Laine-Gossin and Blankenstein have demonstrated leadership in this work.

Improving After-Hours Urgent Care at a Multi-Site, Urban Family Health Team
Dr. Tara Kiran and Ms. Sam Davie - St. Michael's Hospital

This project aimed to understand the root causes of patients reporting difficulty accessing urgent after-hours care, and improve such care at the St. Michael's Hospital Academic Family Health Team. The interdisciplinary team's study revealed a lack of awareness of after-hours services. To improve awareness, the team worked with patients to understand how they would like to become informed of these services, including posters, handouts and emails to patients detailing how to access urgent care services after-hours. Awareness of some after-hours services has thus increased.

Team:
Ms. Laurie Malone - St. Michael's Hospital
Ms. Trish O'Brien - DFCM Quality Improvement Program Manager
Mr. Ian Pinnell - St. Michael's Hospital
Ms. Paula Blankenstien-Hirsch
Ms. Pegi Kohut - St. Michael's Hospital

PGY1 Impact Award

Reducing Resident Prescription "Bounce-Backs"
Dr. Richard Osborne and Dr. Shawn Lacombe - Mount Sinai Hospital

Drs. Osborne and Lacombe identified ongoing issues with associated safety implications leading to a project aimed at reduction of prescription errors and "bounce-backs" using a change idea that was easy to implement, effective and sustainable. Effective implementation of relevant tools and methodology to achieve these results was demonstrated with successful incremental improvement.

Implementing a Tracking Method for Community Call at WCH Family Practice
Dr. Brad Lichtblau and Dr. Linda Wong - Women's College Hospital

Dr.'s Lichtblau and Wong created a tracking process that allowed for effective analysis of community on-call usage of after hours phone service. This permitted viewing of patterns in use, as well as management of the call (reassurance, same/next day urgent appt, to ER). This analysis has been important in guiding target audiences for topics related to patient education, handouts, etc. Based on this QI initiative, the family practice is able to analyze data on a regular basis to see if educational initiatives are reaching the intended audience.

Improving Utilization in the FHO After-Hours Clinic
Dr. Michelle Yee - North York General Hospital

Dr. Yee's eagerness and breadth of ideas demonstrate her commitment to QI work. Her contribution to the QI committee includes discussions on improving access to community resources within the inpatient wards, improving communication between diagnostic imaging, patients and care providers, and improving the educational environment. Through all this work she is helping enrich the QI program both within the family medicine department itself and at North York General Hospital.

PGY1 Impact Award

Medication Reconciliation: Creating a Custom Form
Dr. Kyle Lee and Dr. Monique Moller - St. Michael's Hospital

Led by Dr.'s Lee and Moller, this interdisciplinary team collaborated to develop and then refine a medication reconciliation custom form that would provide a standardized way of performing and tracking medication reconciliation in the outpatient setting. The team assessed the length of time required to use the form (by pharmacist vs. MDs) and medication discrepancies identified by this process. Ultimately, the aim is to have the majority of the family health team physicians and pharmacists familiar and utilizing this new clinical tool regularly to maintain the most accurate medication information and prevent adverse drug events or interactions.

Team:
Ms. Brenda Chang - St. Michael's Hospital
Ms. Lisa Miller - St. Michael's Hospital
Dr. Noor Ramji - St. Michael's Hospital
Dr. Tara Kiran - St. Michael's Hospital

Evaluation of the MedsCheck Program as a Means to Increase Patient Satisfaction, Safety, and to Promote Physician-Pharmacist Communication
Dr. Esther Ernst and Dr. Ibrahim Malik - St. Michael's Hospital

This project focused on increasing the uptake of MedsChecks (the free annual medication reviews provided to Ontarians taking a minimum of three medications) by faxing a 'MedsCheck Request' form to the community pharmacist who was asked to call the patient, complete the MedsCheck, and fax the results. Information was collected on patient confidence in knowing how to take their medication and rating scales were used to evaluate the usefulness of the MedsCheck service. Findings showed faxing the form was time-consuming, thus physicians began disseminating it to patients to streamline the process.

Team:
Dr. Priya Vasa - St. Michael's Hospital
Ms. Di Wang - St. Michael's Hospital
Ms. Lisa Miller - St. Michael's Hospital

A Quality Conundrum: EMR Medication Reconciliation in a Family Medicine Teaching Centre
Dr. Lina Al-Imari and Dr. Jaisy Yang - Markham-Stouffville Hospital

Dr.'s Al-Imari and Yang lead their team through a number of small cycles of improvement to assist residents who feel overwhelmed with the often inaccurate medication lists of complex patients. They successfully reduced patient harm by improving medication lists in different samples from 11% to 57%, but it was the clarity of their logic and simplicity of their approach that demonstrated their grasp of QI methodology and its application. They also won the Best Presentation Award at the 2014 IHI Open House Conference at U of T.

