

MAA MATTERS

The magazine for U of T Meds Alumni

Spring 2022

The Student-Senior Isolation Prevention Partnership



THE STUDENT-SENIOR ISOLATION PREVENTION PARTNERSHIP

MedSoc's successful SSIPP program

GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION

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The Student-Senior Isolation Prevention Partnership



MedSoc's SSIPP has proven so successful, it has attracted 96 med students and gone national ...

When **Geoffrey Sem** (Class of 2T2) was in Grade 9, he volunteered at the nursing home where his grandfather lived. He entertained the residents with his breakdancing moves and by playing concertos on his violin. And if Cantonese or Mandarin was a resident's primary language, he would make a point of conversing with them in their native tongue.

While Sem was volunteering at the nursing home, he learned how you can help older adults feel valued and included by simply showing up.

In 2019, in his first year of Medicine at U of T, Sem and two other med students, **Monisha Persaud** and **Victoria O'Driscoll**, co-founded the MedSoc community affairs club Student-Senior Isolation Prevention Partnership (SSIPP). The importance of its mission is backed by research that has shown that social isolation is a bigger health risk than inactivity, obesity, or smoking. Social isolation can lead to a wide range



Geoffrey Sem

of problems – from weight loss, to dementia, and even to suicide.

In a collaboration between U of T medical students and the Family Health Team at Toronto Western Hospital, those early student volunteers were each partnered with an older person in the community who they would regularly visit. The students did more than visit. They helped in myriad other ways, such as teaching them how to FaceTime on their cellphone, and connecting them with the financial, legal, recreational, and other services they wanted.



Omar Gaballa

The idea of the student-senior partnership has caught on like wildfire. Today, 96 U of T med students volunteer with SSIPP. What’s more, there are seven SSIPP chapters across Canada, including at the University of Saskatchewan in Saskatoon, the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, and the University of Ottawa, explains **Omar Gaballa** (Class of 2T4), who is on U of T’s SSIPP executive committee.

Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario, is SSIPP’s newest chapter. “They don’t have a medical faculty, so the nursing students are getting involved,” Gaballa explains. The student volunteers are typically paired with older adults whom their physician or health care coordinator has referred. In March 2020, when COVID-19 restrictions began in Canada, Sem quickly realized the devastating impact the stay-at-home order could have on older adults. “We needed to do something,” says Sem.

SSIPP quickly replaced the in-person visits with

“We can easily talk for one or two hours,” says Dhuper, one of the national SSIPP Co-Chief Operating Officers. “We talk about anything and everything. It would be really nice to meet her in person one day.”

phone calls. Again, there were myriad ways that the student volunteers could help. Over the phone, they helped explain the COVID rules and organized grocery deliveries. Sometimes, the students even ran groceries over themselves!

During the pandemic, **Misha Dhuper** (Class of 2T4) was paired with a woman in her 80s whom she regularly phones. “We can easily talk for one or two hours,” says Dhuper, one of the national SSIPP Co-Chief Operating Officers. “We talk about anything and everything. It would be really nice to meet her in person one day.”

For more information on SSIPP, visit www.ssipp.info. ■



Misha Dhuper

Expressions of gratitude and appreciation

Here’s what your generosity and support of MAA programs means to medical students—and the future of the profession



“Providing access to care for medically underserved populations has been the primary motivator for my pursuit of a career in medicine. Your generous gift will ensure that my limited financial resources do not thwart this dream. Thank you.”

– 2nd-year medical student

“I want to offer my most enthusiastic thanks for the generous bursary. As a student from a single- parent household with numerous financial and early-life struggles, attending medical school is a daunting financial endeavour. People like you help to give people like me a fighting chance at achieving their dreams.”

– 3rd-year medical student

“I am incredibly grateful. Your generosity makes a huge difference as it provides strength and support to students, such as myself, who are limited by their financial situation. It enables me to pursue more opportunities and to work hard to become the best clinician I can be. Thank you for supporting the next generation of physicians!”

– 4th-year medical student

Imagine the Possibilities

Your support means the world to U of T medical students. Thank you for helping today’s medical students become tomorrow’s physicians. Your generosity continues to bring hope.

Donations to the MAA help ease the financial burden of medical students through loans, bursaries, grants, and scholarships. The generosity of alumni also helps reward academic excellence, recognize future physician leaders through MAA awards, and connect and inform alumni.

Thank you to the generous alumni who donated in 2021 and helped keep alive the MAA mission of supporting medical students. ■

[DONORS TO MAA PROGRAMS IN 2021](#)

MAA FUNDING

ACADEMIC YEAR 2020–2021

The MAA provided a total of \$428,050 in support to medical students in 2020-2021.

Awards	\$15,600
Bursaries	\$204,800
Comprehensive Research Experience for Medical Students (CREMS) summer research grants	\$16,500
Medical Society activities and student programs	\$11,150
Zero-Interest Loans	\$180,000



Memorable Moments in Medicine

To celebrate the Class of 7T2’s 50th anniversary, classmates share some of their memorable moments in medicine.



Dr. Eric BARKER writes, “I will always remember May 31, 1985, as a hot, humid, storm-ridden day. It was the day when the last F4 tornado occurred in Ontario. It was also the day I experienced the

one-and-only case of prolapsed umbilical cord in my obstetrics career.

“The patient was a grand multiparous woman, 36 weeks gestation, who came in with strong labour pains. Her membranes ruptured spontaneously with copious meconium. Examination revealed a prolapsed cord and high breech presentation.

“At this moment, I was grateful for **Dr. Dave Shaul** [Class of 4T7] of Mount Sinai Hospital whose seminar on managing obstetrical emergencies had impressed our group of six clinical clerks in 1972.

“Warton, Ontario’s, rural cottage hospital lacked

caesarean section capability so onto a Code 4 ambulance transfer to our referral specialists in Owen Sound with the patient in knee-chest position, my hand keeping the breech at bay. It was during this ride that the ambulance radios “opened” across our region. We all heard of the devastation in Barrie: Fourteen tornados touched down in a path from Grand Valley to Barrie and eight lives were lost.

“The story ends happily with a baby girl born by C-section. She is well to this day.” Contact: windburn@bmts.com

[Note: this story is included with patient consent.]



Dr. Lanny EASON was Chief Medical Officer at a hospital in southern California. He writes, “I was responsible for oversight of quality and patient safety. Our focus was on ‘Getting to Zero’ for patient hospital-acquired conditions, including infections and postpartum hemorrhage.

“We implemented a detailed program of action including dedicated off-site educational and action-planning forums for both clinical and non-clinical team members, frequent ‘rounding for safety’ by senior executives in all hospital areas, and recognition of highly performing departments.

“Using the tune of Tom Petty’s song ‘I Won’t Back Down,’ I wrote lyrics for a hospital handwashing theme rallying song. Our team embraced this enthusiastically, and we also shared it with our sister hospitals as a team-building tool.

“Our patient safety results were excellent and for this achievement the team and I received the VHA Award for Patient Safety.”

Dr. James FITZGIBBONS retired from hematology/ oncology practice seven years ago. He was a co-founder of the main independent cancer centre in Lane County, Oregon. Contact: jimcollf@gmail.com



Dr. Joe JAGDEO, after being appointed to the pediatric department at Scarborough General Hospital (SGH), writes that “the following years were tumultuous.

“Scarborough was an experiment-in-progress of the new and evolving Canada – multicultural, multilingual, and multi-hopeful. Young

families from Asia, the West Indies, Guyana, and Sri Lanka came bursting with expectation. SGH, perpetually underfunded, rose to the challenge. Staff hiring in nursing, housekeeping, and administration accelerated. Language translators in Cantonese, Mandarin, Hindi, and Urdu were hired.

