

MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

MAA MATTERS

SPRING 2021

ALUMNI STARTUPS
HELP EASE
PANDEMIC

A hand is shown holding two wooden blocks with the letters 'U' and 'P' on them. Below this, a row of five wooden blocks spells out the word 'START'. The background is a light blue gradient.

GOING DIGITAL · ON BECOMING A PHYSICIAN
OVERCOMING OBSTACLES · CLASS NOTES · IN MEMORIAM
WHAT MAA DONORS MAKE POSSIBLE

The magazine for U of T Meds Alumni



Alumni startups help ease pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic creates unusual circumstances and atypical needs. Fortunately, startups led by U of T Med alumni are at the ready to meet many of the new requirements.

The pandemic demands accurate forecasting. When will the next outbreak occur? And where? That's the focus of BlueDot, which **Dr. Kamran Khan** (9T6) founded. BlueDot is dedicated to strengthening global readiness for dangerous epidemics.

Also, the pandemic generates the need for health care practitioners and patients to interact without meeting face to face. **Dr. Joshua Liu** (1T3) and his SeamlessMD are effectively meeting that need.

Just a click away

Dr. Liu is the CEO of SeamlessMD, which provides hospitals across North America with a software platform that allows health care teams to virtually engage, monitor, and connect with patients going through surgery, cancer treatments, or managing a

chronic disease. Patients are guided on their smartphone, tablet, or computer with personalized information, step-by-step instructions, and symptom tracking. Health care teams can get alerts and dashboards to monitor patients and catch complications early.

The platform reduces the need for in-person consults. Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, for example, found that by using SeamlessMD, 35% of their orthopedic surgery patients reported avoiding one or more hospital visits. During the pandemic, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre used SeamlessMD to monitor surgical patients and decreased post-op ER visits by 25% even though surgery cases increased by 40%.

The startup also provides remote monitoring for low-

and high-risk COVID-19 patients. The software gives patients information about COVID-19 and can survey their symptoms. It ensures that patients know how to self-isolate, what symptoms to look for, and when to go to the hospital. And St. Joseph's Home Care in Hamilton is using SeamlessMD to monitor their staff for signs of COVID-19.

The idea for SeamlessMD came while Liu was studying medicine at U of T. As part of the program, Liu researched hospital readmissions at University Health Network's Open Lab. The experience prompted him to ask if digital technology, particularly smartphones and tablets, could be used to monitor patients and reduce the number of patients being discharged from hospital only to be admitted again.

After teaming up with engineers he met through the U of T affiliated Next 36 business incubator, Liu began playing around with some ideas for a digital patient engagement platform. "When we were just starting out, many of my initial conversations in scoping out the idea were with U of T Medicine faculty and mentors who I had met over the years in my training," he recalls.

Liu's ideas for virtually connecting patients with their health care team seemed so promising that he decided to skip residency and abandon his dream of becoming a family physician. Instead, he co-founded SeamlessMD and began working full time on the innovative technology.



Today, Liu has no regrets. The startup has 25 full-time employees and plans to hire 15 more by the end of the year. "Our talented team has worked incredibly hard to achieve adoption of a novel technology solution in an ecosystem that is traditionally difficult to innovate in," he says.

"What I'm most proud of is the positive impact that

SeamlessMD has had on patient care locally at organizations such as Michael Garron Hospital in Toronto, all the way to Rush Medical Center in the U.S."



Dr. Joshua Liu

Especially during the pandemic, SeamlessMD has improved the patient experience by helping them feel connected to their care team. Liu has found that when patients know that the advice they receive is from a member of their own health care team, they're more likely to follow it. To encourage this compliance, the company adds photos of the hospital's physicians and other health care providers to the software. Then, for example, when it's the appropriate time for a person recovering from heart surgery to walk for 30 minutes a day, the advice comes up with a friendly photo of their physician.

The platform also allows patients to monitor their own progress, which the SeamlessMD team has discovered makes them more motivated to recover quickly. Stanford Health Care in California found that using the software for colorectal surgery patients reduced their pain scores by 26%, daily opioid use by 51%, and daily acetaminophen use by 27%.

"Being a U of T Med alumnus continues to create a lot of credibility for the company and gives many of our hospital partners confidence in the solution," says Liu. "Our hospital partners appreciate knowing that someone with my clinical background has been a key partner in designing our solution and approach from Day 1 of the company's history."