PGY2 Impact Award

Quality Road Map: Teaching QI in the Community
Dr. Josephine Lee - North York General Hospital

Dr. Lee developed this poster, building on work that was originally designed by Dr. Kimberly Lazare. In 2015, the poster was presented at the DFCM Conference, North York General Hospital's "Showcase on Scholarship in Education" and the Family Medicine Forum. Dr. Lee has demonstrated wonderful mentorship skills, helping PGY1 residents with their projects and has been a key liaison between the PGY1s and the project steering committee.

Founders' Award

The QI Program Founders' Award honours the academic site faculty who have served, for at least the initial five years, on the Quality Program Committee (QPC) beginning in 2011. The leadership, educational skills and passion for quality improvement demonstrated by each of these faculty members has contributed significantly to legitimizing QI as an important competency for family medicine residents, family physicians and all members of the primary care interprofessional teams.

Team:
Dr. Lesley Adcock - Toronto Western Hospital - UHN
Dr. Fran Cousins - Trillium Health Partners - Summerville
Dr. Debbie Elman - Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre
Dr. Brent Elsey - Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre - Barrie
Dr. Tara Kiran - St. Michael's Hospital
Dr. Susie Kim - Women's College Hospital
Dr. Joanne Laine-Gossin - North York General Hospital
Dr. John Maxted - Markham-Stouffville Hospital
Dr. James Pencharz - Trillium Health Partners - Credit Valley
Dr. Tia Pham - Michael Garron Hospital
Dr. Sam Tirkos - Michael Garron Hospital

Clinical Teaching Award - New Teacher Award

Dr. Rahul Jain - Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

He approaches teaching in a supportive and non-judgmental manner, which creates a positive learning environment. Dr. Jain is also a role model for being a lifelong learner, as he demonstrates a passion for learning himself.

Dr. Matthew Victor Orava - Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre

As a recent graduate of our program, he has been an extremely approachable member of the staff as the second year residents transition into practice. Dr. Orava has been an asset to our program due to his extremely affable personality in combination with his incredible research and clinical knowledge base.

Clinical Teaching Award - Excellence in Teaching

Dr. Anne Wideman - Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

As a person, she exudes warmth. Every interaction I have had with her has left me feeling inspired to become a better person and physician. I cannot imagine a better role model in family medicine than Dr. Anne Wideman.

Dr. Charlie B. Guiang - St. Michael's Hospital

Dr. Guiang is very attentive to resident training needs. He identified a gap in procedural skills training and helped launch a Minor Surgical Procedures Clinic in partnership with the General Surgery department which Family Medicine residents rotate through.

Clinical Teaching Award - Role Modeling Clinical Excellence

Dr. Zahir Poonja - Royal Victoria Regional Health Centre

He is the ideal role model for residents because he emanates the true community physician in his practice. He works in multiple nursing homes in the community, in the emergency room, at an urgent care clinic, as well as runs a clinic based practice.

Clinical Teaching Award - Role Modeling Clinical Excellence

Dr. Curtis Handford - St. Michael's Hospital

He truly embodies the physician who values the patient's story, earnestly listening to each patient, consistently utilizing the clinical exam and relevant investigations with up-to-date evidence in mind, but always guided by the patient's story. We have witnessed many times where he has been successful at identifying difficult diagnoses, inspiring us to improve upon our own clinical skills.

Educational Achievement Award - Program Leadership

Dr. Erin Bearss - Mount Sinai Hospital

Dr. Bearss does so much in a seemingly unphasable manner – leading with a calm demeanour, sense of humour, and truly impressive communication skills. Our successes have certainly been facilitated through her outstanding leadership.

Dr. Sheila Yuen - Markham Stouffville Hospital

Since she started in this role resident satisfaction has improved significantly and the FMTU's presence in the larger hospital community has grown dramatically. The feeling of the residents is that this is largely due to Dr. Yuen's tireless efforts to give structure to off-service rotations, provide consistency to our family medicine clinics and encourage other faculty to join in these efforts.

Educational Achievement Award - Innovation in Education

Dr. Caroline Thompson - The Scarborough Hospital

Her passion for teaching is obvious. She has taken her own time to meet with learners to create a vision for emergency medicine education at our site. This has led to a variety of improvements to what was already an excellent learning environment.

Dr. Carolyn McQuarrie - Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

She has made herself available for career advice, exam practice and supported our Journal Club but she also brings with her an enthusiasm and excitement that are invaluable in a teacher. Dr. McQuarrie is considered an outstanding teacher, who has a deep passion for education and commitment to teaching.

