



# Outstanding

2022

AMA/CMA  
AWARDS

RECOGNITION



ALBERTA  
MEDICAL  
ASSOCIATION



*“Believe you can and  
you’re halfway there.”*

*Theodore Roosevelt*



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# AMA Awards Evening with the President *September 23, 2022*

## PROGRAM

Welcome and AMA President's Remarks

*Dr. Vesta Michelle Warren*

*Presentations*

*AMA Member Emeritus Awards*

*AMA Long-Service Awards*

*Blessing*

*Dinner*

*Presentations*

*AMA Medal for Distinguished Service*

President's Closing Remarks





*“Persevere in virtue  
and diligence.”*

*Titus Maccius Plautus*

# AMA Member Emeritus

The Member Emeritus award recognizes significant contributions to the goals and aims of the AMA, seniority, long-term membership and distinguished service (20 years) based on criteria determined by the Board of Directors. Members Emeriti enjoy all the rights and privileges of a full member but shall not be required to pay annual dues.

## Recipient

*Dr. Kenneth J. Corbet, Occupational Medicine, Calgary*

## Dr. Kenneth Corbet

*Occupational Medicine, Calgary*

### Reflections on Service

What an honour to be recognized by the AMA! Occupational medicine is a diverse specialty – a mix of individual clinical medicine and public health in the workplace. My first AMA committee in 1989 was tasked to develop a guideline for the Early Return to Work after Illness or Injury. The guideline met with success, garnered national input, and eventually evolved into a CMA policy statement.

My more recent involvement with the AMA has been as president and member-at-large with the Section of Occupational Medicine. Given our section members' different patterns and locations of practice, the challenge is to find common issues that we can address through education, committee participation, or advocacy. The Section attends the Representative Forums and, in the fall of 2019, organized a CME day in Edmonton. Related AMA activities include the Workers' Compensation Board committee and the guideline for billing of Uninsured Services.

The AMA serves firstly as a forum and voice for its member physicians, especially important for smaller Sections such as occupational medicine, with interests and issues in health care outside of the publicly funded system. Thank you, AMA.

### Personal Interests

As my professional work lessens I look forward to a more active lifestyle, travel within Canada and abroad, carpentry, photography and more time with family and friends.

# AMA Long-Service Award

The AMA Long-Service Award recognizes physicians with 10 years of AMA service who contribute their knowledge, skill and time to the advancement of the profession. Whether on the Board of Directors, its committees, the Representative Forum or section executives within AMA, their work supports and encourages the association's development.

## Recipients

*Dr. Stephen L. Cassar*

*Dr. John M. Colebrook*

*Dr. Monica L. Hill*

*Dr. Jamie J. Irvine*

*Dr. Dennis Y. Kunimoto*

*Dr. Rufus A. Scrimger*

*Dr. Rudolf A. Zimmer*



# AMA Long-Service Award Recipients

## Dr. Stephen Cassar

*Plastic Surgery, Medicine Hat*

### Reflections on Service

I have served as a member of the Representative Forum, on the AMA/WCB Advisory and Negotiating Committees and most recently as the South Zone Medical Staff Association president. I found my service on the AMA/WCB Committees and my recent tenure as president of the SZMSA especially rewarding.

Working with the AMA has enabled me to bring attention to prominent issues that physicians face in treating WCB patients. I have valued the opportunity to advocate on behalf of physicians to government in a time of crisis in our profession.

The extra time and effort needed to work with the AMA are well worth it. We must remain active and engaged to continue advocating on behalf of physicians.

### Personal Interests

I enjoy travel—when it's possible. Travel allows me to learn about the rest of the world beyond our own microcosm and to learn from other people.

## Dr. Monica Hill

*Generalists in Mental Health, Okotoks*

### Reflections on Service

I spent thirteen years taking calls from physicians and their families on the Physician and Family Support Program call line. I served on the executive of the Section of Generalists in Mental Health for seven years and am currently co-chair of the Mental Health & Addiction Coalition of the AMA. I particularly value the chance to provide a caring ear to help physicians and their families as they begin to seek help with concerns in their personal lives.