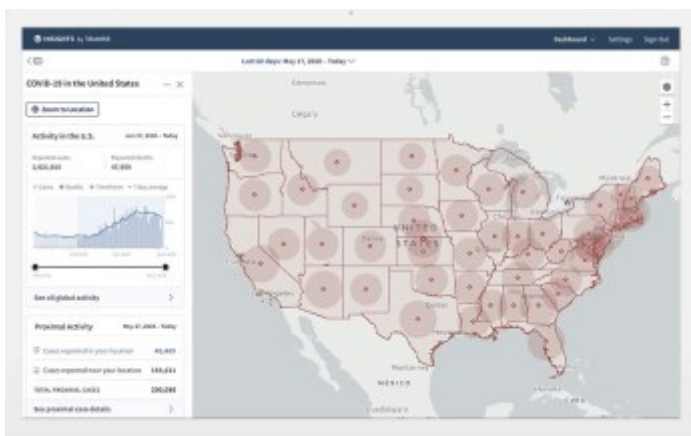
Visit [SeamlessMD](#)

Our pale blue dot

In 2013, Dr. Khan founded BlueDot; its name is a metaphor for our small planet. The global early warning system for infectious disease combines the strengths of artificial and human intelligence to track the spread of infectious diseases around the world. It consolidates and analyzes data in 65 languages from news reports, flight data, livestock health statements, and other sources.

A team of experts – including epidemiologists, veterinarians, data scientists, and physicians – then reviews the results. **Drs. Isaac Bogoch (OT5) and Alun Ackery (OT8)** are on the team as senior medical advisors. They help provide near-real-time intelligence on where a disease is heading to BlueDot’s customers: governments, hospitals, and businesses.

In 2016, BlueDot predicted the spread of the Zika virus to Florida six months before anyone else. And throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, BlueDot has been ahead of the curve, spreading knowledge faster than the virus itself can spread. For instance, it identified India and Brazil as future epicentres months before their case counts began to climb.



Khan’s idea for BlueDot also came while at med school. It was **Dr. Jay Keystone (6T9)**, the late tropical and infectious disease specialist, who sparked Khan’s interest in infectious disease. “I first met Jay when I was a medical student at Toronto General Hospital,” recalls Khan. “He was an inspiring teacher and a major



Dr. Kamran Khan

influence in my decision to pursue a career in infectious diseases.” Another influence was practising on the frontlines of the SARS epidemic.

Khan, who is not only the CEO of BlueDot but an infectious disease physician and scientist at St. Michael’s Hospital, warns of more pandemics ahead.

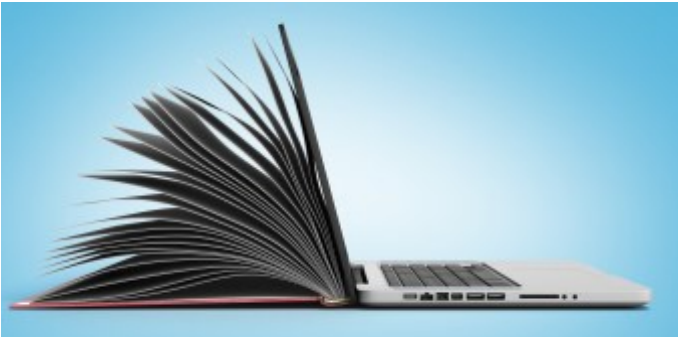
“In just the past decade, WHO has declared six public health emergencies from epidemics and pandemics. That translates to an average of one emergency every 20 months!”

“As this pandemic fades into the background, it will be extremely important for us to spend time thinking about how we got here and how each of us might be inadvertently contributing to the emergence and/or spread of dangerous infectious diseases.

“Mother Nature is trying to tell us something,” he says. “Our health is deeply intertwined with other living systems on the planet, and we need to interact with them more gracefully.”

Visit [BlueDot](#)

Watch Dr. Khan’s [TEDxToronto Talk](#)



Going Digital

A MESSAGE FROM MAA PRESIDENT DR. MCKNIGHT

Our world is changing — not only due to the effects of viruses — and the MAA is changing too. The obvious change with this issue is the move of MAA Matters to a digital-only format.

Two main factors influenced this decision. One is that it allows us to have more issues per year and make the content quickly available on our website; we plan three issues this year. That will allow us to be more up to date with class news and memorials. The other factor is cost. Publishing a paper magazine has become prohibitively expensive. We hope that you find much of interest in this issue and those to come.

It is now more than a year that the MAA has been out of our physical office. But Patricia Coty and Sarah Groom, our intrepid staff, have been doing a wonderful job of keeping things going remotely.

This issue reports on our donors from 2020. We are extremely grateful to them. As there was no student travel last year, we were able to divert travel grants to increase bursary support in a year when students had unusual needs.

The need is still great; I encourage all of our donors to renew their support. Consider becoming a

monthly donor— it is easy and convenient and helps us with steady support over the year. If you are not a donor, please consider becoming one.

The introduction of vaccines has begun to change our experience of this pandemic. I hope that you are and remain well and can look forward to less stressful times.



David McKnight (7T5)

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On becoming a physician

By Darren Fernandes (Class of 2T3)

I was nine years old when my parents first took me to a public library. We had substantial financial difficulties at the time because we had just come to Canada from India. However, the science books in the library let me imagine future possibilities beyond my family's financial circumstances.

