



CPSS presents Dr. William L. Albritton with the Dr. Dennis A. Kendel Distinguished Service Award

SASKATOON, NOVEMBER 22, 2014 – During a special awards banquet held on November 21st, 2014, the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan presented Dr. William L. Albritton of Saskatoon with the *Dr. Dennis A. Kendel Distinguished Service Award* for outstanding contributions to physician leadership and/or to physician engagement in quality improvements in health care in Saskatchewan.

Originally from Alabama, Dr. William L. Albritton obtained his medical degree from the University of South Alabama College of Medicine. By 1968, he had his Ph.D. in biochemistry in hand and headed to Stanford University Medical Centre to complete his Fellowship, Internship and Residency. Aside from his management positions and teaching career in Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Saskatchewan's College of Medicine, his schooling and work has brought him to many places in North America: from Tennessee to Atlanta, Winnipeg, Edmonton and Pensacola, Florida, where he was Medical Director for several years at the Pediatric HIV clinic and a member of the faculty for the University of Florida Pediatric Residency Training Program. He currently teaches at the University of Saskatchewan for the College of Medicine, Department of Microbiology and Immunology.



Dr. William L. Albritton

Dr. Albritton's interests led him to practice in Pediatric Infectious Diseases and General Pediatrics. He has authored and co-authored numerous insightful publications on subjects such as *Haemophilus* bacteria, infection, and immune deficiency. His scope of interest included providing pediatric continuity of care to children with special needs, developmental delay, and other clinical conditions. Inspired by his experience growing up during the civil rights era in the Southern United States, Bill has worked to further advance social accountability, equity and diversity. More recently, he assisted with two student initiatives in Saskatchewan called SWITCH (Student Wellness Initiative Towards Community Health) and "Making the Links", where students spend several days a month making connections with underserved communities in the province, thereby bridging the gap between cultures, social barriers and generations.

As one nomination letter affirms, "*Serving others and putting their needs ahead of one's own is one of the integral components of effective leadership, as expanded in the servant leadership model. Bill has worked tirelessly for advancing our College, medical community and healthcare, even at personal cost. He truly worked selflessly. (...) He (...) believes in the concept of mutually valued relationships and worked hard to engage physicians, learners and different stakeholders to move forward towards the vision of the College and ultimately high quality healthcare.*"

"I was very pleased to see that Dr. Albritton had been chosen as recipient for this award. I am happy to see that the award is given to someone who has been involved in teaching as well as clinical practice. The imprint he has left on his students and colleagues has been one of impressive leadership and his contribution to medical literature will pave the way for medical practice in the future," said Dr. Pierre Hanekom, vice-chair of the College Council, who presented Dr. Albritton with the award.

The *Dr. Dennis A. Kendel Distinguished Service Award* was named in honour of Dr. Dennis Kendel, who retired in 2011 after a long career as Registrar of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan. Past recipients are Dr. Oberholzer and Dr. Helms of Radville (2012) and Dr. Marilyn Baetz of Saskatoon (2014).

Twenty-three recipients of *Senior Life Designation 2014* (for having held a license to practice medicine in Saskatchewan for a cumulative total of 40 years) were honoured at the same time for their lifelong contribution, as per the Medical Profession Act.

To complement the award ceremony, a painted portrait of Dr. Lowell Loewen was presented in honour of his longstanding contribution as Deputy Registrar for the College until 1999, and his contribution thereafter to various committees at the College, including the Methadone Program.

*The mission of the **College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan** is to serve the public by regulating the practice of medicine and guiding the profession to achieve the highest standards of care. It currently issues licenses to more than 2500 physicians and surgeons in the province, as well as over 1500 corporate permits.*

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Information:

Caro Gareau
Communications Officer || *Agente des communications*
College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan
1 306 667-4638 or 1 306 244-7355
www.cps.sk.ca