I have been proud to be involved in the AMA because it brings together our physician colleagues who care about their patients and about getting the best care possible for Albertans. The AMA has been successful in supporting physician wellness. I have felt tremendous satisfaction being able to serve my colleagues and their families through the PFSP. We do challenging work that carries inherent demands and risks for us, for our families and for our relationships. To be part of creating a safe and helpful place for my bright, capable and caring colleagues has truly been a humbling honor.

### Personal Interests

I am continuing to figure out parenting (!!)

and enjoy camping, hiking, golfing, canoeing, reading, playing piano, laughing and dancing whenever I get the chance!

## Dr. Dennis Kunimoto

*Infectious Diseases, Edmonton*

### Reflections on Service

I was instrumental in applying for the Section of Infectious Diseases in the AMA and served as the first president of the section and as Representative Forum representative. For many years I also served on the Relative Value Guide initiative for the section and for the past ten years I have served on the RF for the dean's office for the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Alberta.

Like many others, I spent many hours working on the RVG. I have tried to make sure that academic medicine concerns were brought to the attention of the AMA, often through informal conversation and networking. I have been heavily involved with the Academic Medicine Health Services Program since its inception, with which the AMA is also now involved.

The AMA is the voice of physicians to government and the public. It is difficult to be heard as a single physician, but when all of our voices are amplified through the AMA, we can have a significant impact and can bring about change.

### Personal Interests

I am a red wine enthusiast and am always looking for value wines.

## Dr. Rufus Scrimger

*Radiation Oncology, Edmonton*

### Reflections on Service

I have been involved in many AMA Representative Forums and in the AMA Section of Radiation Oncology, and I have served as the Edmonton Zone representative. Over the years, I have participated in many cycles of contract negotiations with AHS (and previously Alberta Cancer Board).

The AMA represents an important organization for us to be involved in, in addition to our employer and health authority. Our collective voice continues to provide a strong counterpoint to the government's official viewpoint and staying unified is important to maintain our collective strength!

### Personal Interests

I enjoy bike riding, walking the dog and travelling, now that we're able to do that again!

## Dr. Rudolf Zimmer

*Public Health and Preventive Medicine,  
Calgary*

### Reflections on Service

I was one of the first presidents of the AMA Section of Public Health and Preventive Medicine and its treasurer for two decades. I was also a member of the Health Issues Council for five years. I developed and shepherded the fee-for-service submission in 2015 to remove General Rule 3.1(m) in the SOMB introduced in 2007 without AMA objection and without consultation with affected AMA members. Frustratingly, by 2019 that submission was considered lost to follow-up. More successfully, I advocated among members to reject the ill-conceived FFS proposal brought to the membership in 2021 by an executive under siege.

The future of the AMA rests in its ability to address the financial needs of the majority of its members in the lower paid segments of medicine. It must effectively address the large income gaps among physicians, which have been allowed to increase over decades without any relationship to the value of patient care. The AMA needs to be more aggressive with the government and more focused on the needs of its members, reasserting the importance of physicians within the provincial health care system. Change can come only from within, and new members must revitalize the AMA. We need to put physicians first, who in turn put patients first.

# AMA Achievement Awards

## AMA Medal for Distinguished Service

The AMA Medal for Distinguished Service recognizes physicians who have made an outstanding personal contribution to the medical profession and to the people of Alberta and has contributed to the art and science of medicine while raising the standards of medical practice.

### Recipients

*Dr. James D. Kellner, Pediatrics, Calgary*

*Dr. Thomas C.R. Wilkes, Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, Calgary*



## Dr. James Kellner

*Pediatrics/Infectious Diseases/Community Health, Calgary*

Dr. James (Jim) Kellner received his medical training in Calgary and Toronto, specializing in pediatrics and infectious diseases. He is currently a clinician researcher at Alberta Children's Hospital and a professor of pediatrics, Community Health Sciences, and Microbiology, Immunology & Infectious Diseases at the University of Calgary.

At every stage of his career, Dr. Kellner has taken leadership roles, as chief resident of pediatrics at the Hospital for Sick Children and in Calgary as royal college program director for pediatric infectious diseases, section chief of pediatric infectious diseases, associate director, Institute of Maternal and Child Health, and deputy department head for research and administration. His greatest contributions came when he was head of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Calgary and Calgary Zone of Alberta Health Services from 2008 to 2018. Under Dr. Kellner's leadership, the department grew dramatically, with the medical and scientific workforce increasing by more than 75%. In addition to his administrative and educational roles, he has maintained both his clinical practice and an active research career.

