



## **Dr. John Froh receives Dr. Dennis A. Kendel Distinguished Service Award for 2021**

**SASKATOON, November 23, 2021** – During a meeting of the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan (CPSS) held on November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Council confirmed the selection by the Nomination Committee of this year’s recipient of the prestigious *Dr. Dennis A. Kendel Distinguished Service Award* for outstanding contributions to physician leadership and to physician engagement in quality improvements in health care in Saskatchewan.



Council is pleased to announce that the 2021 edition of this prestigious prize has been awarded to Dr. John Froh, who is currently serving in many medical roles, including full spectrum emergency and trauma care since 2002 as Attending Emergency Physician, Department of Emergency Medicine, and since 2018 as Attending Trauma Service Physician, Department of Surgery with the Saskatchewan Health Authority in Saskatoon, Medical Director and Transport Physician for STARS (Shock Trauma Air Rescue Service) since 2013. Since early 2020, he has also been Deputy Chief Medical Officer Pandemic, has been providing senior physician leadership through the Saskatchewan Health Authority to manage COVID-19 in the province of Saskatchewan as well (see attached biography).

“Dr. Froh is a great physician leader and an asset to the profession of medicine in Canada. He has demonstrated excellence in his field, including most recently in the pandemic response to COVID-19 in the province of Saskatchewan,” stated Dr. Olawale Franklin Igbekoyi, President of the Council of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan.



“Throughout this pandemic, so many physicians and allied healthcare workers have stood up and helped out. Nothing achieved was due to a single individual's efforts, but rather has been the result of the efforts of the team, our healthcare community, caring for our province. I am honoured to have this recognition bestowed upon me by my peers and share this award with all of my dedicated colleagues who have tirelessly worked to deal with this once in a lifetime crisis.” said Dr. Froh.

Dr. Froh’s interests in Trauma Care, Disaster Medicine and Transport Medicine have led him to contribute considerably to the development and ongoing updating of pre-hospital critical care medical control protocols in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta as well as the STARS air ambulance program. He has also contributed to the development of a community outreach education program, the Mobile Education Unit, for providing critical care, trauma and mass casualty education and preparation to rural and regional health care teams. Dr. Froh also spent many years mentoring, training and educating students, clerks and residents from the colleges of Medicine, Nursing and Dentistry.

Due to the pandemic situation, the traditional award dinner and official ceremony has been postponed to an undetermined date. In the meantime, please join us in congratulating Dr. Froh for this accomplishment!



---

*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. Werner Oberholzer and Dr. Nelly Helms (2012), Dr. Marilyn Baetz (2013), Dr. William Albritton (2014), Dr. Ryan Meili and Dr. Mark Wahba (2015), Dr. Corrine Jabs (2016), Dr. Susan Shaw (2017), Dr. Morris Markentin (2018), and Dr. Bruce Cload (2019), and Dr. Chris Ekong (2020).*

*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 over 2500 physicians and surgeons in the province, as well as over 1800 corporate permits.*

-30-

**Source:**

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

Encl. : Dr. Froh Biography



# 2021



## Dr. John Froh

*Disaster Medicine is one of the more challenging areas of Emergency Medicine. Emergency medicine has different sub-divisions and areas of interest: Toxicology, Pre-Hospital care, Transport, Quality Improvement, etc. Decisions must be made rapidly, based on incomplete and ever-changing information. What is happening one hour or day, may be different than what is happening the next. Dr. John Froh has always had an interest, and received extra training in, Disaster Medicine.*

After obtaining a Bachelor of Science at the University of Regina, Dr. Froh completed all of his medical education at the University of Saskatchewan: his medical degree (1998), followed by a Family Medicine Residency (2000) and an Emergency Medicine Residency (2002). After working for a short period as a locum in rural Saskatchewan, he naturally transitioned to working for the Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA) at the Emergency Department at Royal University Hospital (RUH) in Saskatoon, where he was involved in Emergency Medicine Research.

When COVID-19 came, John's background as an Emergency Physician made him the perfect candidate to lead during these challenging times.

---

*"The COVID-19 pandemic has created the need for many physicians to step into leadership roles in the Saskatchewan Health Authority but none has had more impact than Dr. John Froh."*

*- Dr. M.E. Fenton, Division Head, Division of Respiriology, Critical Care and Sleep Medicine, Department of Medicine, University of Saskatchewan*

---

He had already proven his leadership skills when put to the task in assisting Saskatchewan patients in situations of mass tragedy, as he was among the first responders to the La Loche school shooting and the Humboldt Broncos crash. Challenged once again, Dr. Froh has demonstrated the flexibility and adaptability to lead physicians daily during the pandemic, in what has been a long-extended disaster exercise with ever-changing, and often confusing, guidelines and information.

Appointed to the role of Deputy Chief Medical Officer – Pandemic, he unified SHA physicians into a highly functioning team and was key in the development of the physician skills enhancement program, which helped to deploy urgent physician support to COVID-19 wards, emergency rooms, and to intensive care units around the province. He organised the

---

“John’s military-like efficiency has kept the Saskatchewan medical community both organized and informed over these past 18 months. On the now all-too-familiar Webex, his voice is calm and firm with a spirit that seems unbreakable.”

- Dr. Mark Wahba,  
*Emergency Department colleague and 2015 recipient  
of the Dr. Dennis A. Kendel Distinguished Service Award*

---

Physician Town Hall meetings. He also led the Vaccine Uptake Strategy Group to help fight vaccine hesitancy, and was instrumental in the Test to Protect Strategy, rolling out point of care testing for COVID-19 through the province.

In addition to providing care in the Emergency Department at RUH, Dr. Froh’s past experience includes serving as Medical Director and Transport Physician for the STARS (Shock Trauma Air Rescue Service) program, working towards the establishment of the helicopter air ambulance service ensuring the online medical command and control of critically care patient movement throughout the province. He has also worked as attending physician at the Regional Psychiatric Centre in Saskatoon.

Dr. Froh and his wife have three children and have just celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. A bucket list golfer and tennis player, he is also a skilled acreage dweller who enjoys water fowling, basketball, SCUBA, and motorsports.