



FACULTY OF MEDICINE

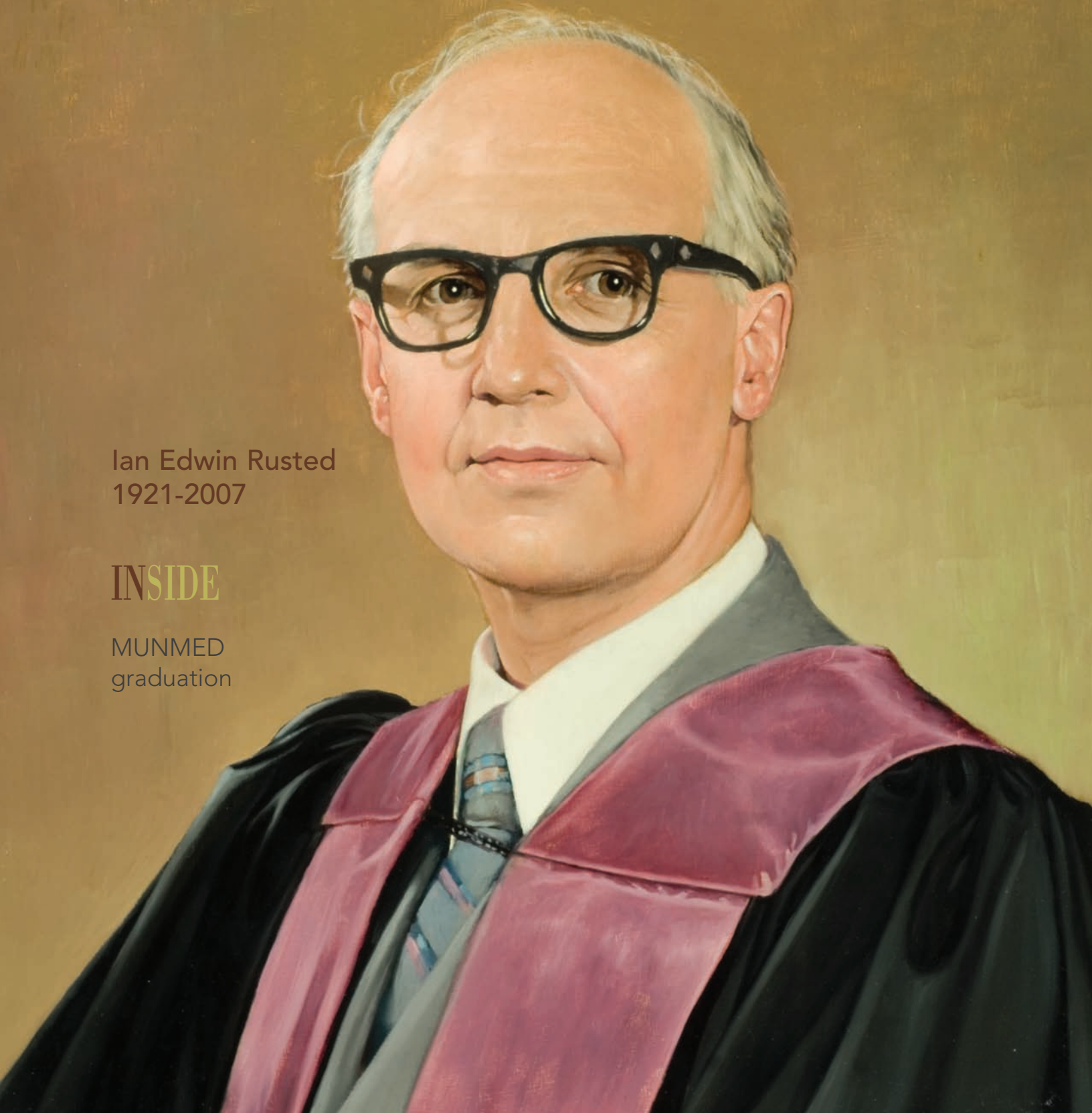
# MUNMED *News*

Vol. 19 No. 3 Summer 2007

Ian Edwin Rusted  
1921-2007

**INSIDE**

MUNMED  
graduation



# Synapse award for Dr. John McLean



**D**r. John H. McLean, professor of anatomy and neuroscience at Memorial University, is the first person to receive the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Synapse Award – Individual Researcher.

The award, which is worth \$5,000, recognizes the efforts of a health researcher who has made exceptional efforts to promote health research among Canada's high school students. Through mentorship, the winner regularly motivates youth to consider both the value of health research as well career opportunities that exist within various scientific fields. The winner is nominated by someone who understands his/her direct scientific contributions to young people, and is chosen by the members of the CIHR Youth Outreach Advisory Board.

Dr. McLean has encouraged youth to develop an interest in neuroscience through the organization of two primary competitions: Brain Storm and Brain Art. As an oral challenge, Brain Storm tests a student's knowledge of facts related to the brain. Brain Art acts as an artistic challenge and allows a student to creatively represent the brain using hand-drawn paint or ink.

"All health researchers should get involved in generating interest in science amongst young Canadians," says Dr. Alan Bernstein, president of CIHR. "Dr. McLean's direct, personal engagement has inspired graduate students to act as scientific mentors and encouraged high school students to consider health research as a career possibility.

Conveying the exciting benefits of health research is essential if we are going to awaken young people to the potential for science to change their lives."

CIHR's Synapse – Youth Connection initiative acts as a meeting place, a scientific junction that brings together health researchers and young students. More than 2,000 CIHR-funded health researchers from across the country have already signed up to become CIHR Synapse mentors. Synapse, in collaborative partnership with national science outreach organizations, connects these mentors with high school students through hands-on training experience that will help create the next generation of Canadian health researchers.

"Dr. McLean is a wonderful example of a basic scientist who reaches outside the laboratory to spread knowledge and enthusiasm about his area of expertise," said Dr. James Rourke, dean of Medicine at Memorial University. "For the last seven years he has volunteered his time to get local high school students excited about the brain. Under his guidance, the Brain Storm competition has grown from the first small event with seven students from two high schools to this year's province-wide event. As well as encouraging high school students, Dr. McLean also encourages graduate students in neuroscience to channel their energy into this worthwhile outreach event."

## Cover

*The painting depicted on the front cover was done by Helen Parsons Shepherd in 1973 and presented to the medical school by the first graduating class.*

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Dr. Ian Rusted received an honorary doctor of laws degree from Memorial University in October 2001.

## A life of achievement

### Dean Emeritus

### Dr. Ian Rusted

The award of a Fellowship in Medicine from the Mayo Foundation led to additional postgraduate experience at the Mayo Clinic, with several research publications emphasizing chest and cardiovascular diseases. During this time, he was also an assistant to the staff of the Mayo Clinic and was invited to continue at that institution. He was also invited to return to McGill University and the Royal Victoria Hospital, but two summers spent on the NL Government coastal boat S.S. Kyle along the coast of Labrador, as well as his childhood years in Newfoundland, led him to choose in 1952 to return to what had now become the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

As medical consultant to the Department of Health and director of medical education at the General Hospital, Dr. Rusted's top priority was visiting cottage hospitals and other provincial institutions, working closely with rural doctors. During each of these tours an average day would involve 12 consultants and 150 miles of travel – at a time when the Trans Canada Highway had not yet been completed. Evening clinical discussions at places such as Grand Falls/Botwood led to formation of branches of the Newfoundland Medical Association (NMA).