“The original hospital chapel, founded by Catholic nuns, was converted to a multi-faith religious centre welcoming Buddhists, Muslims, and Hindus along with other denominations. The medical and nursing staff adjusted to the new reality of treating diseases rarely encountered in their training, such as malaria, typhoid, and sickle cell

crises. They diagnosed rashes on skin with varying degrees of pigmentation. Obstetric, pediatric, and neonatal services were expanded with special attention to the sensitivities and nuances of culture and religion in these areas.

“Not to be outdone, our hospital cafeteria menu exploded to include curries, samosas, and jerk and noodle dishes in addition to the usual meat-and-potatoes fare.

“Over the years, our hospital witnessed the struggles, disappointments, and triumphs of our community, and from my pediatric vantage-point, I saw families that fled from destitute circumstances. They came to a country that admitted and welcomed them, allowing them to share in the promise and vision of what Canada can be.”



Dr. Howard PRICE writes, “Our class had the opportunity of directly witnessing the most revolutionary decade of medical diagnostics – the 1970s. It was during this decade that technologies such as CT, ultrasound, echocardiography, and endoscopy were developed, all of them dramatically changing our diagnostic capabilities.”

Dr Lloyd ROSSMAN writes, “After 50 years in practice, there are a multitude of stories and unique experiences that have made this career so fascinating, rewarding, and colourful for each of us. Upon reflection, there is one episode I always look back on with a smile.

“The year was 1971, and clinical clerkship was the order of the day. The 7T2 meds class had been divided up, and I found myself at one of the larger downtown teaching hospitals. We were supposed to be ‘doctors.’ In truth, we were certainly lacking in clinical skills and practical experience – but definitely not in enthusiasm. A classmate (I’ll defer the name to protect the innocent) and I decided we needed to learn how to start IVs. After all, didn’t all doctors know how to do it? With some reluctance, the IV team nurse agreed to let us follow one of her staff on

evening rounds, and we could start an IV under supervision.

“Dressed in our trusty white lab coats, off we went. The call came in 30 minutes later from the OB floor. A lady was in full labour, and an IV had been requested. The two ‘eager beavers’ entered her room where the audio was at full volume! We introduced ourselves as members of the IV team and proceeded to start the IV.

“The veins were accessible and with a first attempt – Bingo! – that telltale flash of blood was noted. We hung the IV bottle on the pole and, feeling smug, opened the valve to let the fluid flow. The problem was that the blood kept running retrograde back up the tubing. In fact, the ‘crimson tide’ not only was running backwards but pulsating in time with the patient’s cries. My colleague (now an eminent cardiologist) stood his full 6’2” and climbing a chair held the IV bottle above his head hoping to see the fluid flow into the arm, but no such luck.

“Clearly we’d catheterized an artery. So now what? While my partner held the bottle skyward I took off in search of the IV nurse – our saviour. I located her a few minutes later and, in a full sweat, recounted our problem and begged her to bail us out.

“She entered the room to the scene of a patient in active labour and a tall anxious med student holding an IV bag above his head. As a wry smile crossed the IV nurse’s face, she turned to the two of us and said, ‘You know boys, these IVs run a whole lot better if you take off the tourniquet.’ It’s a lesson in humility I’ve never forgotten.”



Dr. Vahe SIVACIYAN pursued internal medicine and the subspecialty of cardiology, practising out of St. Joseph’s and St. Michael’s hospitals in Toronto.

He writes, “At university, I learned the science of medicine. During internship

and residency and as a fellow, I learned the practical application of that science and the art of medicine and

learned how to practise my vocation. I bow in reverence and gratitude to all those who taught me.

“As I practised my profession and took care of the sick, I learned the following important life lessons.

- To be a good physician, I had to make many personal sacrifices and forgo my comfort. I learned to dedicate my life for the well-being and happiness of my patients.
- By seeing the physical suffering of patients and knowing the causes of these illnesses, I learned not to abuse my body.
- By seeing both the physical and mental suffering of my patients, I learned to be compassionate.
- By seeing death and the dying, the impermanence of this life was brought forefront into my consciousness, and I lived my life with this always in mind.
- When I saw patients recover their health, I became ecstatic.
- When, despite implementation of all scientific knowledge, some patients died while others, for whom we had given up all hope of survival, improved and went home, I realized that I had no power or ability to heal or change a destiny. This taught me humility. I was only an instrument in the ‘hands’ of the Almighty. My job was to be a good instrument and do my best with love, affection, and compassion, in order to carry out what was to be. I tried to be this good instrument. Only God knows if I succeeded.

“Presently, I am semi-retired. I no longer work in acute care hospitals but still see patients in the office. I owe thanks and gratitude to my secretary who has worked with me for 42 years. She has made this ‘ride’ smooth and free of ‘thorns.’ I graduated from the Medical Faculty of U of T in 1972, 50 years ago. Today, in 2022, I still have to graduate from the Faculty of Life at the University of this World.” ■



Class Notes

News from your classmates

An important message about your @utoronto.ca email

Do you use your @utoronto.ca email? U of T is updating the email system. If you graduated before 2012, your @utoronto.ca address has changed to @alumni.utoronto.ca and your messages have been migrated to your new address. See details [here](#). Let the MAA know your new email at medical.alumni@utoronto.ca so you won't miss any important news!

CLASS OF 5T7

Dr. Robert FIELDEN practised orthopedics in the United States for 22 years and was an assistant professor at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Robert's wife developed Alzheimer's, so when Robert retired in 2019, they moved to Langley, British Columbia, where there is a village for dementia care patterned after one in Holland. Robert reports it has been a good experience for her. Now they'll move to southern California to be near their daughter. "California will provide better weather and similar care," he writes.

CLASS OF 5T9



Dr. Henry WOLSTAT lives in the Boston area and continues to be physically active. His first book of poetry, *Driftwood*, will be published later this year. In 2021, a number of his poems were published in anthologies. Photo: Henry enjoying his annual month-long vacation in Sarasota, Florida

CLASS OF 6T1

Dr. Theodore TULCHINSKY, now aged 86, lives with his wife of 58 years, Joan, in Ashkelon, Israel. Their home overlooks the Mediterranean Sea. They have three children and seven grandchildren. Theodore has retired from the Ministry of Health and the Braun School of Public Health at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Now he's busy finishing the 4th edition of the textbook *The New Public Health*, which he co-authored. Theodore also authored the book *Case Studies in Public Health*, which was published in 2018. He writes that his biggest accomplishments are "family and launching the career of Joni Mitchell in the Louis Riel Coffeehouse in Saskatoon in 1963."

Contact: tulchinskyted@hotmail.com



Dr. Ann CUDDY was a surgical assistant for 40 years in Peterborough, Ontario. She retired at the age of 80. Ann writes, "For many years, I was the only woman in the surgeons' lounge. I was fortunate to see huge changes in surgical techniques with the advent of staplers, laparoscopy, and radiologically assisted vascular procedures."

"I now live in Ottawa close to my three daughters and their families, and I spend my summers on an island on Stoney Lake near Peterborough. I'm active and looking forward to a walking trip in Ireland in May. I feel fortunate to be part of the Class of 6T1 and would enjoy hearing from others."

Contact: anncuddymoore@gmail.com

CLASS OF 6T2



Dr. David LORENZEN, after a rotating internship at Scarborough General Hospital, spent another year there to learn anesthesia. Then, he went into general practice in St. Catharines, Ontario, where he continued anesthesia and embarked on medical and hospital administration. Later,

he became a provincial coroner for the Niagara region. He enlisted in the Canadian Army with the Lincoln & Welland Regiment, which led to appointments with the Canadian Forces, the New York National Guard, and United States Air Force. Then for 25 years, he served with the Canadian Army.