He has been recognized for his services with numerous honours, including recent awards from the University of Calgary Department of Pediatrics (Advocacy and Leadership Award 2021), Alberta Children's Hospital Medical Staff (Physician of the Year 2017), Cumming School of Medicine (CME and Professional Development Top Teacher Award 2021), Pediatric Chairs of Canada (Appreciation Award for

three years as president 2016 and COVID Leadership Award 2020) and American Academy of Pediatrics (Distinguished Service Award 2019).

Dr. Kellner has made innumerable contributions to pediatrics and infectious disease epidemiology through his career. For twenty years, ten as committee chair, he has been providing expertise and guidance to the province's vaccine policy as a member of what is now known as the Alberta Advisory Committee on Immunization. His commitment to rigorous evidence reviews, population health considerations and improving the health of Albertans has benefitted us all. During the past two years, working with the COVID-19 Analytics and Strategy Group, the COVID-19 Immunity Task Force (CITF), and the National Immunity Taskforce, his contributions have reached a new level and we have all benefitted from his knowledge of how we could best respond to and control the impact of the pandemic.

To help meet the need for reliable, balanced and scientifically informed information among health professionals and the general public, Dr. Kellner has spoken at more than 60 local, provincial and national video-conferenced COVID-19 education events, and given nearly 200 media interviews. He has remained focused on the health of children by leading efforts to assemble pediatric cohorts and trials across the country related to COVID-19, including vaccination trials, to ensure that the best Canadian science was contributing to the making of evidence-informed and timely decisions to minimize the harms of the pandemic on children. Canadians are fortunate to have such a resolute and expert clinician who gives so generously of his time and energy to ensure that children receive the best care possible.

## Dr. Christopher Wilkes

*Psychiatry/Pediatrics, Calgary*

**For more than three decades, Dr. Christopher Wilkes has been a force for change as a clinician and as a leader in advocating for quality mental health supports for children and adolescents.**

He received his medical training in England, followed by internships and residencies in England, Scotland and Canada in both pediatrics and psychiatry. He has been practising in Alberta since 1987, first in Lethbridge and then, since 1990, in Calgary, where he has maintained both a clinical practice and an academic position at the University of Calgary. He is currently section chief for outpatients in Child and Adolescent Addiction and Mental Health Community and Specialized Services, Calgary Zone, Alberta Health Services; the University of Calgary/AHS division head of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and a member of the pediatric and psychiatry faculties; professor of psychiatry and current curricula chair for the PGY-5 and PGY-6 Child and Adolescent Training Residency Program at the University of Calgary.

He has worked tirelessly to advocate for mental health literacy and supports, both provincially and nationally, educating the public about such issues as marijuana and the developing brain, kids in crisis, mood disorders and suicide. During the pandemic, he has worked for child and youth welfare, arguing for the importance of recreational activities for building resilience. He has lobbied hard to reinstate the grant for Regional Collaborative Service Delivery, which gave families access to special education programs including mental health, occupational, physical and speech-language therapists. He has promoted health equity as a member of the Population, Public and Indigenous Health Strategic Clinical Network for

AHS since its inception in 2016 and has provided psychiatric consultation for the First Nations settlement in Morley for more than ten years. Even during his sabbatical year in 2011, which he took to recover from metastatic head and neck cancer, he continued working on behalf of Alberta's young people.

Dr. Wilkes has received numerous awards for his work, including the Professional Association of Interns and Residents in Alberta Award for Teaching; a Certificate of Appreciation for his years of service as a physician examiner with the Medical Council of Canada; the People First Award as part of the Complex Kids Collaborative Team; and the inaugural Friends of Canada Award presented by the mayor of Calgary for bringing the International Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Allied Professions (IACAPAP) to Calgary. This vital conference brought together multiple disciplines into one location for a unique collaborative opportunity to integrate mental health services. Hence, this was an important vehicle for increasing awareness of child and adolescent mental health, decreasing stigmatism, advocating for local services and research and delivering trauma-informed education.