By immersing myself in the stories of Dr. Jonas Salk and Dr. Frederick Banting – physicians who used the power of science to advance medicine – I began to dream of a future where I could pursue a similar goal.

I completed a BSc in Integrated Science at McMaster University, with a concentration in physics. Then I did a PhD in Medical Biophysics at U of T.

On entering med school, I quickly realized that procrastination is a death sentence. Still, I found getting rid of this ingrained habit quite challenging. While I am much better now, as a difficult exam approaches it is not uncommon for me to “stress clean” my house instead of buckling down to study.

What I find the most challenging about med school, though, is knowing that every disease I learn about is a real cause of distress to someone. It is more than a statistic, list of signs and symptoms, and findings on investigations – it is a source of anxiety, a life permanently changed, and a family that will never be the same. This challenge inspires me to be my best so I can help people deal with their circumstances and live the life they choose.

Med school is also exciting because it gives me the chance to work with my fellow students, all of whom are highly motivated to be a positive force in the community. My ability to work well with people from different educational backgrounds and diverse talents is something I take pride in, as well as strive to improve. It is truly a blessing to get the opportunity to work with such bright students; I know that together, we can accomplish great things for society.

The reason that I am able to pursue my calling is because of the generous support of funds, such as the 2020 MAA Dr. Ruth Kurdyak and Family Bursary. Financial challenges are always just around the corner for students such as myself, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. The MAA's generous support allows me to focus on trying to be the best doctor I can be. Thank you from the bottom of my heart.

WHAT IS THE MAA?

The Medical Alumni Association of the University of Toronto is a charitable organization of U of T MD graduates, working in partnership with the Temerty Faculty of Medicine. MAA programs are funded by donations and endowments from our members. We provide financial assistance to medical students, connect alumni through reunions and publications, and provide faculty and student awards to recognize excellence.

[DONATE TODAY AND SUPPORT MAA PROGRAMS](#)



Overcoming obstacles

By Salwa Farooqi, Class of 2T1

The transition to medical school was challenging but reasonable as I had previously experienced a similar transition when completing a Bachelor of Health Sciences and then going on to a Masters in Health Research Methodology. However, when I started medical school, I often felt that I was living life from one exam to the next.

After a few months, I realized I needed to achieve balance. I connected with upper years, sought out mentors and learned how to organize my time to maintain a healthy work-life balance. Now, I no longer hesitate to go on that fishing trip with my family, and I say yes to dinner with friends because my learning can happen when I plan my time efficiently.

I have many physicians who I aspire to mirror as a clinician. An ongoing role model for me is Dr. Modupe Tunde-Byass, an obstetrician-gynecologist who did her postgraduate training at U of T. During the pandemic, Dr. Tunde-Byass helped me hone my idea of creating a platform for disseminating

educational materials for women. With Dr. Tanzila Basrin, a family and emergency physician, we co-founded Women's Health Education Made Simple (WHEMS) in response to the barriers women face in health care delivery.

I lead and mentor a team of nine under the guidance of these physicians and deliver online, evidence-based medical information presented by health care professionals across Ontario. WHEMS received two awards for its innovative response in these uncertain times.

But it's the MAA Dr. Ruth Kurdyak CMF Bursary that is allowing me to work toward my goal of being a physician and giving back to my community. One day I hope to pay it back to someone who, like me, needs financial help.

This bursary meant even more to me when my father passed away suddenly during preclerkship. He was the pillar of our household, a symbol of strength and sacrifice. His emotional and financial support meant everything to me in my journey to become the first physician in our family.

While my father's passing was a challenging experience to go through during medical training, I continue to persevere. I am committed to my mission of becoming a physician and supporting people during vulnerable times, just as the intensivist who looked after my father did. With my personal experience with loss, empathy comes naturally to me as does the drive to advocate for my patients. I am the legacy my father left behind.

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Keep your contact information updated [here](#) with the MAA. Provide us with your preferred email to receive *MAA Matters* in your inbox. Or call us at 416-978-0990.



CLASS NOTES

Catch up on news from your classmates

CLASS OF 4T3

Dr. James ANDERSON will celebrate his 101st birthday on April 24, 2021. Jay lives in London, Ont., with his partner, Dr. Katherine Turner (5T7). [Email Jay](#)

CLASS OF 5T5

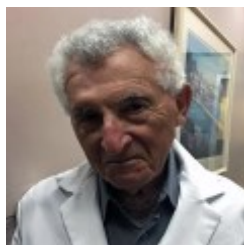
Dr. Paul BRATTY writes, "While waiting to go to Paradise, I'm gardening on an acre in the next best place, the Sunshine Coast in B.C."