After retiring, David began building a 30-foot sailboat, while occasionally working in general practice. It took him 20 years to complete the sailboat. Then, a month after finishing its sea trials on Lake Ontario, David's sailboat and four other yachts were completely destroyed by fire in the middle of the night.

He writes, "I remain married to my high school sweetheart; we've now been married for 63 years. We have four healthy children and five grandchildren. I retired completely from everything at about age 75."

CLASS OF 6T3

Dr. Peter BAYLY, after interning at Toronto East General, moved to Lively, Ontario, practising at a hospital in Copper Cliff and two hospitals in Sudbury. Peter retired in 2019. "We came for one year and stayed until now!" he writes. "It was a great place to raise our children, and now we have our four grandchildren to keep us busy. Retirement is anything but boring – there's time to read books, garden, shovel snow, and spend more time at our camp near Manitoulin. I have been blessed with such a fulfilling life that continues at this time! Best to everyone, Peter."

CLASS OF 6T4

Dr. Bob STEIN retired on December 31, 2021. In March, there was an online celebration to commemorate Bob founding the Youth Psychiatry Division at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre 51 years ago.

CLASS OF 6T6

Dr. Vladimir HACHINSKI received a gold medal and scroll in recognition of his contributions to neuroscience. It was presented to him at the T.S. Srinivasan Knowledge Conclave in India in October 2021. To learn more, visit this [website](#)

Dr. Anne WALLACE continues to work in the insurance industry as Medical Director at three companies. "I enjoy it very much," Anne writes. "It certainly keeps the old brain

thinking and trying to keep up-to-date in the field of medicine. This occupies about 15 hours a week, and the rest of the time is spent gardening (when it is not snowing), quilting, and managing the house in Toronto and the one up north. New travels have been put on hold, but I would not mind one or two more trips before I hang up the 'At home' sign for good. Learn something new every day, do a nice thing for someone every day.”
 Contact: anne@jkwallace.ca

CLASS OF 6T7



Dr. Arthur WEINSTEIN, while enjoying retirement, continues to do lupus research and teach rheumatology at Loma Linda University Health Center in California.

Photo: Arthur and family enjoyed a Hawaiian vacation in January

CLASS OF 6T8

Dr. Sheila DOYLE (HUGHES) writes, “Is there no rest for the wicked? I left Toronto and sold the practice in 2018 but started two days a week at a walk-in where I was needed. When I tried to retire, I was asked to continue supervising a physician licensed in the United States until she could take over my position. COVID came along, and she has not yet been fully licensed. Now I am not only supervising her but several physician assistants who also work at the various clinics! This is online, of course. Not sure when this will be finished, but I’m looking forward to retirement. The family is good, as are the four grandchildren, two of whom are already in university. Where does the time go?”

CLASS OF 6T9



Dr. Alvin PETTLE's new book, *My Prescription for Life*, will be out this spring. It contains the affirmations that he has collected over the past 40 years. He began collecting them when he was an intern on call at Mount Sinai Hospital. Then he

began using an affirmation as an introduction on his answering machine. “Since a book has to be 80 per cent my own content, I placed stories of my life, my patients’, and my colleagues’ anonymously to illustrate how life teaches us that there is a lot more going on if we pay attention.” Now, Alvin is working on his next book, *What Women Have Taught Me*. “All male doctors have got to start (or hopefully continue) to really listen,” writes Alvin. “They’ll certainly become more than doctors; they’ll get the magnificent opportunity to become ‘healers.’”

Photo: Alvin with his youngest son, Adam, now a TV writer and producer, and the author of the play “Zaidi’s Shoes.” Alvin is equally proud of his son Jordan, an accomplished actor.

CLASS OF 7T2



Dr. Michael KAMIEL writes, “Believe it or not, many of the grads from the Class of '72, especially those in the USA, are still actively practising and loving their work.” Michael works in Culver City, California, where he maintains a full office practice in internal medicine and a busy

hospital consultation practice in endocrinology and diabetes. “I am 73 years old and am told I look 50,” he says.

CLASS OF 7T3



Dr. Helen BATTY's current clinical focus is related to reversing metabolic syndrome with a low-carbohydrate approach that she says is “remarkably similar to the nutrition recommendations in my 1970 copy of Davidson’s textbook of medicine.” She is also supporting patients who feel addicted to food through virtual group psychotherapy sessions. “These include advice to consider taking effective medications such as the recently available combination formulation of bupropion with naltrexone,” she writes. “All are treatments that I have employed in my 40-plus years of smoking cessation clinical and research work.”

In November, the College of Family Physicians of Canada honoured Helen with the Ian McWhinney Award.

“Family caregiving at home for two other adults has taken much of my time and energy in the past year,” she continues. “Balancing this has provided more opportunities to putter in my garden.” Helen is active on Twitter @hbelfry. Contact: h.batty@utoronto.ca

Dr. Helena JACZEK writes, “A background in medicine is a firm foundation for the advocacy for social justice!” Helena is the member of Parliament for Markham-Stouffville in Ontario.

Dr. Shery ZENER, a psychiatrist, is practising full time at a community hospital in Toronto’s east end. She writes, “I now have three grandchildren living in Toronto. As is everyone’s, my life is very constricted, but I hope we can soon travel more easily and safely. I wish you all the very best of health and prosperity.”

CLASS OF 7T4

Dr. Fred HOY writes, “Our first heart transplant recipient celebrates her 35th year with her new heart in April – we got lucky!” Fred expects to be a first-time grandfather in April. He enjoys playing hockey for FROGS (F***** Really Old Guys) in a local league. “I hate it when I skate like a 72-year-old,” he says. Contact: hojkoba@gmail.com

CLASS OF 7T5

Drs Brian SILVER and **Shirley EPSTEIN**. “Shirley retired from family practice in 2018, and I retired as of January 2022,” writes Brian. “We have enjoyed times with our five grandchildren in Vancouver as well as our six in Toronto. Retirement will mean even more time in our four-season cottage on Lake Muskoka, Ontario, as well as (post-COVID) travelling.” Contact: docsilversenior@gmail.com

Dr. Stephen WETMORE retired on February 1, 2022. For 45 years, he was a family physician – 17 years in Mount Forest, Ontario, and 18 years in London, Ontario. Then for 10 years, Stephen was the Chair and Chief of Family Medicine at the Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry at Western University in London. Contact: swetmore@uwo.ca

Dr. Paula WILLIAMS writes, “I’m about 87% happily retired and awaiting the arrival of grandbaby #6 in the summer. Busy baking and looking up recipes for the Instant Pot.”

CLASS OF 7T7



Dr. Maarten BOKHOUT will be 70 years old this year. “I am a coroner,” he writes. “Of the last eight cases I investigated, four were drug overdoses and two were suicides.” He plans on using his 14 years of public health experience – he was the medical officer of health in

northern Newfoundland and Labrador, and Huron County, Ontario – to promote spiritual health in the community. “I sing in a couple of choirs and play in a chamber orchestra,” he continues. “I am Past-President of the local Optimist Club. I live on a farm with a LOT of dead ash trees, so I am becoming ever more adept in handling a chainsaw. I drive diesel vehicles; a battery-electric vehicle has been on order since August of last year, but supply chain issues have put back the delivery date by at least five months (and counting).”