Beginning in 1955, he was responsible for the development of approved residency programs in most major specialties, in close co-operation with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons. He was also chairman of the NMA's Education Committee and these activities were combined with a busy consulting practice as well as research projects. In addition, he served on the Board of Regents of Memorial University, the council of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and several other national organizations.

During this period he collected information regarding the possibility of a new medical school in Atlantic Canada. With fierce determination and conviction, he overcame opposition to a medical school at Memorial, and in 1967 he was appointed as the first dean of medicine, a position he held until 1974.

From 1974-79 Dr. Rusted was vice-president (health sciences) and from 1979-88 he was vice-president (health sciences and professional schools). From 1981-88 he was also pro vice-chancellor with responsibility for development of Labrador Institute of Northern Studies and Memorial's Gerontology Centre.

Recognition of his many activities included four honorary degrees and being made an Officer of the Order of Canada and a Master of the American College of Physicians.

The founding dean of Memorial University's Faculty of Medicine, Dr. Ian Rusted died July 14, age 86. Until his severe stroke in January 2007, Dr. Rusted enjoyed a healthy independent life with his beloved wife of 58 years, Ellen Marie (Hansen). He is also survived by his two sons, Christopher of Topsail and Brian (Christine Sowiak) of Nanton, Alberta; and three grandsons, Jonathan, Peter and Timothy.

Ian Edwin Rusted was born in Upper Island Cove, Newfoundland, on July 12, 1921. Following high school in Carbonear and St. John's, he spent two years at Memorial University College ('38 to '40) followed by three years at Trinity College, University of Toronto, receiving a bachelor of arts degree in 1943. He completed his medical degree and rotating internship at Dalhousie University in 1948, followed by a M.Sc. degree from McGill University in 1949, with research support from a National Research Council grant.

Even after his retirement, Dr. Rusted never lost interest in the Faculty of Medicine, coming into work every day until his stroke. He regularly attended Grand Rounds and other medical lectures, and was a guiding resource to everyone from students to the dean. He was instrumental in establishing the Founder's Archive at the Health Sciences Library, containing the history of the medical school, and worked many long hours helping to sort his volumes of papers and records into a lasting legacy.

*"Ian Rusted, with remarkable foresight, strategic timing and courage, led a carefully planned campaign to establish a much needed medical school in Newfoundland. When final approval was committed from federal and provincial sources, provision was included for both a medical school and a teaching hospital – a Health Sciences Centre. With Dr. Rusted's appointment as the first dean of medicine in 1967, he sought to achieve excellence through radical changes in medical school curriculum and organization, and through appointment of faculty drawn from Newfoundland, Canada and abroad. The subsequent successes and achievements of the Faculty of Medicine and its graduates confirm his anticipations."*

Dr. Albert R. Cox  
Dean of Medicine 1974-87

*"Dr. Rusted's mentorship to those of us in the early, growing years of the medical school has had a lasting impression. His influence as a mentor to medical students, postgraduate trainees and practicing physicians continued even after his*

*retirement. His belief in strong clinical skills and community based learning has made the Faculty of Medicine a leader in this area nationally and internationally to this day."*

Dr. Sharon Peters  
Vice-dean, Faculty of Medicine  
Class of 1974

*"The Faculty of Medicine that Dr. Rusted founded has become a vital and dynamic unit, graduating physicians and health scientists who have served not only in the province of Newfoundland and Labrador but also many who have become leaders in healthcare, education, and research around the world.*

*Research in the Faculty of Medicine's research has developed into a thriving and vital activity with a focus on the benefit of the people of Newfoundland and Labrador as well as contributing in a significant way to the national advancement of medical sciences. As current dean of the Faculty of Medicine, I can see the tremendous vital work that this faculty has accomplished over the past 40 years and fully recognize that none of this would have happened without the leadership, vision and determination of Dr. Ian Rusted.*

*Although we will not see him in the halls of the Health Sciences Centre anymore, he has left a permanent mark on every Newfoundlander and Labradorian with the creation and development of the medical school at Memorial University. He envisioned the first endowed chair for our faculty, and to honour him we are establishing the Dr. Ian Rusted Founder's Chair in Medical Education."*

Dean James Rourke

## The Dr. Ian Rusted Founder's Chair in Medical Education

To honour its founding dean, the Faculty of Medicine seeks private support to endow the Dr. Ian Rusted Founder's Chair in Medical Education. The establishment of the Founder's Chair in Medical Education, our first endowed chair, will build upon our medical school's reputation for innovation and leadership in educating our doctors of tomorrow. This fund was initiated through the personal commitment of Dean Emeritus Dr. Ian Rusted.

The establishment of the Dr. Ian Rusted Founder's Chair in Medical Education will enable us to build on our leadership position in a rapidly advancing field of medical education.

Consistent with the intent of the founders of the Faculty of Medicine at Memorial University, the Founder's Chair will be non-disciplinary, serving to advance all areas of medical education.

The chair holder will be an innovator in medical education with a passion for developing Memorial University's unique potential to ensure that we continue to lead the training of the doctors of tomorrow.

To donate to the Dr. Ian Rusted Founder's Chair in Medical Education please call Alumni Affairs and Development at 877-700-4081. Cheques may be made payable to Memorial University of Newfoundland

and mailed to:

Development Office, 2765B  
Faculty of Medicine  
Memorial University  
St. John's, NL  
Canada A1B 3V6

You can also donate through our secure site online at <https://www5.mun.ca/dir/viking.gv020.p001>

For more information on how to support the Faculty of Medicine, contact:

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# Excerpts from the Dean James Rourke's address to Memorial MD graduates 2007



Dear Doctors,

Congratulations on earning your MD. I know each of you and your families, have worked so hard for so long for this goal. This goal, however, is not an ending but part of an exciting life-long journey – that of being a physician.

Eighty years ago in his address to the Harvard Medical Students in 1927, Dr. Francis Peabody said this, "THE GOOD PHYSICIAN KNOWS HIS PATIENTS THROUGH AND THROUGH, and his knowledge is bought dearly. Time, sympathy and understanding must be lavishly dispensed, but the reward is to be found in that personal bond which forms the greatest satisfaction of the practice of medicine. One of the essential qualities of the clinician is interest in humanity, FOR THE SECRET OF THE CARE OF THE PATIENT IS IN THE CARING FOR THE PATIENT."

I will touch on a few of the points that this brief but wonderful quote draws to our attention but first I want to share with you some good news I received just a week or so ago. This was the results of the MCCQE Part II of the National Clinical Exams written by our graduates October 2006. I was delighted to be informed that the MD graduates of Memorial's Faculty of Medicine had ranked first among the Canadian Medical Schools. This is second time in six years our medical school has ranked first – other rankings during that time have been second, third and two sixth place finishes among the 16 Canadian Medical Schools. Not only do our MD graduates do very well on national exams but they are highly sought-after by post graduate training programs across the country. Again this year in the CaRMS match you did very well. I

am confident that as you head out to your many wonderful and exciting residency training positions all across Canada you will represent yourselves and your alma mater very well.