As Dr. Wilkes transitions to part-time work, this Medal for Distinguished Service recognizes the great debt that the AMA, the medical profession in this province and the people of Alberta owe him for his years of dedicated service and advocacy.



*“Cherish your visions and your dreams as they are the children of your soul, the blueprints of your ultimate achievements.”*

*Napoleon Hill*

# Lunch with the CMA President

*September 24, 2022*

Welcome

Introduction of CMA President

*Dr. Alike Lafontaine*

Blessings

CMA Honorary Membership Awards

CMA Special Awards

Installation of New AMA President

*Dr. Fredrykka Rinaldi*

Presentation to AMA Past President

*Dr. Vesta Michelle Warren*

*New President's Closing Remarks*



*“Spend life for something  
which outlasts it.”*

*William James*

# CMA President

## Dr. Alika Lafontaine

**Dr. Lafontaine is an award-winning physician who practises anesthesia in Grande Prairie, Alberta.**

He was born and raised in Treaty 4 Territory (Southern Saskatchewan) and has Métis, Oji-Cree, Pacific Islander ancestry.

Having witnessed the impacts of the pandemic on the lives of physicians, Dr. Lafontaine promoted the issues of healthy working conditions, the physician social contract and the creation of a culturally safe health system. Among the actions he emphasized was achieving national licensure, an important step in preparing Canadian physicians for future health care crises.

“Mobility, employability and collaboration should exist in a post-pandemic world, along with the decreased stress, burnout and improved wellness that will result,” said Dr. Lafontaine.

“It’s also time to eliminate racism, sexism, ableism, classism and all other ‘-isms’ that permeate health system culture.”

As part of his advocacy, Dr. Lafontaine launched the Safespace Networks project with friendship centres across British Columbia. Safespace Networks is an anonymous reporting and learning platform that empowers marginalized patients to navigate health systems, supported by other patients, providers and stakeholders.

From 2013 to 2017, Dr. Lafontaine co-lead the Indigenous Health Alliance, a health transformation project involving 150 First Nations and several national health organizations. In 2018, the federal government allocated \$68 million to Indigenous communities involved in the project.

Dr. Lafontaine holds leadership positions with many organizations, including Alberta Health Services, the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, and the Indigenous Physicians Association of Canada. In 2021, he was also listed on the Medical Post’s “Doctors with Sway,” a list of the top 30 most influential physicians in Canada based on peer feedback.

*For more information on Dr. Alika Lafontaine, visit <https://www.cma.ca/news/dr-alika-lafontaine-elected-2021-cma-president-elect-nominee>*





*“All great achievements  
require time.”*

*Maya Angelou*

# CMA Honorary Membership Award Recipients

The CMA Honorary membership is granted to those members who have distinguished themselves by their accomplishments in medicine, science, the humanities or who have rendered significant services to the Association. They may be appointed as honorary members with the unanimous approval of the CMA Board. Honorary members shall enjoy all the rights and privileges of the Association but shall not be required to pay any Association fee.

## Recipients

*Dr. Carolyn A. Lane*

*Dr. Paul L. Toye*

*Dr. Jeffrey C.E. Way*

## Dr. Carolyn Lane

*Family Medicine, Calgary*

### Reflections on Service

My introduction to the AMA was through the Reproductive Care Committee. Working to provide quality assurance to Alberta families while constantly learning from the experiences of others was a unique educational and service opportunity. Governance body work—be it the Board, Representative Forum or CMA General Council—also created a keen sense of connection with others. Regardless of the endeavour, working in a constructive atmosphere with colleagues from across the province and the country, as well as with knowledgeable AMA staff, made the experiences enjoyable and rewarding.

Some of the activities were very process related and demanded objectivity in working toward goals resulting in improvement in practice for all physicians, such as working within the AMA Compensation Committee to lay the groundwork for the ongoing evolution of income and fee equity within the profession. Work on establishing an approach toward a principle-based fee equity process both within the Section of Family Medicine and then within the AMA as a whole was important in the evolution of a profession where incomes are no longer an area of discord between physicians.

I was initially reluctant to become involved with the AMA as it seemed remote from my clinical life and too great a demand on my limited time, but I am glad to have been persuaded otherwise. AMA and CMA service has provided me the opportunity to enhance clinical care, serve the community and the profession and hopefully leave a better practice environment for the physicians of the future to build upon.

