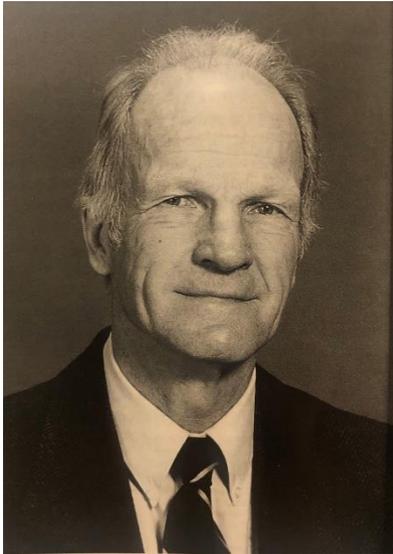


2019 Henry Dunn – CACN Lifetime Achievement Award winner

Dr. Gordon Watters



Gordon Watters is considered one of the first pediatric neurologists in Canada. He attended medical school in Manitoba, which was followed by pediatrics training at Cincinnati Children's Hospital and neurology training at the University of Chicago. He was the first pediatric neurologist on the Prairies working briefly in Winnipeg before joining Charles Barlow at Boston Children's Hospital. In 1969, he joined the Montreal Children's Hospital and McGill University, where he would stay for the remainder of his career. Dr. Watters was Director of the McGill Division of Pediatric Neurology and Program Director of its training program. He achieved the rank of Full Professor before retiring from active practice in 2008.

Dr. Watters was renowned as a master of the neurologic history and physical examination. He possessed an encyclopedic knowledge of the clinical neurosciences that enabled him to zero in on the correct diagnosis no matter how esoteric or rare. With each patient encounter he had an amazing ability to remember prior patients with similar presentations or similar conditions. Dr. Watters always had at his recall (and fingertips in his ever-expanding filing cabinet), a relevant paper that either confirmed the diagnosis or elaborated upon an aspect of pathogenesis or therapy. His knowledge of pediatric neurology seemed unlimited and he was always striving to do better for his patients. He embodies Osler's description of the great physician: ***The good physician treats the disease; the great physician treats the patient who has the disease.***

Dr. Watters was great a clinician but his true legacy was in the area of education. He was a generous teacher and practiced with extreme humility. He had a distinct ability to draw in medical students to the magic of pediatric neurology. Though demanding, with high expectations of his trainees, he instilled in them a desire to be the best they could be as clinicians, and for many, as academicians. Through this approach he inspired many to careers that combined research and clinical care. The measure of a man is what he leaves behind. Dr. Watters' neurological progeny provide a vibrant testimony to a lifetime of achievement in his chosen field.

We are proud to honor him this year with the 2019 CACN Henry Dunn – Lifetime Achievement Award.