Textbooks, computers, classrooms and small group education provide important foundations for the practice of medicine – but you can't become a physician from textbooks and the classroom. It is through your clinical learning – learning to care for patients by helping to care for patients that you really have become the physician you are today. Memorial has always placed a high expectation on you as medical students to become active participants in the care of patients especially in your rigorous and heavy clerkship third and fourth years. One of the reasons you, as Memorial medical graduates, will do well in your residency programs and medical careers is this strong focus on clinical learning that you have had while here at Memorial.

Dr. Peabody also referred to time. Time is a precious commodity – sometimes a good time, a bad time, work time, free time, time well spent, or sometimes as the comedy channel puts it – time well wasted. As physicians, it is through the use of your time that you will make your contributions to patient care and humanity, and also to your family, your friends, yourself and your communities. How you use your time will be vital for your success and happiness in all of these spheres. As physicians we are often under great time pressure and yet I encourage you always to take the time with your patients to listen to their story

Dean's address to graduates *continued on page 6*

“It is through your clinical learning - learning to care for patients by helping to care for patients that you really have become the physician you are today.”

and to connect with them on a personal level as that will provide you a richness in your clinical practice that will be repaid time and time again. I have observed many hurried and harried physicians and many calm and collected physicians. Rarely has the former outperformed the latter. Not only are patients much more satisfied, but they respond better to the care they receive from the latter.

I ask you to use some time, for which you are not paid, to do good work in your community and beyond. Remember however that a good life requires balance. You need time as well for family, for friends and for yourself as it is through your groundedness, your connectedness, and your personal vital balance that you can avoid the temptations to flame out too fast – too soon and have a long and successful career.

Be proud of what you do, be proud of who you are, be proud of where you come from. I have found the people of Newfoundland and Labrador to be of wonderful character – take what you have learned here and apply it and spread that goodness wherever you live and work. Good luck as you pursue the career of your dreams. I hope those dreams are wonderful and become a reality for each and everyone of you.

Sincerely,



Dean James Rourke

## Notable



**Dr. Vernon Curran**, Centre for Collaborative Health Professional Education, is one of three experts from Canada participating in the World Health Organization's study group to examine interprofessional education and collaborative practice. In May 2006 the World Health Assembly adopted a resolution calling for a rapid scaling-up of health workforce production to address an estimated worldwide shortage of almost 4.3 million doctors, midwives, nurses and support workers. The importance of interprofessional education and collaborative practice has been recognized by WHO's Human Resources for Health Department as one of the innovative approaches that can help tackle the global health workforce challenge.



**Dr. Penny Moody-Corbett**, associate dean of research and graduate studies (medicine) has been appointed chair of the ethics committee of the International Union of Physiological Sciences (IUPS). The committee was established in 2001 to critically review and interpret existing ethical guidelines, particularly those prepared by the Council of International Organizations of Medical Sciences in view of their implementation in specific areas of physiological research. The ethics committee also serves as a body of reference and reflection to advise the council on the positions IUPS should take in these matters.

IUPS meets every four years, and Dr. Moody-Corbett is preparing a symposium on ethics for the 2009 symposium, to be held in Kyoto, Japan. The symposium is titled Practices in Physiological Research: Ethics and Integrity and will discuss animals in medical research and integrity and misconduct in physiological research. Among the keynote speakers will be Colin Blakemore, CEO for the Medical Research Council, a British neurobiologist and outspoken advocate of animal tests; as well as Margaret Reich, executive editor of the American Physiological Society.

# Address to the Class of 2007

By Dr. Mohamed Ravalia



**G**ood evening ladies and gentleman.

Thank you for the very kind and gracious introduction.

I am delighted to be here tonight and feel a profound sense of pride and privilege to be your guest speaker.

On behalf of my extended Twillingate family and the beautiful Isles of Notre Dame Bay, I would like to congratulate members of the graduating class of 2007. Let me as well, recognize tonight, those who have stood by you throughout the years, and are with you today in person or in spirit – your loving parents, family members and loved ones.

The challenges that you are about to face as physicians are indeed daunting, but the technological, scientific and intellectual advances of our time make the possibilities equally great.

You are fortunate to have received an absolutely platinum level of education from one of the finest medical schools in the country, and I applaud the extraordinary diversity of your class.

MUN is truly one of the greatest achievements wrought by the people of Newfoundland and Labrador during the centuries of our remarkable history.

Today, all of you stand on the shoulders of those Memorial grads and faculty who have come before you and pioneered and nurtured this incredible institution of learning.

Let me recognize our founding dean, Dr. Ian Rusted. Dr. Rusted epitomizes the values and principles which we should all aspire towards. Thank you, Dr. Rusted, for your vision, energy, contribution and positive influence upon all of us.

Let me also extend gratitude to the Undergrad Office for sending me all the smartest, funniest, hardworking and good looking students; as well, the ladies of Notre Dame Bay thank you for sending out Corey Adams.

You should feel blessed to have been raised in a society such as Canada's – this wonderful land that is internationally recognized for its contributions to the disenfranchised on the planet. This country with its four centuries of give-and-take, compromise and acceptance, wrong-doing and redress, has truly established in your spirit the best tenets of a forgiving society.

I, by contrast, was born and raised in the southern African country of Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), a society that was fractured and fragmented by the repugnant policies of Apartheid: a policy that left us with a collective tear on the cheek of time, a society that was, for all intents and purposes, punitive and regressive.

I immigrated to Canada in the mid 1980's and fate was particularly kind in that it landed me in beautiful Notre Dame Bay. I was immediately enchanted by the rugged terrain, the incredibly beautiful ocean vistas and the singsong colloquial lilt of the local conversations.

I became intrigued by the hardworking and resolute spirit of the Newfoundlander and, for the first time in my adult life, I became aware of the privileges of living in a truly democratic society.

The words that Pericles so eloquently spoke of in his description of a democratic society to his fellow Athenians 2,500 years ago resonated in my mind and, for the first time in my adult life, I was able to shed the albatross of my ethnicity as a barrier and hindrance to my personal growth and progress. For this, I will forever be indebted to the people of Twillingate.

It was on Twillingate Island that I first began to witness the relationship between Memorial's Faculty of Medicine and its rural teaching sites. I befriended students and residents and they were kind, caring, supportive and nurturing as I navigated the complexities of rural practice in a new country.

This bond with the medical school was further enhanced when I was offered the opportunity to preceptor medical students: I embraced the opportunity to influence the education of fertile young minds at a critical juncture in their medical education, and the experience has been remarkably rewarding.

Dr. Ravalia's address to graduates *continued on page 8*



Dr. Ravalia's address to graduates *continued from page 6*

My ambition throughout high school was to be a teacher. Outside of my parents, my greatest influence was my high school English teacher. Mrs. Agatha Williams instilled in me a passion for English literature and, under her guidance, I navigated the works of Thomas Hardy, Homer, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Rabindranath Tagore and Robert Ardrey. She taught me that the process of higher education is indeed one of a fine balance between two adults; one of mutual respect, understanding, tolerance and empathy.

Teaching medical students has allowed me to fulfill this ambition, that of being a teacher (a Guru, as my parents would have said). Somehow I got sidetracked and ended up pursuing a career in medicine.

The milieu in which students are exposed to a variety of teaching experiences is one that is so typical of many rural Newfoundland communities: communities with a strong sense of spirituality, good neighbourliness, respect for human dignity and altruism. And these fine citizens welcome you into their minds and their hearts. "I loves to see them," they say.