CLASS OF 7T8

Dr. Joanne BARGMAN won the Robert Narins Lifetime Achievement Award at the recent annual meeting of the American Society of Nephrology. “All hopes of being fêted with food and wine were dashed when the meeting was converted to virtual,” she writes. “Robert Narins is an outstanding teacher and leader in the nephrology community, and it was a thrill to get the award named after him.” Contact: joanne.bargman@uhn.ca

UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION WITH THE MAA

Keep your contact information updated [here](#) with the MAA. Because of privacy legislation, we don't get that information from the university. Provide us with your preferred email to receive *MAA Matters* in your inbox. Or call us at 416-978-0990.

CLASS OF 8T1

Dr. King (Peter) LI retired at the end of 2021 as the inaugural Dean of the Carle Illinois College of Medicine at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Last year, he was named a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors and received the Gold Medal Award from the Association of University Radiologists. He now lives close to his two sons and five grandchildren in the San Francisco Bay area.

Dr. Charlene LINZON is the Director of Forest Hill Dermatology in midtown Toronto. In 2019, Charlene was joined by her daughter, Dr. Jaclyn Linzon-Smith, who is also a U of T dermatology graduate. Together, they offer medical dermatology and cosmetic services. Contact: info@foresthilldermatology.com

CLASS OF 8T2



Dr. Gerald LEVINE recently retired as a family physician in Barrie, Ontario. “I look forward to pursuing my passions of travel and stress management teaching, courtesy of 8T2 classmate Sol Stern’s CME Away offerings. “I am blessed to share this with my wonderful spouse of 40 years, Elizabeth,”

he writes. “We met in second year of medical school, so she has witnessed (endured?) my entire career arc! We have two sons, a daughter-in-law, and one grandson who we enjoy visiting. Just bought a condo in Fountain Hills, Arizona, so let us know if you are in the area in the winter. Wishing everyone well as this &*%\$# pandemic hopefully winds down. During the pandemic I wrote a stress management manual called ‘52 Mindful Weeks: Cultivating Awareness and Resilience.’” It’s available on Gerald’s website as a Kindle download. Contact:

geraldlevine22@gmail.com

Photo: Gerald (right) and his wife, Elizabeth, in Rome, September 2021

Dr. Ken WOOLFSON, after more than 32 years on staff at Lakeridge Health Oshawa, resigned his staff privileges on December 31, 2021. During his time at Lakeridge Health, Ken started a teaching program affiliated with Queen’s University, and was Division Head in General Surgery for 12

years and Chief of Surgery for two years. He will continue his office and endoscopy practice.

He writes, “I look forward to spending time with my three daughters – Dr. Katie Woolfson (PhD) in Ottawa; Dr. Hayley Woolfson, a dentist in Yulee, Florida; and Dr. Jessica Woolfson (Class of 1T2) – and their husbands. I look forward to spending time with my grandson, Miles Dubiner, in Florida. For now, I hope to learn to speak français, teach, and travel (when COVID is gone).” Contact: kenwoolfson@gmail.com

CLASS OF 9T0



Dr. David EISENSTAT left his position at the University of Alberta in November 2020 to join two University of Melbourne affiliated institutions, the Royal Children’s Hospital Melbourne (RCH) and the adjacent Murdoch Children’s Research Institute (MCRI). At RCH, David is a professor and the Director of the

Children’s Cancer Centre. At MCRI, David has his laboratory and is a group leader, neuro-oncology. David and his wife, Dr. Janice Richman-Eisenstat, have four adult children and met their third grandchild in March 2022.

CLASS OF 8T8



Dr. Dan EZEKIEL recently discovered the joys of snowshoeing. Dan writes, “If COVID-19 rears its ugly head again next winter, all U of T grads are welcome to visit in Vancouver for some COVID-friendly outdoor recreation in the mountains!” 28

Drs Edsel ING and Felix TYNDEL (Class of 7T9) have published a book of practical teaching tips, *Award-Winning Medical Teaching*. Its 28 contributors are from the University of Toronto, Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, Washington University, the University of Connecticut, and Western University. Co-authors from the Class of 8T8 include **Drs Martin Boyer, Michael Pare, and Ari Zaretsky**. The free e-book is available [here](#). The print

version is available at cost through Amazon. The authors hope that satisfied readers will contribute to their local food bank.

CLASS OF 9T0

Dr. Ezra COHEN is a full professor at University of California San Diego where he is also the Division Chief for Hematology/Oncology and Associate Director at the Moores Cancer Center. Ezra has been living in San Diego since 2014. Contact: ecohen@health.ucsd.edu

Dr. Anil GUPTA had a paper published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* in November 2021. It is titled “Early Treatment for Covid-19 with SARS-CoV-2 Neutralizing Antibody Sotrovimab” and available [here](#). Contact: dr Gupta106@gmail.com

Rev. Dr. Joseph THAM recently co-edited *Cross-Cultural and Religious Critiques of Informed Consent*. “The book explores the challenges of informed consent in medical intervention and research ethics, considering the global reality of multiculturalism and religious diversity,” he writes. “It re-evaluates informed consent in multicultural contexts and features perspectives from Buddhism, Confucianism, Hinduism, Christianity, Judaism, and Islam.” The book is open access and available [here](#).

CLASS OF 9T6



Dr. Judy HAGSHI has been appointed to the Canadian Perinatal Mental Health Collaborative’s inaugural board of directors. “This national organization focuses on education and advocacy,” she writes. Contact: judyhagshi@gmail.com

CLASS OF 1T2

Dr. Calvin KE is starting as a clinician scientist and staff endocrinologist at Toronto General Hospital and as an assistant professor at U of T.

CLASS OF 1T4

Dr. Dr. Laura BURNES ACHTYMICHUK and Ryan Achtymichuk were married on November 20, 2021, having found what they refer to as “love in the time of COVID-19.” The happy couple now live in Sherwood Park, Alberta, where Laura practises as a medical microbiologist.

CLASS OF 1T8



Dr. Nupur DOGRA welcomed a daughter, Reeya Naraine, in the early morning hours of November 1, 2021. “All six pounds and seven ounces of her arrived in extraordinary health at Mount Sinai Hospital, with thanks to the delivering doctors who included **Dr. Rebecca Menzies** (Class of

1T1),” she writes. Nupur extends a special thank-you to **Dr. Julia Kfour** (Class of 0T9), who cared for her throughout her pregnancy. “We are excited for our new chapter as a family of three and for sharing lots of cosy cuddles through this winter,” she says. ■

What’s your news?

[Email](#) your class news and photos to the [MAA](#) by **June 1, 2022**, for the next issue.

Digital submissions preferred, or send submissions by mail to:

MAA Matters, Medical Alumni Association, 1 King’s College Circle, MSB Rm 3249, Toronto ON M5S 1A8. Mailed photos will be returned if requested.

Upcoming Class Reunions



The Class of 6T9 at their 50th-year reunion in 2019

Is this your reunion year?

Email the MAA at medical.alumni@utoronto.ca for details on the following reunions.

THE CLASS OF 6T7

in celebration of their 55th anniversary, is having a reunion on June 4, 2022, at the Donalda Club in Don Mills. There will be a gathering at 5 p.m. and a dinner at 6:30 p.m. Dress is informal. For more information, visit <http://www.medclass67.com>. If you have any old class photos or past reunion photos, please email them to atease@eagle.ca.

THE CLASS OF 7T1

in celebration of their 51st anniversary, is having a reunion dinner on Sunday, May 15, 2022, at 6 p.m. at Sassafraz restaurant in Toronto. It will be an evening of conversation and camaraderie, there will be no lectures or CME. Please RSVP by April 18 by emailing meds7t1@gmail.com with your and your guest's name.

THE CLASS OF 7T2

has plans to celebrate their 50th anniversary with an in-person reunion. For more information, email Ray Singer at rsing@mts.net or Michael Kamiel at drkamiel@pacbell.net.