Dr. Robert EHRlich enjoyed the class' 65th reunion by Zoom in June. "There were only six people taking part, and I don't know how many are still here," he writes. "I hope some are here for number 70 – including me."

CLASS OF 5T6

Dr. Terence O'HEANY retired from his gynecology practice in 2006. He still participates in CMEs and is licensed to practise in California.

CLASS OF 5T8



Dr. Ronald LEVY is practising half time with an ENT group in Great Neck, N.Y., but is not performing surgery. Ron reports that he's

in good health and plays tennis on weekends. In the summer, he golfs and goes fly fishing. Fully vaccinated, he plans to visit Canada this year when it's safe.

Dr. Howard WERNICK practised in Scarborough, Ont., for 18 years, then in Arizona for 20 years, and then with the Phoenix Fire Dept. Health Center for 14 years. While fully retired for nine years, Howard still keeps up with the latest medical advances. "It's sad to realize that the art of medicine is declining with the advances in the science of medicine," he says. Happily married for 55 years, two of their three sons are lawyers, and the third

is a successful Hollywood screenwriter. Email [Howard](#)

CLASS OF 6T0

Dr. Don BUTT is consulting in disability for a large insurance company. Don and Mary, his wife of almost 60 years, sing in a classical chamber choir, which is currently on hold. He does photography for Canadian Power and Sail Squadrons.



Dr. W. Grant THOMPSON has published the book *Senior Moments*, which is a collection of his poems for seniors and soon-to-be seniors. [Learn more](#)

CLASS OF 6T1

Dr. John Alexander PARKER reports that he's "retired and well, thankfully."



Dr. Ted TULCHINSKY, now 85 years old, last worked in Canada in the 1970s as Manitoba's Deputy Minister of Health and Social Development. Since 1976, he has lived in Israel and

worked for its Ministry of Health. In that role, Ted was the Health Coordinator for the Palestinian population in the West Bank and Gaza from 1981 to 1994. He also taught in the international master's program at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's School of Public Health and started a bachelor's program in public health at Ashkelon Academic College. From 1992 to 1995, he was part of a World Bank team that assessed health in the Russian Federation after the breakup of the Soviet Union. "I love public health and its ever-changing possibilities, challenges such as COVID-19, and developments," he writes. He retired in 2001. [Email Ted](#)

CLASS OF 6T3

Dr. Gisele MICROYS reports that her most recent exciting "adventure" has been downsizing from a five-bedroom house to a 1,300-square-foot condo. "It is quite a challenge to get rid of some of the stuff one accumulates over the years," she writes. "In the end, it is a worthwhile endeavour – no more leaky roofs or basements to worry about, no more mice or squirrels, and no snow shovelling!"

CLASS OF 6T7

Dr. Shim FELSEN has an active family practice, which he says is helping him through the pandemic. Recently, Shim gave a talk titled "Medicine in the Shtetl," which combined his interest in the history of medicine with his passion for Yiddish history. He writes, "I have two great grandchildren who I am hoping to eventually meet once travelling is again available." [Email Shim](#)

Dr. Arthur WEINSTEIN is living in Claremont, Calif., about 40 miles east of Los Angeles. In addition to enjoying the superb weather and geography, Arthur is involved in research and is a clinical professor of medicine at Loma Linda University, where he teaches medical students, residents, and rheumatology fellows. [Email Arthur](#)

CLASS OF 7T0

Dr. Victoria THOMPSON, who lives in Amarillo, Tex., experienced the state's February record cold snap. "Until these last few days, the coldest temperature in Texas was -6° F in 1896," she writes. "Elective surgeries have been cancelled in Houston due to burst water pipes. In Amarillo, the schools are closed to conserve energy and avoid programmed blackouts, which are done to conserve energy. This has also interrupted the delivery of COVID vaccine to centres and the vaccination of our citizens."

CLASS OF 7T1



Dr. Lorne TARSHIS, after a 35-year "love affair" with cosmetic surgery, has completely retired. Although a difficult decision, Lorne was committed

to retiring at the top of his game. He now enjoys cycling and being a gentleman farmer. Lorne is waiting to hug his friends and family members, ski, and travel after the pandemic.

CLASS OF 7T4

Dr. Brian DINGLE, a self-confessed introvert, says he's "happily enjoying COVID isolation." He divides his time between his home on Lake of Bays, Ont., and his home in Waterloo, Ont. Brian writes, "Our three children are content – in law, computer science, and audiology – and our two grandchildren are brilliant. What else could you ask for?"