As I reflect back upon my medical career, I realize that one of the major reasons why I chose to remain in rural practice was the profound sense of satisfaction and joy that I felt as I witnessed so many trainees evolve and grow with each medical encounter.

From the early clinical encounters wrought with anxiety through to a confident, articulate and all-encompassing presentation, I have had the privilege to witness a growth in maturity and wisdom in both my students and myself that comes with relationships that are based on mutual trust and respect.

As so eloquently dissertated in Carl Jung's writings, I have witnessed in you a synchronicity between creativity and imagination – a blending of the very best precepts of the scientific model and its complement – the fine art of medicine.

In witnessing this process of growth and maturity, you have enhanced my salt water joys, and I salute you tonight with a profound sense of pride.

In our clinical encounters, we often struggle with the concept of a patient's spirituality. As Albert Einstein described in his personal battles with the meaning of spirituality: "Try and penetrate with our limited means the secrets of nature and you will find that behind all the discernable laws and connections, there remains something subtle, intangible and inexplicable. Veneration for this force beyond anything that we can comprehend is my religion."

Your class will hold a very special place in my heart – those of you who have spent time with me are aware that my patients welcome you into their hearts and their lives: the energy and enthusiasm that you inject into my practice has helped to shape my own growth as well as my personal ideals: I cannot thank you enough for what you have brought into my life.

In reflection, I am reminded of the African concept of Ubuntu. For, despite my East Indian roots and my Islamic faith, I am very much, deep in my soul, a child of the Red Soil of Africa.

Ubuntu speaks of the very essence of the human condition – it means sharing what you are, what you have. It means that my humanity is inextricably bound up in yours. It is not "I think, therefore I am," it is "I am because we are." You have undoubtedly witnessed this essence in Twillingate.

In reading Sir William Osler's works, I was particularly moved by one statement: a statement that I feel fundamentally reflects my own deeply held sentiment of the relationship between student and teacher.

Sir Osler stated:

"I desire no other epitaph...  
than the statement that I taught medical  
students, and I regard this as by far  
the most important and useful work I have  
been called upon to do"

I encourage you to embrace discovery, live life to the fullest extent every day, adhere to the highest ethical principles and use your talents as physicians to do good each day of your life.

Let me close by quoting one of my favourite poets, Margaret Laurence. As physicians, we can all relate to her words:

"If this were my final hour, these  
would be my words to you.  
I would not claim to pass on any secret  
of life, for there is none, or any wisdom,  
except the passionate plea of caring.  
Try to feel in your heart's core, the reality of others."







# Valedictorian speech

By Dr. Andrew Latus

Let me start with the nice stuff. I should begin with a thank you to all of our family and friends. Many of you have put up with a lot in the course of our time in medical school and, this being more the half-time show in our medical education than its end, there's certainly more of that ahead of you. And if my classmates are at all like me, they don't say thank you often enough (or, maybe, at all). So let me start with that. Thank you. We appreciate all you've done and all you'll do.

So much for the nice stuff. From here on out, things just get weird. I'm going to talk about Greek philosophy, vegetables and stool samples, but bear with me. I think this goes somewhere.

Our med school days began, during our White Coat Ceremony, with a reading from *O, The Places You'll Go* by the well-known children's author, Dr. Seuss. I'm going to begin instead with something from a mildly well-known author who's essentially a great freak of a child himself – the American author Tom Robbins. Robbins begins *Jitterbug Perfume* – one of my favourite books – with some comments about vegetables and, in particular, the poor, unpopular beet. He writes: "The beet is the most intense of vegetables. The radish evidently is more feverish, but the fire is

cold fire... Beets are deadly serious." And that leads me to my hope for this class – I hope we'll turn out to be beets. Now, you might well respond to that thought with a bewildered 'HUH?' Like I said, bear with me.

It was about a month ago that I found out I'd been selected by the class to give this speech. I was surprised and grateful. I was also completely lacking in any ideas about what to say. So, I did what any good academic would do. I read some books and did

some research. The books didn't do anything but scare me, but the research was a little more useful. As my classmates know, one of the things I've spent lots of time worrying about over these last four years is a phenomenon that some medical ethicists call "ethical erosion" – the idea that going through medical school somehow makes us worse people. They'll be glad to hear that I'm not going to go on about that again tonight, at least not directly. But that worry did lead me to a slightly different question. Forget for the moment whether we've changed while we were in medical school. What I wanted to know was what we're like right now. I knew from my former life as a faculty member that it's not unusual for people to talk about how the group personality of one class compares to another. I wanted to know how people who've dealt with this class thought about us. So, I sent an e-mail to an unscientific, non-HIC-approved sample of people asking the question, "How would you describe the class of 2007's personality in a few words or a phrase?". To my surprise, I received a number of thoughtful replies. I promised anonymity with regard to the responses, so I can't tell you who said what, but I here are some of the replies. Apparently, we're "wonderful";

"uniquely personable";  
"a class of "extremes"; and have  
"what it takes to make it as a  
group."

My favourite response, however, was this: It seems that we're  
"not the embodiment of evil."

That was all well and good, but what I was really glad about was that someone gave me the answer that I thought was right all along and saved me the trouble of making up that response myself, good qualitative researcher that I am. The response was that we are collectively a group of "grounded, well-meaning folks" and that it seems "like there were a lot of people in [the] class who took the last four years to enrich their lives, not just memorize stuff out of a text book and get two letters behind their name." When I read that I thought "that's right." That gets at the reason why I'm especially glad to be graduating with this particular group of people. In my own case, things could easily have been otherwise. I was actually admitted to this med school in the previous year's class, but decided for a whole slew of fairly uninteresting reasons, to defer my admission until this class. I couldn't have known what I was getting into, but with all due apologies to the class of 2006, that turned out to be an excellent decision. Other classes in other years have been higher tension, higher drama and sometimes probably even higher achieving, but I honestly think that, as a whole, this group is quite special. We're a class that sometimes self-describes as "slackers" or "apathetic", but I prefer the description I got from that astute unnamed person I quoted earlier – "grounded."

OK, but why does that matter so much? Now, we come to the Greek philosophy I mentioned earlier. It all comes back to Plato. In Plato's *Apology*, among other places, Socrates discusses

Valedictorian speech *continued on page 10*



how we should understand what is involved in a person doing something morally wrong. In that discussion, he famously remarks that, "No one ever does wrong willingly." When I've presented that idea to students in philosophy classes in the past, it's usually the point at which they decide philosophy is for idiots. But I actually think Plato is just about right about this. Very few of us ever actually do the wrong thing because we think it's the wrong thing. Instead, we find ways of convincing ourselves that doing the wrong thing is OK in this case. We convince ourselves, for instance, that our own happiness or convenience matters more than following the rules. We do wrong, in other words, when we convince ourselves that what's actually the wrong thing to do is the best thing to do. Self-deceit then, is at the root of doing wrong. We're all prone to this, of course. But I'd say that, at the outset of our careers, this class is in pretty good shape in that respect. Groundedness is the antidote to self-deceit. The challenge for us as we get into the meat of our medical careers is to retain that as we go along. And that's what brings me around to beets and also the discussion of stool that I promised you a little while ago. The reason Robbins says the beet is intense is... Well, let me let him speak for himself:

"The beet is the most intense of vegetables. The onion has as many pages as War and Peace ... but the various ivory parchments of the onion, the stinging green bookmark of the onion are quickly charred by belly juices and bowel bacteria. Only the beet departs the body the same color as it went in.

