

2024 CACN – Henry Dunn Lifetime Achievement Award

Dr. Anne Lortie, 2024 recipient

Dr. Lortie is recognized by her peers as a remarkable clinician, a fierce advocate, as well as an exceptional teacher and mentor. She has contributed immeasurably to the field of pediatric neurology and epilepsy through research, innovation, and the training of generations of pediatric neurologists. Throughout her career, she has worked to improve the care of children with epilepsy and neurodevelopmental diseases directly, and at the levels of health policy and administration. She leads with energy, devotion, and empathy. Her contributions earned her the 2021 Department of Pediatrics' award for clinical excellence.

After completing medical school, and residency in pediatrics and neurology at the Université de Montréal, Dr. Lortie pursued fellowship training in pediatric epilepsy at St-Vincent-de-Paul Hospital in Paris. She returned to Montreal with an expertise in epilepsy syndromes and evaluation for epilepsy surgery.

Dr. Lortie revolutionized the care of children with epilepsy at Sainte-Justine and in Quebec. She introduced the ketogenic diet and vagus nerve stimulation, and she initiated regular province-wide meetings to discuss complex cases. Throughout her career, Dr. Lortie has developed, integrated, and promoted the best clinical practices through clinical research, and local and international collaborations. She has authored 79 peer-reviewed scientific articles and 17 book chapters. She also co-authored the book "L'épilepsie chez l'enfant et

l'adolescent" (2006, Editions Ste-Justine) which quickly became an essential reference for professionals, patients, and their families.

Her service to the profession both within our institution and at the provincial level is commendable. Serving as the Chief of Neurology at Sainte-Justine for 16 years (1999-2014), she is responsible for its exponential growth. Her ability to engage stakeholders, motivate team members, and develop new initiatives had a tangible impact on the quality of care provided to patients. Indeed, her contribution to numerous committees including the steering committee of the multidisciplinary neurodevelopment clinic (CIRENE), and the pediatric-to-adult transition committee exemplify her lasting effect on the care of patients at Sainte-Justine. Provincially, she served as an advisor and vice president of the executive committee of doctors, dentists, and pharmacists (CMDP) and in numerous roles on the board of the Association of Quebec Neurologists.

While her professional accomplishments might already qualify her for this award, Dr. Lortie's true superpower is her training and mentorship. From the resident level up to junior (and even senior) staff, Dr. Lortie is a source of sound advice and generous support on all matters both professional and personal. She shares her clinical knowledge freely through invited speakerships, bedside teaching, and in the EEG lab. All who work with her learn from her exemplary professionalism, humanism, and compassion.



Of note, Dr. Lortie regularly becomes an important support system for international trainees during their time at Sainte-Justine and beyond. Indeed, there are pediatric neurologists now practicing in France, Lebanon, Italy, and those who remained in Canada consider Dr. Lortie family. In 2013, she was awarded the Guy Geoffroy Prize by pediatric neurology residents for her excellence in teaching and her support for educational initiatives. Additionally, since 2015, she has been actively involved in global education missions sharing her extensive knowledge with physicians in underserved regions including Vietnam, Haiti, Trinidad and Tobago, as well as in Guadeloupe and Martinique.

Dr. Lortie was nominated for this award by current, and past, colleagues and trainees in the Department of Neurology at CHU Sainte-Justine, and beyond.

In conclusion, they noted

"Dr. Lortie is a role model in the field of pediatric neurology, pediatrics, and neurology. We highlight her impact on the field of pediatric neurology through clinical research, academic service, initiation of programs, and the significant influence that she continues to have on trainees and faculty".

Thank you and Congratulations Dr. Lortie!