THE CLASS OF 7T3

is planning a 50-year reunion in 2023. "Progress on data analysis of my long-term class survey was slowed down in the past couple of years by pandemic disruptions, but I'm still hoping to have big-picture highlights to present next year," writes Helen Batty. "Thanks to so many of you who have completed various versions over the decades. One particularly interesting phenomenon is a group of impressive classmates who juggled their medical careers with parenting four, five, or six children. Anybody in this group who would like to describe their strategies for

success and survival in a short or long email message to me or on a Zoom chat would be most welcome to contribute their insights. Another question I have for everyone is, ‘Are you still working in some kind of medical area? If so, how many hours a week? Or, what is the date when you retired?’” Contact: h.batty@utoronto.ca. Helen notes that “the class Facebook group set up in 2018 is still open, although a bit neglected for those who might like to revive it.”

THE CLASS OF 7T5

is invited to attend a Zoom Virtual Reunion on Saturday, May 14 at 5 p.m. EDT. Classmates are encouraged to send an update (200 to 500 words) on their life to medical.alumni@utoronto.ca. It will be shared with classmates. The proposed format is a welcome and introduction, followed by two or three sessions with break-out rooms with groups of 10-or-fewer classmates. A time will also be set aside to honour those who have passed. If you know of a classmate who has died, please let the MAA know. It’s anticipated that 70 to 90 classmates will confirm their attendance at the Zoom reunion. Contact the MAA for Zoom details and links.

THE CLASS OF 8T2

in celebration of their 40th anniversary, is planning a virtual event, to be confirmed. For more information, email Marko Duic at marko.duic@gmail.com.

THE CLASS OF 8T7

is having its 35th Anniversary Class Reunion September 16 to 18, 2022, at the Prince of Wales Hotel in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Your booking will include breakfast and dinners. **We are asking you all to take care of your own booking.** Prince of Wales Hotel Reservations direct number: 888-669-5566. Reserve online at <https://www.vintage-hotels.com/> through the group block under our

name: University of Toronto Faculty of Medicine 8T7 Class Reunion

Group Reservation ID # 3403930

Double Occupancy: \$512 /night taxes and meals included plus the \$132.00 in current required food spend divided equally over 2 nights @ \$66.00 per person per night. Includes 2 breakfasts, wine and cheese, and dinner Saturday night; refreshment break Sunday morning. For more information, contact Jacqueline James at jacqueline.james@rogers.com.

THE CLASS OF 9T2

is in the early stages of planning an event in Toronto to celebrate their 30th anniversary. “Please save the date of Saturday, October 15 in your calendar,” writes Anne Dipchand. “We have already sent out a preliminary email – if you did not receive it, we do not have your contact information.” Please email your contact information and that of any classmates you know to Anne at anne.dipchand@sickkids.ca. ■

We’re here to help

For help organizing your class reunion, contact the MAA at medical.alumni@utoronto.ca or phone 416-978-0990. The MAA can provide mail and email information and invitations.

Don’t miss the party

To ensure you remain on the mailing list for updates and invitations, update your contact details. Fill in the MAA’s online [form](#) or phone 416-978-0990. *If you are planning a reunion and need help contact the [MAA](#)*

Heart surgeon makes one breakthrough—then another

Dr. Wilfred Bigelow (Class of 3T8) and his research team discovered that lowering the body's core temperature before surgery reduced the amount of oxygen the body needed, slowed tissue metabolism, and protected the heart and brain. This breakthrough research on hypothermia led to the first successful open heart surgery in 1953.



Incidental to the hypothermia research was the team's discovery that electrical impulses to a motionless heart could stimulate it to beat again, laying the groundwork for cardiac pacemakers.

Together, these two discoveries revolutionized cardiac care, swinging open the door for further advances.

A fragmented education

Soon after graduating, Bigelow enrolled in surgery at Toronto General Hospital. Three years later, the Second World War interrupted his training. From 1941 to '45, Bigelow served as a Canadian Army surgeon in casualty clearing stations in England, Normandy, and Northwestern Europe. There, he developed an interest in frostbite and how hypothermia affects the body; he tucked away his observations for the day when he could explore them through scientific research.

During the war, Bigelow also developed an interest in chest surgery, but there was no subspecialty training in Canada. However, after the war, he was awarded a clinical and research fellowship in vascular and cardiac surgery at Johns Hopkins University Hospital in Baltimore, which he completed in 1947. There, he observed **Dr. Alfred Blalock** perform the first "blue baby" operations and learned about cardiac catheterization for measuring intracardiac pressures.

Room 64

On returning to Toronto, Bigelow was appointed an associate professor at U of T and to the Toronto General surgical staff. He also became the Director of the cardiovascular surgical experimental laboratory in the basement of U of T's Banting Institute on College Street. **Dr. John Carter Callaghan**, who had just graduated with the Class of 4T6, was at his side in the dingy lab known as "Room 64."

In 1961, **Dr. Bernard Goldman** (Class of 6T0) was a fellow in the lab, furthering Bigelow's search for a substance, perhaps a hormone, that Bigelow thought allowed groundhogs to hibernate underground through the winter at two degrees above freezing. "I hated those groundhogs," says Goldman. "They could bite."

After 10 years, the research hit a dead end, but Goldman says Bigelow "responded with his usual grace." Later, Bigelow wrote about the experience in an essay titled "Intellectual Humility in Surgical Research."

Between 1947 and '65, the lab performed multiple canine experiments to establish the physiological effects and medical benefits of hypothermia, and a safe technique for inducing and reversing it. Trouble was, the heart stopped beating when the body was cooled.

During an experimental surgery in 1949, again the dog's heart stopped when they lowered its temperature. In frustration, Bigelow gave the left ventricle a good poke. To his surprise, the heart contracted, and with repeated pokes began to beat. That night, over many cups of coffee, Bigelow and Callaghan proposed that electrical impulses could keep the heart beating during open heart surgery. Bigelow approached the National Research Council for help.

The genesis of bioengineering

In 1949, the Council recommended **John Hopps**, an electrical engineer in Ottawa, for Bigelow's project. But Hopps was busy figuring out how to use radio frequencies to pasteurize beer. He described his summoning to Toronto "as an annoying interruption to this vital task." But Hopps soon arrived in Room 64 to work with Callaghan on how best to deliver an electrical stimulus to the heart.

In 1950, Hopps returned to Ottawa to design the pacemaker. His invention looked like a small table radio. It was 12 inches long, used vacuum tubes to generate pulses, and needed to be plugged into an electrical outlet. Its catheter electrode could be passed through the jugular vein and into the right atrium.

That same year, Bigelow and Callaghan performed a landmark open heart operation on a dog using Hopps' pacemaker. When the heart stopped during the cooling process, the pacemaker took over, making the heart beat once again.

Later that year, Bigelow, Callaghan, and Hopps developed the first pacemaker for continual use in humans. And in 1953, Callaghan presented their research findings at the American College of Surgeons conference in Boston, stimulating much public interest and professional competition. In 1958, a Swedish physician implanted the first battery-powered pacemaker with heart electrodes sewn onto the myocardium through a small chest

incision. Then in 1969, Toronto General became the first hospital in Canada to implant pacemakers connected to the heart by a transvenous intracardiac electrode.

“In an emergency, Bigelow was the calmest person and the most supportive leader I’ve ever seen.”

Bigelow's Bungalow

From 1956 until retiring in '77, Bigelow was Head of both U of T's and Toronto General's Cardiac Surgery Division. At the hospital, he created Canada's first Cardiovascular Investigation Unit to unify cardiology, cardiac surgery, and related investigations. It was known affectionately as "Bigelow's Bungalow."