Beets consumed at dinner will, come morning, stock a toilet bowl with crimson fish. Their hue attesting to the beet's chromatic immunity to the powerful digestive acids and thoroughgoing microbes that can turn the reddest pimento, the orange carrot, the yellowest

squash into a single disgusting shade...

At birth, we are red faced, round, intense, pure. The crimson fire of universal consciousness burns in us. Gradually, however, we are ...

“Let’s hang on to  
ourselves and our  
inner beetitude.  
Let’s get through  
the medical body  
just as red as we  
came in.”

gulped by schools, chewed up by peers, swallowed by social institutions, warped by bad habits and gnawed by age and, by the time we have been digested, cow style in those six stomachs we emerge a single disgusting shade...

The lesson of the beet is this: Hold on to your divine blush, your innate rosy magic.

And there you have it. What could be more appropriate for a speech at the end of medical school than a stool metaphor with a bit of biochemistry thrown in? The beet is the only vegetable that retains its colour over its long journey. That's what I want for us as a group. Let's be that. Right now, we still mostly have our feet on the ground. Let's keep them there. We hear a lot about how medicine is a different career than almost every other one and that can make us lose our balance sometimes. We're told that we, unlike others, have taken on the lofty task of helping people. But that's just flat out wrong, isn't it? Let me get this straight. We, among all oth-

ers, have taken on the role of helping people. Unlike say the teachers, nurses, dentists, tradsepeople and engineers out there who, apparently, are just attempting to spread misery wherever they can. Really? Is that how it is? Isn't it really the case that we've chosen our careers in the same way that most people do? We've picked something we like. We've picked something we think we're pretty good at, something that will let us lead the kind of life we want to lead. And we've picked something we think is useful. It's not that we alone have decided to help others. What we should say is that we've chosen a particular way of trying to help people. It's an important way, no doubt, but it's just one way of helping people among many others. In fact, if you think about it, we've kind of gone for the shallow, ADHD version of helping people. Not for us, trying to slowly change the system or put infrastructure in place or shape the minds of tomorrow. No, it's medications, tests and poking people with things that we prefer. And that isn't a bad thing. The world needs people like us. It's just that we shouldn't kid ourselves that we're so great or wonderful. That takes your feet off the ground. That starts to bleach away your natural colour and beetness.

So, that's our job for the next few decades. Let's be useful and let's keep our heads on straight. Fight cynicism. We haven't earned it yet. Fight self-deceit. Let's be honest, we're not nearly as clever as we thought we'd be by the end of med school. But we're doing alright. We're helping. Fight complacency. We can do better. But, most importantly, let's hang on to ourselves and our inner beetitude. Let's get through the medical body just as red as we came in.

So, that's it. That's as close to profound as I'll be getting tonight. Congratulations, everybody. Thanks for these four years. Thanks for listening tonight.



# Congratulations Class of 2007

It was a night of celebration at the Fairmont Hotel May 24, when the Class of 2007 held their graduation dinner and dance. Dr. Mohamed Ravalia, senior physician at Twillingate, gave the keynote address. The following awards were presented on May 24 and at Shingle's Night ceremonies on May 25.



The Dr. Gregory Rideout Award was presented this year to Dr. Stephen Hunt by third-year medical student Monica Kidd. It was a particularly poignant moment as Monica recounted how her friend saved her life in July 2006 during a canoeing trip in British Columbia when a 500 pound tree fell on her.

The award goes to a fourth-year medical student who has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to activities outside of the medical school that will benefit others, and was established by Dr. Rideout's classmates (Class of 2003) in memory of his heroic act that saved the life of a man who would have drowned but for his intervention.



Dr. Babar Haroon (L) received the Dr. Charles (Chip) Nardini Memorial Award, given to a fourth-year medical student who best exemplified the characteristics of leadership, friendliness, good humour, care and concern for fellow students and patients. The award was presented by Drs. Melissa Angel and William Moores. This award, established by the Class of 1986 in memory of their classmate who died accidentally in 1986, is particularly significant because the recipient is chosen by their classmates.



Dr. Jennifer Young (L) received the Dr. I.E. Rusted Award, presented by Dr. Rusted's grandson, Timothy Rusted. The award goes to a fourth-year medical student who has made the greatest contribution to the graduating class and the recipient is chosen by their classmates. Dr. Ian Rusted is the founding father of the medical school. It is because of his vision and determination that Newfoundland and Labrador has a medical school.



Dr. Babar Haroon (L) received the Erika Bartlett Memorial Bursary, presented by Janet Bartlett. This bursary is the result of an endowment to the university funded by donations from family and friends of the Bartlett family, as well as students, staff and faculty members of the Faculty of Medicine.



This group of students from the Class of 2007 were the first Memorial medical graduates to be honoured with awards from the Arnold P. Gold Foundation, designed to recognize fourth-year medical students who demonstrate exemplary humanistic qualities essential to good doctoring. The number of honourees is 10 per cent of the class and students are nominated by their peers. Dr. June Harris (second from right), assistant dean of Student Affairs, presented the certificates of honour and a specially-designed Gold Humanism Honour Society Pin. These five students received the highest number of nominations (from left): Drs. Babar Haroon, Heidi Carew, Rebecca Furey, Andrew Latus and Megan Hayes.



The Dean's Convocation Award for Medicine was presented to Dr. Rebecca Furey by Dr. James Rourke. This award is made possible by a generous donation from Dr. Rourke and is awarded to a student who has made an outstanding personal contribution to bettering the lives of others through volunteer work and humanitarian acts while maintaining high academic standards.



The University Medal for Academic Excellence was presented to Dr. Heidi Carew by Dean James Rourke.



The Marie T. Kennedy Bursary, made available on a rotation basis to an outstanding undergraduate student in science or medicine, was presented to Dr. Aleisha Murnaghan (L) by Dr. June Harris.



Dr. Bartosz Godlewski (R) received the Merck Sharpe & Dohme Award from Mike Coady, representing Merck Frosst.



Oonagh O'Dea (L) presented Dr. Sean Murphy with the Dr. Francis L. O'Dea Scholarship in Obstetrics and Gynecology. This scholarship was established to commemorate the memory and work of Dr. Francis L. O'Dea and is awarded to a student who has achieved an outstanding performance in obstetrics and gynecology.



Dr. Corey Adams (L) and Dr. Christopher Murphy (R) each received Dr. John M. Darte Memorial Fund awards, presented by Timothy Rusted. This award was established by Mrs. J.M. Darte and Mrs. Frances Darte McCabe in memory of Dr. John M. Carte, the first professor and chair of pediatrics.



Dr. Heather Kelly (L) was awarded the Dr. Patrick J. Dobbin Memorial Bursary, presented by Dr. Harris. This award is from the Atlantic Provinces Medical Peer Review in recognition of Dr. Dobbin's contribution to medicine in Newfoundland and administrator for over 30 years.



Dr. Suzanne Drodge received the Ford Hewlett memorial Medical Oncology Scholarship, presented by Scott Antle. This award is funded by the Canadian Cancer Society in memory of the late Ford Hewlett of Springdale. Dr. Drodge is going on to a residency in radiation oncology at the University of Alberta.



Dr. Paula Mallaley (L) received the Donald and Elizabeth Hillman Prize in Pediatrics, presented by Dr. Anne Drover. This prize is made available by the Discipline of Pediatrics and is awarded to the most outstanding student in pediatrics.