Educational Achievement Award - Resident Advocacy

Ms. Paula Da Rocha - Mount Sinai Hospital

Every site has a Program Assistant – but not every site has a Paula. Residents quickly learn that Paula is our greatest advocate. Her warm and welcoming personality combined with her attention to detail, office treats, and availability make Paula one of the greatest assets of our program and to the resident's wellness.

Ms. Rhonda Taylor - Southlake Regional Health Centre

Rhonda Taylor is the backbone of our program. She works tirelessly to complete resident schedules, faculty schedules, various vacation schedules and all while always keeping a smile on her face! Many of the residents describe her as “a second mother”.

Resident Award - Leadership

Dr. Neil Dinesh Dattani - Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

As co-chief resident at Sunnybrook, he has excelled at surveying and representing the voices of his fellow learners, spending significant time communicating with residents about curriculum design and attending meetings to advance program development.

Dr. Richard A. Osborne - Mount Sinai Hospital

Leading by example, he has consistently motivated residents to participate fully in all aspects of the program. He has been particularly diligent in organizing & helping develop AHD sessions encompassing clinical, ethical and professional content. He spearheaded a session on the humanities and art in Medicine (HeART).

Resident Award - Teaching Excellence

Dr. Harleen Toor - UHN - Toronto Western Hospital

She shows a strong commitment to teaching excellence. One clerk commented “I’ve never had anyone pay so much attention to trying to make sure I learned a lot, not just about medicine, but about what it was like to be a Family Medicine resident.”

Resident Award - Teaching Excellence

Dr. Eva Cheng - Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

She has also served as a resident teacher for the undergraduate case-based learning seminars. Eva has been approached by several undergraduate students for clinic shadowing in primary care. Her mentoring skills have developed well beyond her level of training.

Resident Award - Advocacy for Patients

Dr. Gabrielle Inglis - St. Michael's Hospital

She cofounded the Resident Advocacy Group for the St. Mike's family medicine residents, helped create a video in Arabic with one of our Faculty explaining the healthcare system to newly arriving Syrian Refugees. In addition she developed and ran a SMH fundraising initiative, On Call for Syria, for all residents to donate their on call stipends.

Dr. Warda Mariam Iqbal - Markham Stouffville Hospital

Warda's leadership in organizing participation in the Markham Rally against Refugee Healthcare Cuts as part of a National Day of Action and the Week of Reckoning demonstrates her commitment to meeting the health needs of a vulnerable population. (She) has been leading a committee at our clinic to help raise awareness about Syrian refugee healthcare issues.

Resident Award - Clinical Excellence

Dr. Lauren Elizabeth Payne - UHN - Toronto Western Hospital

Lauren is a remarkable clinician. As an early PGY-2, Dr. Payne was functioning autonomously in her clinic. In her teaching practice time, she further thrived and gained confidence in her independence. I have seen very few residents exhibit her level of excellence as a clinician.

Dr. Steven Louis Goldie - Women's College Hospital

Steve has consistently received the highest POWER evaluation scores of his peers. “(Even though) this resident .. is just beginning his second year, (he) is functioning at the level of a final resident or new graduate.”, He is trustworthy in clinic and has excellent follow up and management plans.

Interprofessional Teaching Excellence

Ms. Annie Hoang - Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

Annie Hoang has been an excellent addition to our team of educators. Her ability to research new ideas and then translate the information into meaningful and clinically relevant material is outstanding. Our students benefit from her knowledge and expertise both in pre-clerkship in the CPPH course and also in clerkship, through a session during the core clerkship rotation.

Teaching Excellence in FMLE

Dr. Gerald Rockman - St. Michael's Hospital

With his many years in clinical practice, it is evident that Dr. Rockman has much wisdom to share with his students. His enthusiasm and patience in teaching, combined with his medical and clinical expertise, as well as his evident rapport with his patients make him an exceptional preceptor.

Teaching Excellence in the Family Medicine Clerkship

Dr. Milena Forte - Sinai Health System - Bridgepoint

Dr. Forte's patience and encouragement allowed me to grow and develop new skills even in the short six weeks of my family medicine rotation. The relationships that she has cultivated with her patients speak strongly to her confident and empathetic character which became a constant source of inspiration for me and my hope to achieve that same connection with my patients in the future.

Dr. Ann Li - North York General Hospital

Dr. Li has been a dedicated clerkship teacher at NYGH for many years. She consistently provides a diverse clinical experience to students, highlighting to them the variety available in family medicine. Ann goes out of her way to make clerks comfortable and feel part of her practice. She takes extra time every day to teach around cases and review important tips. The feedback from the students is always positive.

