



Society of Rural Physicians of Canada
Société de la médecine rurale du Canada

Media Release

Memorial Family Medicine Honoured as top Program in Canada

KELOWNA, BC /May 1st, 2002/ - Memorial Family Medicine, has been awarded the prestigious Keith Award for the most effective postgraduate rural family medicine program in Canada in 2002.

The award, given annually by the Society of Rural Physicians of Canada, is based on an analysis of the quality and quantity of rural physicians produced. Dr Konkin, newly elected president of the Society says "We are very proud of the achievements of Memorial Family Medicine. Twenty percent of their graduates are in rural practice at 10 years post graduation, more than any other program in the country, and they score high on the quality measures year after year."

Statistics Canada has found that 31.4% of Canadians live in predominantly rural areas. The national average is only 9% of family medicine graduates who choose to work in rural communities 10 years post graduation. Dr Konkin says "Memorial doubles the national average by recruiting students from rural areas and training them in the skills that they need to practice in those areas."

The winner was selected by identifying family medicine residents entering practice through the Canadian Post MD Educational Registry for 1989 to 1991. Practice location was taken from the Canadian Medical Association database for ten years after exiting training. Second, third and fourth place winners, Université de Sherbrooke (17%), Université Laval (15%), and University of Western Ontario (13%), also have a strong regional focus and mandate and decentralized training. Memorial previously won the 2000 Keith Award.

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