Dr. Peggy Tuttle received the Prize in Surgery, presented by Dean James Rourke. This prize is made available by the Discipline of Surgery and is awarded to the most outstanding student in surgery.





Dr. Nancy Barker received two awards. She was presented with the Prize in Internal Medicine by Dr. Anne Sclater (right in photo on left) and also received the Prize in Psychiatry, presented by Dr. Hubert White (left in photo on right).

Dr. Jennifer Young (L) and Dr. Bartosz Godlewski were both recipients of Hunter W. Earle Memorial Scholarships in Medicine. The awards were made by Michelle Earle-Crane, (C) niece of Dr. Earle. The scholarship is funded from proceeds of a memorial fund established by colleagues of the late Dr. Hunter Earle and is awarded based on characteristics of leadership, sportsmanship and interest in student activities.



Dr. Heidi Carew received the Medical Practice Associates Scholarship, presented by Dr. Michael Paul. This prestigious award is made available by the Medical Practice Associates, the business entity of the Faculty of Medicine. The fourth year award goes to the recipient of the University Medal for Academic Excellence in Medicine.

Dr. Christy Bussey (R) received the Charles E. Frosst Medical Scholarship, presented by Mike Coady. This award is made available by Merck Frosst Canada Inc. and is awarded to a student who has shown the most promise in the field of therapeutics.

The Cooze Keinath Scholarship was presented to Dr. Amanda Bennett (L) by Dr. Paul Jeon. This award was established by Dr. Derek Cooze, a graduate of Memorial University, and his spouse Dr. Kim Keinath.



Dr. Sarah Cosh (L) received the William and Frances Pound Scholarship, presented by Dr. June Harris. This award is the result of a donation by Dr. Bernard Kai Fai So, a graduate of this medical school, in recognition of the kindness and generosity shown to him by Mr. and Mrs. Pound during his years as a student at Memorial.

Dr. Aneitra Head (L) received the Dr. Henry Gault Memorial Scholarship, presented by Dr. Michael Paul. This award is made available by the colleagues of Dr. Henry Gault and is awarded to a student who has demonstrated both interest in clinical research and academic excellence within internal medicine.

Dr. Eric Leung received the Dr. H. Bliss Murphy Cancer Care Foundation Scholarship, presented by Dr. Kara Laing. This scholarship is awarded annually by the foundation to a student who demonstrates clinical proficiency and an interest in oncology.



Dr. Annabeth Loveys (L) received the Dr. Janice E. Lessard Scholarship in Geriatric Medicine, presented by Dr. June Harris. This award is made available from income derived from an endowment donated by Dr. Janice E. Lessard, an alumna of Memorial. It is awarded to a student who has demonstrated a desire to improve the functional and social well-being of the frail and elderly.



Dr. Sandra Ennis (L) received the Mary Honeygold Scholarship/Bursary, presented by Dean James Rourke. This scholarship/bursary was established in memory of Mary Honeygold and her family. It is awarded to a student with an interest in practicing medicine in rural Newfoundland upon graduation.



Dr. Stephen Hunt (R) received the Dr. Robert B. Salter Award, presented by Dr. David Landells. This award is made available from income derived from an endowment by Dr. Robert B. Salter, professor and head of orthopedic surgery at the University of Toronto. It is awarded to a student who best exemplifies the qualities of compassionate and competent patient care and is also an outstanding student in clerkship.



Dr. Rachel Ouellette (R) received the Canadian Foundation for Crohn's and Colitis Student Book Award, presented by Hilary Vavasour. This book award is made available by the Canadian Foundation for Crohn's and Colitis and is awarded to a student who demonstrates an interest in gastroenterology.



Students on the Dean's List for third-year medical studies: (from left) Drs. Amanda Bennett, Rebecca Furey, Heidi Carew, Sarah Cosh, Aleisha Monahan, Dean James Rourke and Dr. Bart Godlewski.



Students on the Dean's List for fourth-year medical studies: (from left) Drs. Amy Bromley, Megan Hayes, Heidi Carew, Dean James Rourke, Drs. Aleisha Murnaghan, Bart Godlewski and Rachel Ouellette.



Dr. Allison Meiwald (L) received the award from the Society for Academic Emergency Medicine, presented by Dr. June Harris. This award consists of a one-year subscription to the society's newsletter and a one-year student membership in the society. This award is made available to a senior medical student who has demonstrated excellence in the specialty of emergency medicine.



On Shingle's Night, Dr. Daniel Fontaine (L) received the Silver Orator Award, presented by Colin White. This award is given annually to the professor who has provided the finest lectures with respect to content, style, humour and aptness.



Dr. Colleen Cook (R), a resident in obstetrics/gynecology, received the Outstanding Intern/Resident Award, presented by Dr. Paula Mallaley. This award is given annually to the intern/resident who has provided outstanding teaching and guidance to students during clerkship.



Sammy Khalili (L), president of the Medical Students Society, thanked Dr. Jennifer Young for the gift of a games table from the Class of 2007 for the Medical Student Lounge.

The following awards were also made:

- The Dr. D.W. Ingram Award to Dr. A. Gill, in recognition of outstanding clinical teaching, showing interest in students and their well-being and serving as a positive role model.
- The Community Physician teaching Award to Dr. Michael Jong, Happy Valley/Goose Bay, in recognition of outstanding teaching to student during clerkship.
- The Honorary Order of the Killick to Pat Webber, "The AV Guy", in recognition of outstanding contribution to the graduating class of 2007 above and beyond the call of duty.

## Med students learn the law



From left: Medical students Robin Ryan, Natasha Pardy, James Masters and Heidi King, lawyer Paul McDonald, student Jane Seviour, judge Kevin Barry, lawyers Nancy Furlong and Liam O'Brien, Dr. Barbara Barrowman, students Jason Mackey and Sammy Khalili. Unavailable for photo: Dr. Kathleen Murphy.

Second-year medical students had the opportunity to become more familiar with the law as it relates to medical practice during the annual Moot Court held May 24. Organized by Dr. Barbara Barrowman as a component of the Humanities, Ethics and Health Law curriculum, the day featured talks on negligence law and conduct of a medical negligence action followed by a mock trial on *The Estate of Bridie Smith v. Dr. Jones, Dr. Kelly and the Health Care Corporation of St. John's*. Following the mock trial, Judge Kevin Barry provided comments and Dr. Kathleen Murphy remarked on the case.

"The Moot Court is intended to provide medical students with a concrete illustration of the legal system," said Dr. Barrowman. "The case was presented by practicing lawyers with extensive experience in litigation in general and in the medical-legal field in particular."

# Internal Medicine Research Day



Dr. Jamie Farrell received the Dr. John Simpson Memorial Teaching Award, presented by Dr. Mark Borgoankar (L).



Dr. Paul Armstrong (C) with President Axel Meisen (R) and Dr. Christopher Loomis, vice-president (research).

Dr. Paul Armstrong, who gave the 2007 David Hawkins Lecture in the Health Sciences on May 18, also served as a judge for Internal Medicine Research Day.

Dr. Armstrong's lecture titled, *Acute Myocardial Infarction: Lessons Learned from a Clinical Investigator*, was followed by an afternoon of research presentations from internal medicine residents. Dr. Armstrong, a professor of medicine in the Division of Cardiology at the University of Alberta.