“In the OR, there was never any question about who was in charge. It was Bill Bigelow,” recalls **Dr. Hugh Scully**, who trained in general surgery and cardiovascular and thoracic surgery at Toronto General. “In an emergency, Bigelow was the calmest person and the most supportive leader I’ve ever seen. When I was a senior resident, I remember that he would put his hand on mine and say, ‘Scully, just settle down.’ I tried to emulate his calmness.

“He was the most wonderful mentor,” recalls Goldman, who left Toronto General in 1990 to become Head of the new Cardiac Surgery Division at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. “He was like a father figure to us. We used to call him Uncle Bill, but not to his face.”

“Some of Bigelow's surgeries were so revolutionary that Toronto General wouldn't allow him to perform them there, so he operated at the Wellesley and Sunnybrook,” says Scully, who was a staff cardiac surgeon at Toronto General from 1974 until retiring

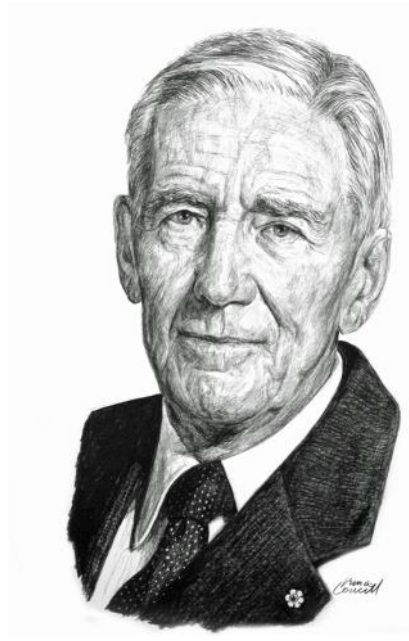
from active surgery in 2008. “Bigelow performed his first closed heart operation on the mitral valve at Sunnybrook because the Toronto General cardiologists were reluctant to refer sick patients for surgery. Bigelow was incredibly courageous, especially since the mortality rate for cardiac surgery at the time was as high as 50 per cent.

“He invented the heart team,” Scully adds. “On the Friday morning weekly teaching rounds, Bigelow would include all of the staff cardiac surgeons and trainees, pathologists, anesthesiologists, nurses, and even attendants. He would never embarrass people. He would ask participants a question and then thank them for their answers.”

Bigelow also created the first Canadian inter-hospital cardiac surgery training program by involving the Hospital for Sick Children and St. Michael’s Hospital. In Bigelow’s tenure, more than 70 physicians passed through the postgraduate cardiovascular surgery

program.

Worldwide, Bigelow’s insights improved, if not saved, the lives of millions of people with cardiac conditions. Honorary bodies – from the Order of Canada to the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame – seemingly tripped over each other to recognize his achievements. Before his death on March 27, 2005, Bigelow humbly accepted more than 25 major awards.



Want to know more about Dr. Wilfred Bigelow? Drs Scully and Goldman worked with U of T history professor Edward Shorter to write The Heartbeat of Innovation: A history of cardiac surgery at the Toronto General Hospital. U of T Press has just released

it.

Credit for drawing: Canadian Medical Hall of Fame, Irma Coucill

Credit for photo: Courtesy Bigelow Fonds, History of Medicine Program, Temerty Faculty of Medicine ■

CLASS OF 5T6

In Memory of Dr. Bernard Langer

DR. BERNARD LANGER, AT AGE 89, ON FEBRUARY 23, 2022, IN TORONTO



Drs Bernie Langer, Rick Superina, and Jacob Langer operating on the first liver transplant at SickKids

by Dr. Jacob Langer, Class of 8T0

My father, Bernard (Bernie) Langer, was the youngest son of Joe and Pearl Langer, who immigrated to Canada from Poland in 1910 to escape persecution and pogroms. He attended high school at Harbord Collegiate in Toronto and was accepted into U of T's medical school despite the strict quotas on Jewish students that existed at the time.

In medical school, Bernie was the gold medallist and President of his class. At the same time, he served as Captain of the Medical School Swim and Water Polo teams. He also found time to meet and marry Ryna (herself the valedictorian of her high school class) who remained his partner, confidant, and advisor for 68 wonderful years.

Bernie did his general surgery training at U of T and ultimately accepted a staff position at Toronto General Hospital, the first time that a Jewish surgeon was hired at that institution. Prior to starting his practice, Bernie did a fellowship in surgical oncology at the MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston and in surgical metabolism with the iconic Dr. Francis D. Moore at Harvard. When he returned to Toronto, he established a research program in canine liver transplantation, a field that at the time was in its infancy.

Initially, Bernie did the full range of general surgery, but over time he focused on the field of hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery. He developed a reputation for clinical and technical excellence and was the "surgeon's surgeon." He did the first

liver transplant in Toronto, and I had the honour of being third assistant to him and Dr. Rick Superina on the first liver transplant at SickKids when I was a pediatric surgery fellow.

As Chief of General Surgery at U of T, he pioneered subspecialty training and the recruitment of colorectal, vascular, oncologic, and hepato-pancreato-biliary surgeons. As Chair of U of T's Department of Surgery, he instituted an innovative practice plan that supported and encouraged research and teaching within the department. He established the Surgeon-Scientist Program, which has been emulated by surgical and non-surgical departments around the world.

After stopping clinical practice, Bernie served as President of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. With Cancer Care Ontario, he was responsible for regionalizing complex surgical oncology in the province. Among his many awards, he was named to the Order of Canada in 2002 and



inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame in 2015.

Bernie was an accomplished fly fisherman who loved to be on the water with his closest friends and family. Some of my fondest memories are of fishing with him for Arctic char, salmon, or bonefish; he applied the same quest for excellence in fly fishing that he taught in the operating room and clinic.

In his retirement, he created detailed, beautiful stained-glass windows and other works of art, which adorn the homes of those he loved. Most importantly, Bernie always said that his greatest accomplishment was his family. My three siblings and I, as well as his 11 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren, were the lifelong beneficiaries of his wisdom, love, and respect, and we will miss him dearly. [Family's memorial](#) ■

CLASS OF 7T4

In Memory of Dr. Robert Douglas Burgess

DR. ROB BURGESS, AT AGE 71, ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2021, IN WHISTLER,
BRITISH COLUMBIA



by Dr. William Akeroyd, Class of 7T4

My dear friend Rob passed away at home in his bedroom overlooking a gorgeous lake and mountain vista. He had been lovingly cared for by his wife, Jan; daughter, Micky; and son, Johnny. His illness was sudden and cruelly aggressive. He stuck to his life's motto: If you are going to go downhill, make it fast!

Rob and I met in 1968 in first year pre-med at U of T (my God, we were only 18) and became lifelong friends. In 1972, we drove to Banff for summer employment. While there, we both realized that the mountains were going to dominate our future. Amazingly, we navigated the intern matching service and were both accepted into the rotating intern program at St. Paul's Hospital in Vancouver.

We also discovered Whistler, which has some of the best ski runs on the continent.

Our first job after St. Paul's took us to Vernon Jubilee Hospital, in the B.C. interior, where we worked in the emergency department. Two summers of Vernon, multiple locums, and extended travel led Rob to inquire about a job as a physician with the Whistler Mountain Ski Patrol.

He quickly learned that mountain medicine is much different than that in the confines of a hospital and he thrived. He spent time with the orthoped Dr. Pat McConkey and honed his physical diagnostic skills in sports medicine. Rob often complained that he felt bad having his patients pay for an MRI of their

knee when he had already given them their diagnosis.