Dr. Jacalyn DUFFIN was inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame in 2019 and appointed to the Order of Canada in 2020. A grandmother of four and retired, she is still a busy scholar with one book published in 2019, another in 2020, and two more books coming out this year. [Email Jacalyn](#)

Dr. Avram SELICK had an exclusively hospital-based practice since 1998; he worked in a hemodialysis unit, on general medicine wards, and in a mental health unit. Av and Rosalie, who married 1978, have lived in the same North York, Ont., house since 1980 and have no plans to move. Even before retiring in June 2020, he was a busy amateur French Horn player. Av asks that you pardon him for not attending class reunions; he still feels connected to the class and rejoices in his classmates' achievements. [Email Av](#)

CLASS OF 7T5

Dr. Paul STEINBERG is a clinical professor in the Department of Psychiatry, University of British Columbia, where he has a psychoanalysis and psychoanalytic psychotherapy practice and helps administer the psychotherapy program. His wife, Dr. Carolyn Steinberg née Gruenwald (7T6), is a child psychiatrist and psychoanalyst. They have three sons; one is a librarian at Ryerson University, one a mathematics instructor at the University of Oregon, and one a first-year family medicine resident at the University of Saskatchewan. Paul enjoys playing classical piano. He recently published the book [Psychoanalysis in Medicine](#). His next book, *Applying Psychoanalytic Thought to Contemporary Mental Health Practice*, will likely be published this year. [Email Paul](#)

CLASS OF 7T6

Dr. Kenneth Ngai Hoi CHEUNG retired from medical practice in 2017. To raise awareness of diabetes and Canadian medical history, Ken contributed to the

video [Insulin 100 – The Centenary of Insulin Discovery](#). “Cheers to the century ahead!” he writes. [Email Ken](#)

Dr. Tom EGAN, after completing his Canadian Armed Forces commitment as a medical officer and flight surgeon, trained as a cardiovascular surgeon in Toronto and then did a thoracic transplant fellowship in St. Louis. Tom then started a lung transplant program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He has a neurologic disability from a rare disease so no longer performs surgery. However, he still conducts research, teaches residents and med students, and works in research administration. “Lots to do!” Tom says.



Dr. Peter TINITS, who lives in Stratford, Ont., has published the medical noir thriller [A Cause and Manner](#).

It is about a sleep-deprived anesthesiologist

who enlists his friends’ help to deal harshly with his wife’s lover. “It features dark humour and physicians behaving badly,” he says.

[Email Peter](#)

CLASS OF 7T7

Dr. Jed (Gerard) LIPPERT is the Medical Director of Tompkins County Medical Health Services in Ithaca, N.Y., where he practises psychiatry. He likes sailing, hiking, and cycling in the Finger Lakes region. Gerard looks forward to the class’ 50th anniversary in 2027. [Email Gerard](#)

CLASS OF 7T8

Dr. Alan LOSSING is enjoying his tenure as President of the [Toronto Medical Historical Club](#). [Email Alan](#)

CLASS OF 8T0

Dr. Lucy Lynn McINTYRE was appointed a member of the Order of Canada in November 2020 for her influential research in health equity and food insecurity, and her contributions to public health policies in Canada.



CLASS OF 8T9

Dr. Brad BOWINS has a new academic book release, [States and Processes for Mental Health](#). This is Brad’s second book that Elsevier has published. His first book, published in 2020, is [Activity for Mental Health](#). [Email Brad](#)

CLASS OF 9T4



Dr. Roger TAYLOR is semi-retired and living in Kelowna, B.C. [Email Roger](#)

CLASS OF 9T5

Dr. Lori HASULO is President of the Class of 9T5. The class members were planning their 25-year reunion for last June but still have not decided on a date, given the pandemic. They are considering this fall, but Lori says they may wait until spring 2022 to hold the event.



CLASS OF 9T8

Dr. Tuhina NEOGI is the Section Chief of Rheumatology and a professor at Boston University School of Medicine. In a virtual ceremony in

February, Dr. Gilian Hawker (8T4) was among those who spoke at the event in

which Tuhina was awarded an endowed chair and named the Alan S. Cohen Professor of Rheumatology.

CLASS OF 2T0

Dr. Sparsh SHAH is a co-founder of the start-up Tidbit. “We’re trying to automate the process of visual abstract generation to better communicate medical research studies,” he says. [Email Sparsh](#)



KEEP IN TOUCH

[Email](#) your news and photos or mail to:

Medical Alumni Association
Medical Sciences Building
Rm 3249
1 King’s College Circle
Toronto ON M5S 1A8

For your Class Note to be included in the June issue of *MAA Matters*, please send it by June 10.



IN MEMORIAM

LIVES WELL LIVED

CLASS OF 5T4

Dr. Henry BERRY

by Dr. Gyl Midroni (9T0)

Dr. Henry BERRY, at age 90, on Dec. 8, 2020, in Toronto.



Dr. Berry was a neurology resident in Toronto and received his fellowship as an academic registrar at the National Hospital at Queen Square in London, England, from 1960 to 1962, as did many Canadian neurologists of that era, where he studied both neurology and psychiatry.