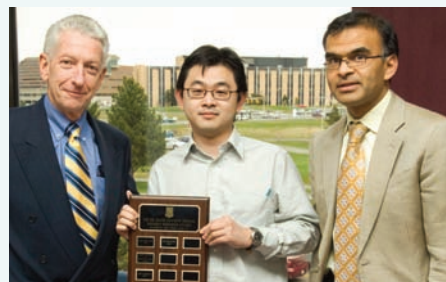
Three awards were made, with Dr. Sean Chiew taking first place for the David Hawkins Research Award. His presentation was titled, *Familial Atrio-Ventricular Nodal Reentry Tachycardia (AVNRT) in Newfoundland and Labrador*. Dr. Erin Powell took second place for her presentation on an evaluation of the Newfoundland and Labrador Teleoncology Program.

The Dr. John Simpson Memorial Teaching Award (for Internal Medicine Residents) went to Dr. Jamie Farrell. This award is given to a resident recognized by their peers for outstanding teaching.



Dr. Erin Powell (C) took second place for the David Hawkins Research Award, presented by Dr. Proton Rahman (R) and Dr. Paul Armstrong.

Dr. Sean Chiew (C) took first place for the David Hawkins Research Award, presented by Dr. Proton Rahman (R) and Dr. Paul Armstrong.



## Team Stomach

Some of the members of "Team Stomach" who participated in the Tely 10 roadrace July 22 to promote awareness of hereditary stomach and breast cancer were (from left): Kate Pomroy, daughter of Julie and Steve Pomroy; GERALYN Hansford; Rita Pomroy; Gerard Pomroy; Marjorie Pittman; genetic counselor, Andree MacMillan; researcher, Dr. David Huntsman; and Derm Ennis. Front: Bill Ennis and Andrew Ennis.

The type of hereditary stomach cancer being studied by Dr. Huntsman (Class of 1988) is almost two times as high in Newfoundland and Labrador than in the rest of Canada. "These families are courageously dealing with this genetic-based cancer risk," said Dr. Huntsman. "I hope that their collective participation in the Tely 10 will inspire other families with strong histories of cancer to seek help."





# Psychiatry Residents Research Day

The Discipline of Psychiatry Residents' Research Day was held May 25 at the Waterford Hospital. There were six presentations involving 10 residents and three prizes were awarded.

First place, the Dr. Paul Janssen Award for Excellence in Research, went to Dr. Chantelle Reid for her presentation titled, Season of Birth versus Relative Age: The Mystery of ADHD and the "November Baby".

Second place, the Research Prize in Psychiatry, went to Drs. Rob Geisler, Jan Dolezalek and Jerome Doucet, for their project titled, Prescribing patterns of atypical antipsychotics on a "PRN" and "STAT" basis in an inpatient medical, surgical and psychiatric tertiary care centre.

Third place, the Newfoundland and Labrador Psychiatric Association Residents' Research Award, went to Drs. Cynthia Slade and Jolene Hancock for their presentation titled, How Much Longer? Determination of psychiatry wait times: a survey of Primary and specialty physicians.



The Dr. Paul Janssen Award for Excellence in Research 2007 went to Dr. Chantelle Reid, (L) presented by Brenda Fisher of Janssen Ortho.



The Newfoundland and Labrador Psychiatric Association Residents' Research Award was presented to Drs. Dr. Jolene Hancock (L) and Dr. Cynthia Slade (C), presented by Dr. Kevin Hogan (R).



The Research Prize in Psychiatry 2007 was awarded to Drs. Jerome Doucet (R) and Rob Geisler (L), presented by research residency director Dr. Kim St. John (C).

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# Obstetrics and Gynecology Residents Research Day

Residents in the department of Obstetrics and Gynecology have been very busy with research activities over the past year. Resident Research Day was held June 1, with nine resident research projects presented (including a resident from the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology in Halifax).

Dr. Colleen Cook won the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health Award for her research project entitled, IM versus IV Oxytocin for Management of the Third Stage of Labour. Drs. Colleen Cook, Jillian Carpenter and Robert Kennedy, all residents in the discipline, have received Eastern Health Research Grants for their research studies. Drs. Krista Brown and Joanne White presented their research at the Annual Clinical Meeting of the Society Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada (SOGC) in Ottawa on June 25. Dr. Joanne White received the Runner-Up Award for Best Junior Member Obstetrics Poster for her project entitled Maternal and Fetal/Neonatal Outcomes of Obesity.

In addition to research awards, other academic awards have also been received by residents in the Discipline of Obstetrics and Gynecology. Dr. Jillian Carpenter received the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) Burch Award, allowing her to attend the ACOG Annual Clinical Meeting in San Diego, California, in May. Dr. Samantha Collins received the SOGC International Leadership Seminar Grant to attend leadership seminars in Uganda, Africa.



Dr. Colleen Cook (L) received the Canadian Foundation for Women's Health Award, presented by Dr. Joan Crane.

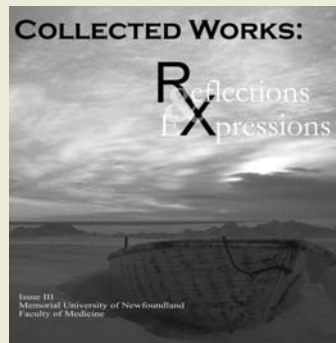
## Medical students reflect

*Collected Works: Reflections & Expressions* is the third annual volume of literary works by Memorial's medical students.

Allison Hall, who is in her second year of medical studies, has spent a great deal of her spare time this past year coordinating the collection.

She said the writings in the *Collected Works* show the effect of the move in recent years to incorporate humanities projects in medical education. "The *Collected Works* acts as a nice venue to have alongside our more clinical and academic training. It's allowed many of us to keep up activities such as writing and visual arts which we enjoyed in the time leading up to our entry into medical school."

Dr. Jim Connor, John Clinch Professor of Medical Humanities and History of Medicine, said medical students have once again produced a first-rate body of work. "I'm also

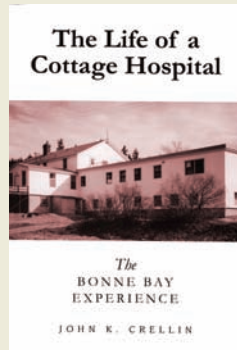


excited because with the third literary collection under our belts it looks like our med students have created another local tradition such as the annual Monte Carlo Charity Ball – all signs of their vitality and creativity."

*Collected Works: Reflections & Expressions* is available online at [www.med.mun.ca/MED/medATmun1/articles/07may/06Collected\\_Works.pdf](http://www.med.mun.ca/MED/medATmun1/articles/07may/06Collected_Works.pdf)

## *The Life of a Cottage Hospital The Bonne Bay Experience*

By John K. Crellin



The Bonne Bay Cottage Hospital, located in Norris Point, operated between 1939 and 2001. In this well-illustrated history, Dr. John Crellin, Faculty of Medicine, draws on unpublished oral histories and printed reminiscences as well as manuscripts and a variety of publications

The book has three themes: the relationships of a small hospital with the people and community it serves; the quality of rural health care and the overall trends in medi-

cine during the 20th century; and the extent to which the story reveals changing values that have relevance to tensions in health care today.