In the early 1980s, Rob, along with Dr. Christine Rodgers, began offering full family practice services out of an ATCO trailer in Whistler. The medicine was never boring and was often carried out in challenging outdoor settings. Rob joined an energetic community and worked to expand Whistler's health care facilities to the high standard they are today.

Rob gave a lot to the mountain community, and the mountain community gave a lot to Rob. He relished the opportunities he was offered. Whether it was as

a physician to the National Alpine Ski Team or physician guide to various heli-ski companies, all parties benefitted.

A few years ago, Rob gave up his family practice but was unable to give up on his community. He became busier than ever with locums and aviation physicals. Following his diagnosis, he regretted having to give up a COVID vaccine clinic.

Here's to a man well loved and a life well lived. We will all miss you, Rob.

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In Memoriam

Lives Well Lived

CLASS OF JANUARY 4T3

Dr. James Rae ANDERSON, at age 101, on February 21, 2022. In the Second World War, Jay was a medical officer in the Royal Canadian Army Medical Core. On discharge in 1946, he was diagnosed with pulmonary tuberculosis. This led to six months in various sanatoria followed by six months of limited activity. In 1948, he opened a family practice in Campbellford, Ontario, his home town. After four years of solo practice, however, his tuberculosis became active again. Seeking regular hours, Jay returned to U of T to earn a Diploma in Public Health. He practised public health in Orillia, Ontario, for eight years and in Peterborough, Ontario, for four years. Then, from 1966 to 1975, Jay was the Editor of the *Canadian Medical Association Journal*. After his wife's death in 2017, Jay moved to London, Ontario, to be with Dr. Katherine Turner (Class of 5T7). They had four happy years together. [Family's memorial](#)

CLASS OF 4T8

Dr. George Frederick John CAMPION, at age 97, on December 30, 2021. After graduating, George and his wife, Esther, a nurse, joined Sudan Interior Mission

as medical missionaries. In London, England, George did additional training in surgery and tropical medicine for 10 months. Then, they travelled to Lagos, Nigeria, and took a dirt road to the remote village of Egbe. In 1951, George founded Egbe Hospital and in 1955, the School of Nursing. In Egbe, he served alongside other missionaries for 36 years as a physician, surgeon, and medical director. As well, he practised at Galmi Hospital in Niger for two years. In 1986, they returned to Canada, and George practised at St. Catharines General Hospital and Hotel Dieu Hospital in St. Catharines, Ontario, until retiring at age 88. [Family's memorial](#)

CLASS OF 4T9



Dr. Alan Wilfred HARRISON, at age 95, on October 2, 2020, in Markham, Ontario. Alan was Chief of Surgery at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. In that role, he led the establishment of the Emergency Department in 1967 and lobbied to create the trauma and cancer programs. With the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, he served on the examination boards for internal

medicine, plastic surgery, general surgery, otolaryngology – head and neck surgery, and physical medicine and rehabilitation.

CLASS OF 5T1

Dr. Wilbert Willoughby BELCH, at age 94, on January 24, 2022. Bill interned at Toronto East General Hospital, the Hospital for Sick Children, and the Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. In 1959, he started a surgical practice in Peterborough, Ontario, and continued practising there for more than 50 years. At Christmas, Bill would dress up as Santa Claus and ride his unicycle up and down the hospital halls to the delight of the patients and staff. Bill grew up on a farm and missed farming. His imagination was sparked by an ad in the *Financial Post* saying that buffalo from Elk Island National Park near Edmonton would be sold. In 1969, Bill had 44 buffalo from Elk Island; eventually, the herd grew to 400. The farm sold buffalo meat at numerous farmers' markets. Bill retired from his private surgical practice at age 70. [Family's memorial](#)

Dr. Lorne Pennington LAING, at age 95, on December 24, 2021, in Toronto. For 40 years, Lorne was a family practitioner. He also practised at Wellesley Hospital clinics during the AIDS epidemic. Lorne liked tennis, the family cottage, and the intricacies of bridge. [Family's memorial](#)

CLASS OF 5T2

Dr. Joseph Paul RANALLI, at age 92, on December 24, 2021, in Hamilton. "Doc Joe" interned at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto and then moved to Hamilton, where he began 40 years of primary care in partnership with Dr. Charles Agro. Together, they provided all of the maternity care in their practice, performed minor surgical procedures, admitted their patients to hospital, and covered overnight shifts in the emergency department. Joe appreciated classical music (especially Gustav Mahler), opera (particularly Puccini), and always had season tickets to the Hamilton Tiger-Cats. [Family's memorial](#)

CLASS OF 5T4

Dr. Alan Bruce GIFFEN, at age 91, on January 1,

2022. Alan practised obstetrics and gynecology for over 50 years, primarily at Toronto East General Hospital where he delivered close to 10,000 babies.

[Family's memorial](#)

CLASS OF 5T9



Dr. Macey DENNIS, at age 86, on December 6, 2021, in Sacramento, California. Macey specialized in asthmatic allergies, practising with the Kaiser Permanente managed care consortium for almost 50 years. When he retired at age 75, he said it took too much out of him to watch his patients age and die. Macey enjoyed the outdoors, particularly fishing, and had a home in rural Oregon where he could escape the city.

[Family's memorial](#)

Dr. Stuart Bruce LEE, on February 13, 2022, in Toronto.

[Family's memorial](#)

CLASS OF 6T0

Dr. Gordon Stanley FOX, on January 18, 2022, in Toronto. Gordon did his residency at Jewish General Hospital in Montreal and became an anesthesiologist at both Jewish General and Royal Victoria Hospital. Gordon returned to Toronto to be the Deputy Chief of Anesthesiology at Mount Sinai Hospital. Over 10 years, Gordon pioneered the use of anesthesia care teams in Ontario and oversaw the stabilization, growth, and maturation of the department. [Family's memorial](#)

CLASS OF 6T1



Dr. Bernard FOGEL, on October 15, 2021.

[Family's memorial](#)

Dr. Clayton Lyle NATTA, at age 88, on February 10, 2021, in New York City. After a one-year research position at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in Scotland, Clayton completed a hematology fellowship at New York University's School of Medicine. His primary area of research was cell mutation, sickle cell anemia, and other blood

disorders. Clayton was an associate professor at the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia Presbyterian, and the Chief of Hematology at Harlem Hospital. He had a private medical practice in Harlem and was known for his willingness to help anyone who needed medical care, whether they could pay or not.

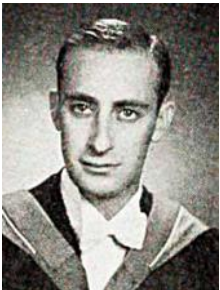


CLASS OF 6T2

Dr. John Ross CORLESS, at age 82, on March 30, 2020, in Mississauga, Ontario. For two years, John was a family physician in Peterborough, Ontario, and then returned to U of T to study orthopedics. After graduating,

John set up an orthopedics practice in Brampton, Ontario. He held Easter Seal clinics, a number of which were in his hometown of Sudbury, Ontario. An avid outdoorsman, John enjoyed hunting and fly fishing, and crafted his own flies. [Family's memorial](#)

Dr. Bluett McLay OVERHOLT, at age 83, on April 11, 2021, in Brantford, Ontario. In 1964, Bluett took over his father's family practice in Brantford. [Family's memorial](#)



Dr. Marshall Leo REDHILL, on July 24, 2019, in Toronto. He was an obstetrician and gynecologist in Scarborough, Ontario. [Family's memorial](#)

CLASS OF 6T3

Dr. Donald Peter CAROM, on January 6, 2022. "Dr. Don" was a family physician for 47 years. In addition, he was a pilot, artist, and singer. [Family's memorial](#)