Henry came back to Toronto to a staff neurology position at St. Michael's Hospital from 1963 to 1998. He was Head of the St. Michael's Hospital Division of Neurology from 1970 to 1976 and Head of the Clinical Neurophysiology Department, providing neurophysiology expertise from 1970 to 1996. A skilled clinician, he was also a scientist engaged in neurophysiology research as this field was developing. He had over 100 scientific publications and presentations to his name in a broad array of medical disciplines. With his psychiatry background he had an interest in functional disorders, and in his later years he was the terror of

head injury and whiplash plaintiff lawyers across Canada as he engaged in medicolegal work, making full use of his multidisciplinary skills. He was still lecturing into his eighth decade at Osgoode Hall Law School.

Henry was the very definition of a Renaissance man; he had a brilliant wit and was extraordinarily skilled in the use of words. I remember sitting in Thursday rounds as a resident at St. Michael's Hospital when, after everyone had said their peace on a particular issue, he would start to talk, offer his opinion, and in addition to the clinical pearls, he would offer such an erudite and grand response that he made us laugh as he taught, even as we were trying to figure out whether he was laughing with us, at us, or both.

His interests ranged far outside of medicine and included antique cars, which he repaired and maintained himself and in which he sometimes took colleagues out for a ride; photography (he had his own studio); and woodworking. Henry had an astonishing breadth of knowledge that spanned philosophy, history, and literature, and that often left us behind as he offered a profound quote on one issue or another.

To those of us who had the good fortune to know and work with him, Henry was the epitome of the erudite, educated, generous, and humorous colleague. He was still working actively into his ninth decade, and when I last met him a few years ago he seemed to be enjoying every moment.

[Family's memorial](#)

CLASS OF 4T7

Dr. Paul Danby Watkin ROBERTS, at age 97, on Nov. 22, 2020, in Toronto. In 1949, Paul moved to Quito, Ecuador, to join a radio ministry. He initiated the building of a hospital for the poor; in a country where elevators were unheard of, he insisted that the hospital have one. Paul also conducted original research that developed a successful treatment for pinta, which is common in Ecuador. On returning to Toronto in 1960, he joined EMAS, the arm of the Christian Medical and Dental Society that collects supplies for overseas medical missions. In 1968, Paul helped open Sunnybrook Hospital; when he retired, he was its Acting Chief of Family Medicine and a full professor at U of T. While in Toronto, he maintained his ties with Ecuador and was appointed Honorary Consul of Ecuador in Toronto. For this role, Paul was given something he took great pride in: a red consulate licence plate. [Family's memorial](#)

CLASS OF 4T8

Dr. Elliott Raphael MARKSON, on Dec. 5, 2020. [Family's memorial](#)

Dr. William R. PAUL, on Oct. 4, 2020, in Oshawa, Ont. [Family's memorial](#)

CLASS OF 5T1

Dr. Edward SHEPPARD, at age 98, on Sept. 21, 2020, in Victoria. Ted practised family medicine and obstetrics in Cranbrook, B.C., from 1961 to 1992. Then he moved to Victoria to be the Regional Medical Advisor for WorkSafeBC. [Family's memorial](#)

CLASS OF 5T2

Dr. Murray Campbell DOBBIN, at age 92, on Nov. 26, 2020, in Toronto. After graduating, Cam practised for five years in Elsa, Yukon, and then completed an ophthalmology residency in Philadelphia. He had a private and surgical practice at Toronto East General Hospital until retiring. Cam loved his island cottage on Lake Temagami and earned his pilot's licence in the 1960s so he could fly there and avoid the highway traffic. An early

embracer of technology, in the 1970s he built his own computer and taught himself how to code and program. Cam wrote computer software to manage patient administration in his office; later, he patented and leased it to other physicians.

[Family's memorial](#)

CLASS OF 5T3

Dr. Kenneth I. MUSTARD, on Nov. 27, 2020, in Dunnville, Ont. Ken started his career as a company physician for the International Nickel Company in Sudbury, Ont. After three years, he began studying to be a general surgeon; he completed residencies in Buffalo and Hamilton before moving to Dunnville in 1962. Ken was the community's sole general surgeon until he retired in 1996. [Family's memorial](#)

CLASS OF 5T4

Dr. Ronald Frederick BILLINGS, at age 90, on Oct. 20, 2020, in Peterborough, Ont. Ron practised psychiatry at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and was an associate professor at U of T. [Family's memorial](#)

CLASS OF 5T5

Dr. James D. T. AINSLIE, on Jan. 2, 2021, in Toronto. Jim was a family physician in Wawa, Ont., then returned to Toronto to train as a urologist. For most of his career, he practised at East General Hospital, retiring in 1996. Jim, his family, and his friends enjoyed wonderful times at his hobby farm in Mulmur, Ont. [Family's memorial](#)