Teaching Excellence in the Family Medicine Clerkship

Dr. Beth Skuy - The Scarborough Hospital

Dr. Skuy is an exemplary preceptor with a true passion for teaching. Throughout my rotation she regularly engaged me in case discussions and reviewed relevant management principles between patients. I appreciated how she took the time to show me interesting findings, test me on my knowledge, and answer my many questions. Dr. Skuy shows devotion to both her patients and her students, and deserves recognition for her work fostering the next generation of physicians.

Dr. Rebecca Stoller - North York General Hospital

What's special about Dr. Stoller is that she is a role model of a physician that combines excellence in her academic role, clinical work and responsibilities to her family and community outside of medicine. She is an enthusiastic teacher and the clinical experience she provided was transformative for me, changing my outlook on clerkship and my abilities as a medical student.

Dr. Anne Wideman - Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

Dr. Wideman is one of the best clinical teachers I have had thus far during clerkship. She has a very thorough approach to all presenting problems in family medicine and gives adequate room to clinical clerks to develop a differential and work up clinical problems. She is an excellent role model for students in her interactions with team members and patients. She has a very constructive approach to finding student feedback.

Teaching Excellence - New Teacher

Dr. Andrea Garcia - Trillium Health Partners - Mississauga Hospital

Dr. Garcia was nothing short of one of the best instructors I've had in medical school thus far. She was an exceptional teacher and role model in every sense: welcoming, available, approachable, facilitated a positive learning environment, and, of course, her uncanny ability to take complex clinical scenarios and break them down into simple and easy to understand elements that made learning from her simply a pleasure every day.

Dr. Katherine Ker - North York General Hospital

I had the great privilege of having Dr. Ker as my preceptor for my Family Medicine core clerkship rotation at North York General Hospital. Her teaching and mentorship were exceptional and helped foster an incredibly supportive and productive learning environment. Her incredibly personable demeanor made me feel immediately comfortable in the clinic and I always felt welcome to approach her with questions or for assistance or clarification.

Teaching Excellence - New Teacher

Dr. Zohair Syed - Trillium Health Partners - Mississauga Hospital

It was through working with Dr. Syed and observing his genuine care for patients that I was able to gain a true appreciation for the far-reaching impact of an excellent family physician. There is no doubt in my mind that Dr. Syed is most deserving of this teaching award, as he continues to embody the characteristics that we all hope for in a clinician and teacher, while inspiring future generations of trainees to do the same.

Dr. Joshua Waks - Office-Based Physician

Dr. Waks is an excellent mentor. He is patient and leaves time for discussion after each clinical encounter. He took the time to help me with specific clinical skills I was having difficulty with. Dr. Waks created a positive learning environment and made me feel comfortable doing procedures I had never done before.

Role Modelling Clinical Excellence (FMLE)

Dr. Risa Bordman - North York General Hospital

Dr. Bordman really took the time to explain to me every patient that we saw together. At times when I made mistakes, she would correct me in a very encouraging manner, and I am more inclined to put myself outside my comfort zone and challenge myself in taking up more responsibilities because of this. She has made me reconsider a career in family medicine, which I did not think about prior to entering medicine.

Role Modelling Clinical Excellence in the Family Medicine Clerkship

Dr. Val Rachlis - North York General Hospital

Dr. Rachlis is one of those physicians I want to emulate when I 'grow up'. His patients absolutely respect him and trust his medical decisions, while he will calmly listen to their issues. He allowed me to tag along on some of his deliveries and is exactly the type of calm family physician I want to be when in a delivery!

Role Modelling Clinical Excellence in the Family Medicine Clerkship

Dr. David Tannenbaum - Sinai Health System - Bridgepoint

I feel honoured to have had the privilege of being taught by Dr. Tannenbaum so early in my training. He is the perfect example of a physician who goes far beyond an expert of medical knowledge, teaching his students how to earn the trust of your patients by providing each individual encounter with the utmost respect, empathy and compassion. His passion for teaching created an environment in which I felt comfortable to challenge myself, knowing I had his constant supervision and encouragement with each failure and success I would endure.

The Chair's Award

Dr. Lynn Wilson - Women's College Hospital

Dr. Wilson is known throughout the department for being an approachable individual, focused on improving the faculty, student and staff environment.

Congratulations to all 2016 DFCM Program Award recipients!

Thank you all faculty and staff for your participation in the nomination process.

The University of Toronto's Department of Family and Community Medicine is recognized internationally for its clinical, educational and research excellence. We are the largest Family Medicine training program in North America. Our faculty members are leading clinicians, teachers and researchers, committed to advancing the discipline of Family Medicine.

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