Dr. Jacob FRIEDBERG, at age 84, on December 11, 2021, in Toronto. Jack trained as an otolaryngologist at U of T, then started a private practice in the city with Drs Arnold Noyek (Class of 6T1) and Jerry Chapnick (Class of 6T2). Eventually, they joined teaching hospitals, with Jack practising at the

Hospital for Sick Children. He focused on diseases of the ear, becoming one of the first subspecialized otologists in pediatrics. In the early 2000s, he was the Otolaryngologist-in-Chief at SickKids. [Family's memorial](#)

Dr. Alan JOHNSTON, at age 82, on December 7, 2021. Alan practised in Danville and Sherbrooke, Quebec; and in Orleans and Ottawa, Ontario. He retired in 2013. [Family's memorial](#)

CLASS OF 6T4

Dr. Sonil Ramsumair PANCHAM, at age 85, on November 17, 2021, in Kingston. Soni was an obstetrician and gynecologist at Kingston General Hospital and a professor at Queen's University from 1971 to 2001. After retiring, he volunteered for medical missions in Zambia and Guyana, and for several other charities. In his free time, Soni enjoyed working in his award-winning garden and walking his much loved dogs. [Family's memorial](#)

CLASS OF 6T5



Dr. Laurie SILVERBERG, on December 4, 2021, in Oakville, Ontario. Laurie specialized in cardiology and nephrology, and was part of Toronto's first group of physicians to perform heart transplants and peritoneal dialysis.

A Zionist, Laurie volunteered in Israel as a civilian physician during times of war. Laurie had six children including Dr. Mark Silverberg (Class of 9T2). Laurie's twin brother, Dr. Stephen Silverberg (Class of 6T5), died in 2009. [Family's memorial](#)

Dr. George Robert TURNER, at age 81, on January 9, 2022, in Mississauga. A family practitioner, Bob had a private practice in Etobicoke, Ontario, and practised at several hospitals: St. Joseph's, the Queensway, Runnymede, and West Park. He enjoyed skiing, cycling, model airplanes, home renovation, and walking the family's dogs. [Family's memorial](#)

Dr. Glen Richard VAN LOON, at age 81, on January 29, 2022, in Murray, Kentucky. Glen earned a PhD in endocrinology at the University of California's School

of Medicine in 1970. For 20 years, Glen taught at U of T, and practised internal medicine and endocrinology at Toronto General Hospital. In 1990, Glen moved to Kentucky where he taught at the University of Kentucky in Lexington, continuing to practise right up until his passing. In his spare time, Glen owned and showed Samoyed dogs. The family also kept horses; at its peak, the farm had 45 Paso Fino horses. Glen leaves behind three brothers including Dr. John David Van Loon (Class of 6T8) of Millbrook, Ontario. [Family's memorial](#)

CLASS OF 6T6

Dr. Stalin HARDIN, at age 79, on January 9, 2022, in Kuching, Malaysia. Stalin was a State Health Director with the Sarawak Medical and Health Department in Malaysia from 1983 to 1996. Rather than being office-bound, Stalin implemented and supervised government health policies at rural clinics, health sub-centres, and sub-dispensaries by travelling to them by longboat and even on foot. By introducing clinic management and treatment procedures, and furthering sanitation facilities, Stalin helped raise the standard of health in the rural areas. After retiring in 1996, he was actively involved in charitable and welfare organizations. [Obituary in Borneo Post](#)

Dr. William Arthur TILLY, at age 81, on March 13, 2022, in Oshawa, Ontario. William was a general practitioner for almost 40 years. [Family's memorial](#)

CLASS OF 6T7

Dr. Jeffrey Jay HURWITZ, at age 78, on February 4, 2022, in Toronto. Jeff served as Ophthalmologist-in-Chief at Mount Sinai Hospital for 31 years, the longest serving chief in the hospital's history. For 12 years, he was Chair of the Department of Ophthalmology & Vision Sciences at U of T. Later, he was its Vice-Chair for Global Health. Jeff was a founder of the Kensington Eye Institute and, subsequently, was its Academic Director. His landmark book, *The Lacrimal System* was a foundational text for numerous academic programs. Jeff spent over 25 years helping increase the profile of ophthalmology in the West Indies and around the world, building lifelong friendships along the way. [Family's memorial](#)



CLASS OF 7T0

Dr. David ETLIN, on August 14, 2021. [Family's memorial](#)



Dr. Richard Earl LEVY, on January 7, 2022. [Family's memorial](#)

CLASS OF 7T1

Dr. William Frederick BENNETT, on March 11, 2022, in Oakville, Ontario. For 31 years, Fred was a thoracic surgeon at St. Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton. [Family's memorial](#)



Dr. Robert Norman McKENZIE, at age 75, on December 28, 2021. Robert was an anesthesiologist for 25 years at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. Later, he was a coroner in York Region and Muskoka, Ontario. Rob enjoyed bird watching, golfing, cross-country skiing, sailing, and anything to do with hockey. [Family's memorial](#)

CLASS OF 7T2

Dr. Fred GENTILI, on January 15, 2022, in Toronto. Fred received a McLaughlin Fellowship to pursue advanced training in skull base surgery and micro-neurosurgery; he completed clinical fellowships at the University of Zurich, and the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery (Queen Square) in London, England. In 1982, he joined the neurosurgery staff at Toronto General Hospital, specializing in skull base surgery, pituitary surgery, and radiosurgery. Later, he became the Deputy Chief of the Division of Neurosurgery at Toronto Western Hospital. Fred was also a U of T professor, the Crean Hotson Chair in Skull Base Surgery, and the Alan and Susan Hudson Chair in Neuro-Oncology. He was the first Director of U of T's Skull Base Centre. [Family's memorial](#)

Dr. Hans Dietrich STRAUSS, at age 77, on January 19, 2022, in Toronto. After graduating, Hans did a cardiology fellowship at U of T. Then in 1985, he

helped found Credit Valley Hospital in Mississauga. Hans enjoyed cottage life in Muskoka, Ontario, biking, hiking, and swimming. His deteriorating health forced his retirement at age 77, shortly before his death. [Family's memorial](#)

CLASS OF 7T5

Dr. Larry McCUTCHEON, at age 72, on December 28, 2021. Larry was a family physician in Midland, Ontario, for more than 43 years. A lifelong boater on Georgian Bay, Ontario, Larry taught others to respect the waters in his beloved bay in Lake Huron. [Family's memorial](#)

CLASS OF 8T5

Dr. Michael Allan LEVENSTEIN, at age 60, on August 29, 2020. Michael was a family practitioner and Torah scholar. [Family's memorial](#)

CLASS OF 0T0



Dr. Robert James SARGEANT, at age 54, on November 28, 2021. Rob joined the general internal medicine staff at Toronto's St. Michael's Hospital in 2004, where he became the Clerkship Coordinator and the Director of the Internal Medicine Residency Program. An outstanding educator, Rob earned multiple honours, including the MAA's Dr. Mary Hollington Clinical Teaching Award. In 2015, he was appointed the Director of St. Mike's Division of General Internal Medicine. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he helped develop policies and protocols for the care of individuals experiencing homelessness, which were widely adopted. A passionate cyclist, Rob pedalled thousands of kilometres on the roads north of Toronto, and through the mountains in Europe and British Columbia. Also a triathlete, he competed internationally in Ironman races. The Temerty Faculty of Medicine held a moment of silence in Rob's honour at 11 a.m. on December 1. [Family's memorial](#) ■

MAA Matters accepts death notices and obituaries, which may be edited.

Digital submissions preferred by [email](#) or send submissions by mail to: MAA Matters, Medical Alumni Association, 1 King's College Circle, MSB Rm 3249, Toronto ON M5S 1A8. Photos will be returned if requested.



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