CLASS OF 5T6

Dr. Alexander MACPHERSON, at age 88, on Oct. 12, 2020. Sandy trained in psychiatry at McGill University and in 1965 became the Chief of Psychiatry at Ste. Anne's Veterans Hospital in Sainte-Anne-Bellevue, Que. In 1967, he moved to Hamilton to help found McMaster's psychiatry department in its new medical school. Sandy also served as the Medical Director of Hamilton Psychiatric Hospital. In 1972, he graduated in epidemiology from McMaster. Three years later, Sandy

moved to Montreal to found the Département de Santé Communautaire at Montreal General Hospital and be an epidemiology professor at McGill. In 1981, he was named the Medical Officer of Health for the City of Toronto. He returned to McMaster in 1988 to establish the Educational Center for Aging and Health. In 1997, Sandy focused on geriatric psychiatry until retiring in 2001. [Family's memorial](#)

CLASS OF 5T7

Dr. Richard Brooke EDWARDS, at age 89, on March 26, 2020. Early in his career, Ric worked for Ontario Hydro when it was constructing hydroelectric

dams on the Abitibi River near Otter Rapids, Ont. Ric oversaw a hospital's construction and provided care to the people building dams and their families. Then in 1961, after earning his anesthesiology credentials, he moved to Milton, Ont. For 36 years, he was an anesthesiologist at Milton District Hospital, serving at one time as the Chief of Staff. Ric gradually retired by occasionally performing dental anesthesia. [Family's memorial](#)

Dr. James William SPRAGGE, at age 87, on Nov. 16, 2020, in Surrey, B.C. Bill started as a family practitioner in Oshawa, Ont., where he joked about being paid in eggs, chickens, and homemade wine. In 1970, he moved to Montreal for a residency in radiology at McGill University. He completed his fellowship in New York City at the Hospital for Special Surgery. Bill was a member of the medical support staff for the Canadian team during the 1976 Olympics in Montreal. He moved to Kamloops, B.C., in 1979 to work at Royal Inland Hospital, where he practised until 2005. [Family's memorial](#)

Dr. Stanley Bertram VENIS, on Jan. 12, 2021. In his over 60 years of practice, Bert cared for three generations of several families. He was Chief of the Department of Family Practice at Doctors Hospital in Toronto from 1964 to 1970. [Family's memorial](#)

CLASS OF 5T8

Dr. Aileen Euphemia Horrell COATES, at age 85, on Dec. 4, 2020, in Oakville, Ont. After graduating at age 22, Aileen was a Bell Canada company physician for 24 years. In her late 40s, she completed additional training to practise as a GP psychotherapist and then worked in Mississauga, Ont., until retiring in 1993. [Family's memorial](#)

CLASS OF 5T9

Dr. William Percy FINN, at age 85, on Dec. 16, 2020, in Hamilton. William served as the Deputy Chief of Surgery and the Chief of the General Surgery Department at Hamilton General Hospital. He was also an associate clinical professor at McMaster University. [Family's memorial](#)

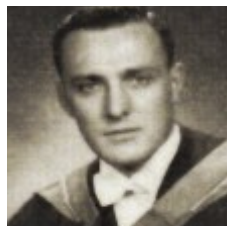
CLASS OF 6T0

Dr. Edward John HAMBLEY, at age 84, on Oct. 23, 2020, in Peterborough, Ont. In addition to being a urologist in Peterborough, Ed was an avid skier, cyclist, curler, and bridge player. Ed was predeceased by his wife, Dr. Joyce Barrett (6T8). [Family's memorial](#)

Dr. Harvey SOCOL, at age 86, on Oct. 24, 2020, in Brea, Calif. For 17 years, Harvey was a family physician in Richmond Hill, just north of Toronto. Harvey's parents and younger brother left Toronto for Los Angeles and, 15 years later, in 1977, Harvey moved to Fullerton, Calif. There, he practised industrial medicine for 27 years. One of his most pleasant experiences was as a volunteer physician at the 1984 Olympics in Los Angeles. After undergoing heart surgery in 2004, Harvey retired and enjoyed new friendships, played golf, and travelled. Every five years, he attended class reunions at U of T. [Family's memorial](#)

CLASS OF 6T1

Dr. Douglas Alexander BAIRD, at age 82, on Nov. 15, 2020, in Toronto. From 1958 to 1960 at U of T, Doug was a first-string end on the Varsity Blues football team. In 1968, he earned his specialist certificate in anesthesia. Until 2009, he was an anesthesiologist at Toronto East General Hospital. [Family's memorial](#)



CLASS OF 6T3

Dr. James Harold WARREN, né WHAN, at age 83, on Sept. 15, 2020. Jim entered the emerging field of GP psychotherapy in the 1970s, igniting a lifelong passion for helping people overcome their emotional problems. [Family's memorial](#)