### Personal Interests

I consider myself a happily retired physician occupying myself primarily in the garden and on the hiking trails while also spending time with family and friends who visit regularly throughout the year. The leadership and cooperative skills acquired throughout my career continue to be of value, volunteering for community clubs and committees in retirement, thanks to the AMA and CMA. But if you need someone to come help with more fee equity work, I am always up to the task.

## Dr. Paul Toye

*Family Medicine, Calgary*

### Reflections on Service

My service with the AMA was initially on the executive of the Section of General Practice (now Family Medicine), where I spent fifteen years as secretary-treasurer. My later service included acting as Representative Forum delegate for the section, sitting on the WCB/AMA Advisory Committee and working on the Relative Value Guide.

Being involved with the AMA has allowed me to understand more fully the bigger issues in health care that affect us on the local, provincial and federal levels. My time on the RF allowed me to realize the importance of the AMA's voice being heard together with the CMA on a national level. Local issues are often reflected nationally, allowing us to create a network among colleagues across the country and to share a sense of common purpose.

### Personal Interests

I love spending time with my wife, Barb, and we very much look forward to travelling again. We look forward together also to the future arrival of grandchildren. I enjoy golf and cooking and am learning from Barb about the pleasures of gardening.

## Dr. Jeffrey Way

*General Surgery/Trauma, Calgary*

### Reflections on Service

Since starting practice in Alberta in 1988, I have been involved on many AMA committees, including the Transportation Committee, Board of Directors, Fees Committee, Schedule of Medical Benefits Committee and most recently the AMA Compensation Committee and Provincial Compensation Advisory Committee.

Time spent in service to the AMA has been invaluable. I have met many physicians whose dedication to bettering our profession is amazing. As you can see, most of my time has been involved with areas around fees and advocating for fair and equitable compensation for physicians.

Most recently I have been the co-chair of the AMA Compensation Committee and one of the physician representatives on the Provincial Compensation Advisory Committee. This work has enabled me to bring the concerns of physicians to the provincial government, but I think the work on the AMACC in developing the income equity initiative has been most important. We have, I believe, moved further ahead on this project in recent years than ever before.

As an intern and a resident, I became quite involved with the resident association and, after starting practice, the very first thing I did was to become an AMA member and attend the annual meetings. I have been involved ever since. I cannot stress enough the importance of becoming a member of your professional association and getting involved. I have learned so much regarding our profession through involvement with the AMA and have met and worked with many very dedicated physicians during this time. It has been a great honor to be able to serve our profession in this way.

### Personal Interests

As I enter semi-retirement, I am not yet ready to stop completely. I hope to continue with the AMA in any role in which I can be of use. I will continue with my international humanitarian work with Samaritan's Purse and will probably be able now to be more available to go where I am needed.

# CMA AWARDS

## Honorable Mentions

### CMA Dr. Brian Brodie Organizational Leadership Development Award

This award honours the CMA's longest serving board chair and is given to a student and a resident who demonstrate exemplary leadership.

#### Recipients

*Mr. Mehul Gupta, class of 2023, Calgary*

*Dr. Stephanie Smith, Family Medicine, Calgary*

### CMA Dr. Léo-Paul Landry Medal of Service

Dr. Léo-Paul Landry Medal of Service is awarded to a CMA member who has made exceptional contributions to the advancement of health care in Canada.

#### Recipient

*Dr. Jane Lemaire, Internal Medicine, Calgary*

### CMA Frederic Newton Gisborne Starr Award

The Frederic Newton Gisborne Starr Award is the highest CMA award available to one of its members and recognizes outstanding and inspiring lifetime achievement.

#### Recipient

*Dr. John Conly, Infectious Disease Specialist, Calgary*

### CMA Award for Young Leaders (Early Career)

This CMA award is presented to recipients who have demonstrated exemplary dedication, commitment and leadership in one of the following areas: political, clinical, educational, or research and community service.

#### Recipient

*Dr. Shannon Ruzycski, Internal Medicine, Calgary*

*To see their full biographies, please visit <https://www.cma.ca/cma-awards-and-nominations>*





*“What the mind can conceive  
and believe, and the heart  
desire, you can achieve.”*

*Norman Vincent Peale*



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