The story of the Bonne Bay hospital serves as a case history that illustrates features common to 14 other government owned and operated cottage hospitals established in rural Newfoundland between 1936 and 1952. These hospitals were designed to accommodate two to four patients with a nurse and to provide a local dispensary for the doctor.

Dr. Crellin's account emphasizes the strong feeling of community ownership of the hospital, part of which came from the community contribution to the building itself. The local community provided 6,500 man hours, 1,250 woman hours and 74,000 feet of lumber to the building as well as \$1,200 in cash to supplement the government grant.

*The Life of a Cottage Hospital: The Bonne Bay Experience* is published by Flanker Press Ltd., St. John's

## *Sex on Yuwer Street*

By Dr. Marshall Godwin

Dr. Marshall Godwin, director of the Primary Healthcare Unit, launched his new book, *Sex on Yuwer Street* at Chapters in St. John's in early June. The book explores the medical and social aspects of sex with the help of sexually explicit, fictitious scenarios in a light-hearted, easy-to-understand educational guide.

Dr. Godwin said he created the 12 stories in this book based on studies of the medical and social aspects of sex. "It is one thing to say that 15 per cent of 15-year-old girls have performed fellatio on a boy; it is another thing to have it explicitly described in the context of a young girl's life. It is one thing to vaguely describe swinging, but quite another to read the details of what happened to a couple that became swingers."

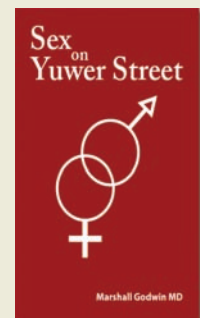
The reason for writing this book, explains Dr. Godwin, is that modern sexual behaviour is not sufficiently and clearly addressed for health practitioners in the literature.

"Parents may not be fully aware of how sexual behaviour has changed in the past two decades. This change, I believe, is due primarily to the availability of explicit sexual content on the Internet. There is

incredible pressure on adolescents to 'perform' in ways that they believe constitute the new sexual norm."

As a family physician, Dr. Godwin has seen the medical and social consequences of sexual behaviour; in these scenarios he brings to life issues and experiences that may lead to these consequences.

*Sex on Yuwer Street* is published by Trafford Publishing.



# Special birthday celebration

Dr. Nigel Rusted turned 100 in style on July 1 with a social gathering at the Faculty of Medicine attended by family, friends and colleagues. The president of Memorial, Dr. Axel Meisen, presented him with a commemorative plaque in acknowledgement of his contribution to Memorial University, and in particular, the Faculty of Medicine. Part of the wording on the plaque reads, "Your friendship, mentorship and continuous support have helped our province's university become an outstanding institution."



Photo by Robert Ryan

Dr. Nigel Rusted (C) celebrated his 100th birthday July 1 with a party at the Faculty of Medicine, attended by family, colleagues and friends, including Dr. James Rourke, dean of medicine (R). Dr. Axel Meisen (L), president of Memorial University, presented him with a commemorative plaque.

## NIGEL RUSTED LECTURESHIP 2007

Western Medicine Discovers Sickle Cell Anemia (1910-1911):  
A Story of Race, Medicine, and Scientific Authorship

SPEAKER: Todd Savitt, PhD

The first two case histories of sickle cell anemia (SCA) appeared in the medical literature within three months of each other in 1910 and 1911. In an illustrated talk Professor Todd Savitt will tell the very divergent stories of the first two sickle cell patients and their physicians against the backdrop of a racially divided America and of a highly competitive scientific community. He will show how race and class affected the discovery of SCA and how credit for one discovery went to the senior physician in charge of the case and credit for the other discovery went to a senior medical student rather than to his attending.

Professor Savitt will also tell about his own "adventures" in tracking down the identities and backgrounds of these first two SCA patients.

The Dr. Nigel Rusted Lecture  
in the Medical Humanities

Main Auditorium  
Health Sciences Centre  
Memorial University  
St. John's, Canada

Friday, October 26 2007  
Noon-1 p.m.

Free parking at the Health Sciences Centre in Lot 9

## New president for Medical Graduates' Society



**D**r. Bridget Picco (Class of 1984) is taking on the job of president of the Medical Graduates' Society (MGS). She is the seventh person to hold this position since the society was formed in 1973 when the first class graduated.

In two years Dr. Picco's own class will hold its 25th reunion and she said her former classmates are already really excited about the event. "I was the class co-ordinator for the last reunion and I really enjoyed it. It was a chance to connect with everybody in our class."

Dr. Picco credits past MGS president Dr. Wayne Gulliver with the tremendous effort he has taken in fundraising among the medical alumni, a role he will continue to fulfill. For herself, she hopes to further instill pride in Memorial's medical school among its alumni.

"We have a great school and we seem to travel just about everywhere in

the world. It's a commonality that should be celebrated. I'd like to see us increase our school spirit and help develop more of an awareness of the great school we come from."

One of her goals is to further increase alumni profiles in MUNMED and also have MGS events in addition to reunions, such as local get-togethers for social activities.

Dr. Picco is married to Dr. Peter Bartlett (Class of 1984) and they have three sons and two dogs. One of her favourite activities is hiking in the woods with the dogs. For many years she was in general practice but now works in the Emergency Departments at St. Clare's Hospital and the Health Sciences Centre.

The first reunion for all graduates was held in May 1983, organized by Dr. Donald Morrison. It was a week long event held from May 24 to May 28, featuring a special convocation on May 27 to mark the 15th anniversary of the founding of the medical school by Dr. Ian Rusted. One of the decisions that came out of the reunion was to raise funds to aid development of the medical school, promote research in Newfoundland and Labrador and to contribute to the Dean's Fund.

In 1988 another reunion for all graduates was organized by Dr. Robert Bartlett and moved to July as a better time for graduates with young children. In 1991 under the direction of Dr.

Sharon Peters, a ski weekend was held in Corner Brook in mid-February and the following year another ski weekend was held.

In 1993 under the direction of Dr. Howard Strong, there was a 20-year reunion in July for all graduates. In 1998 another reunion was held in June, again under the direction of Dr. Strong, along with Dr. Bill Eaton and Dr. Tom Noseworthy, to help celebrate the 30th anniversary of the founding of the medical school.

In 1999 under the direction of MGS president Dr. David Keegan and Dean Ian Bowmer, the format of the reunions was changed. It was decided that the society would have a reunion every summer, normally the last weekend in July, and it would be for five graduating classes starting with 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988 and 1993 and working its way through all classes.

Dr. Keegan held the presidency from 1999-2001 when Dr. Paul Jackman took over until 2003. In 2003 Dr. Wayne Gulliver took the helm and devoted a great deal of energy to fundraising, starting with a challenge to the class of 1982 to donate funds in memory of their classmate Dr. Marlayne Clarke. Dr. Gulliver also initiated fundraising for the Dr. Wallace Ingram Award for New Faculty and the "Thousand Thousands" challenge which encourages alumni in established practice to donate \$1,000 per year.

## Learning science up close

*Christopher Harty and Rhonda Fitzgerald, students from St. Mark's High School in King's Cove, Bonavista Bay, learned how to extract DNA from wheat germ cells during a workshop at Discovery Day in the Health Sciences, held May 16 at the medical school. Graduate student Amanda Dohey (back) showed them how to prepare the wheat germ for the experiment. Ninety students and teachers participated in the St. John's event, with another 20 participants linking up by teleconference. The day was organized by the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame.*