CLASS OF 6T4

Dr. Robert Noel FOWLER, at age 80, on Nov. 11, 2020, in Chapel Hill, N.C. Robert pursued a family medicine practice before embarking on a long career in pharmaceutical research. He had many interests. Robert coached the Toronto Marlies hockey team, raced Formula V cars, and was an ardent fan of the Toronto Blue Jays. In retirement, he was an active member of the Hillsborough Sportfishing Club. [Family's memorial](#)

CLASS OF 6T8

Dr. Peter MacLean WEBSTER, on Oct. 6, 2020. Born in China to missionary parents, Peter followed in their footsteps by practising medicine in the Congo. Then, he was a respirologist at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre for 38 years. [Family's memorial](#)

CLASS OF 7T0

Dr. Jeannette Marion OBNEY, at age 73, on Oct. 16, 2020. [Family's memorial](#)

CLASS OF 7T6

Dr. William Joseph O'HARA, at age 70, on Dec. 4, 2020, in Thunder Bay, Ont. On

graduation, Bill was awarded the Cody Silver Medal for his outstanding academic performance. A gastroenterologist, he practised in Toronto and then in 2002, he moved to Thunder Bay. Bill reluctantly retired in 2014 due to health problems. In his early 30s, he suffered a heart attack but went on to run and complete the 1985 Boston Marathon; it was one of his proudest accomplishments. [Family's memorial](#)

MAA Matters accepts death notices and obituaries, which may be edited. [Email](#) the obituary or mail to:

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Dr. Chris NEWMAN

by Dr. Adam Rapoport (OT2)



Dr. Christine Jean NEWMAN, at age 65, on Dec. 27, 2020.

In 1989, Chris Newman started her career as a staff physician in the SickKids NICU, but even prior to that, she trained there both as a resident and a fellow. Her initial clinical appointment was in the Division of Neonatology, where she quickly rose to be the NICU Clinical Director.

While practising in the NICU, Chris began to reflect that there must be a better way to care for children who would ultimately die from their underlying illness. After pursuing further training in palliative care, Chris left the NICU in 2003 to become the first physician to hold a permanent position on the SickKids Palliative and Bereavement Care Service. In so doing, she joined the ranks of a trailblazing first wave of pediatric palliative care physicians around the world.

There is not a unit at SickKids that hasn't at one time or another let out a collective sigh of relief when they saw Chris Newman approaching to help navigate a difficult situation. Her impact on the current state of palliative care at SickKids and around the GTA cannot be overstated.

Chris' capacity to care has always extended beyond her patients to the benefit of her colleagues, especially physician trainees. From 1983 to 1990, she served on the board of the Professional Association of Interns and Residents of Ontario and from 1985 to 1991 on the board of the Canadian Association of Interns and Residents; she was President of each during these tenures. Many SickKids residents have benefited from her mentorship and counselling during one of her "Ice Cream Rounds," which she developed and led over the past few years. (Yes, ice cream or some other treat was always involved.)

In November 2017, Chris decided it was time to retire. She had had a long career with many accomplishments that she could be proud of. However, I suspect that she would tell you she is most proud of receiving the SickKids Robert Salter Humanitarian Award in 2010; above all else, Chris has always striven to be a good person. Although her trademark bellowing laugh hasn't been heard in the halls of SickKids since that time, her legacy has never left and it never will. [Family's memorial](#)

A classmate remembers ...

I had the pleasure of getting to know Chris Newman during our time in Daffydil. Chris kept us all in stitches with her comedic acting skills.

What really stood out about Chris was her laugh. I'm sure our classmates would agree that her laugh was unique, infectious, and one of the most joyous sounds one would ever want to hear. In fact, at our class reunions everyone would try to make her laugh just to hear that wonderful sound again.

But as big as her laugh was, her heart was even bigger. I learned of her impact in the field of pediatric palliative care through the experience of a colleague whose child she cared for. Chris provided the family with superlative care and great comfort. Chris Newman was truly one of a kind. She will be missed.

– Dr. Alex Berezowskyj (8T2)



Photo: Class of 2018 taken June 4, 2018

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Donations to the MAA help ease the financial burden of medical students through loans, bursaries, grants, and scholarships. The kindness of donors also recognizes academic excellence through MAA awards, and helps keep alumni connected and informed.

To all of the generous alumni who are helping keep alive the MAA mission of supporting medical students, a hearty thank you!

“Thanks to donors like you, I could dare to dream of applying to medical school. Thanks to donors like you, I can continue to study in the medical field.”

– Second-year medical student and MAA bursary recipient

MAA Funding in Academic Year 2019–2020

The MAA provided a total of \$390,493 in support to 187 medical students in the 2019–2020 school year.

PROGRAM	AMOUNT
Awards	\$17,350
Bursaries	\$131,421
Elective travel grants	\$15,000
International Health Selective grants	\$29,996
Medical Society activities & programs	\$13,726
Zero-interest Loans	\$183,000

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