

Canadian Neurological Sciences Federation's 2024 Distinguished Service Award



Dr. Joseph Megyesi, 2024 recipient

This is an award given to a senior member of the CNSF who has made an outstanding, notable, or special contribution to the Canadian Neurological Sciences Federation, and to one or more of the Federation's Societies and/or the CJNS (Journal); either through participation in the CNSF's committees, involvement in the Congress, the performance of administrative duties, or involvement in promoting the CNSF and its member societies.

Dr. Joseph Megyesi joined the Canadian Neurological Sciences Federation (CNSF) as a member of the Canadian Neurosurgical Society (CNSS) after becoming a staff neurosurgeon in the Department of Clinical Neurological Sciences (CNS) at LHSC-University Hospital and Western University in London, Ontario. Prior to this he completed medical school at Western University and neurosurgical residency at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. He obtained a Masters degree in biochemistry from Western University and a PhD in experimental surgery from the University of Alberta. He attended Harvard University as a Medical Research Council (MRC) of Canada Fellow where he worked with Dr. Judah Folkman at Boston Children's Hospital. He joined the CNS Department at the LHSC and Western University in 1998, where he is now professor in the Division of Neurosurgery.

Dr. Megyesi's involvement with the CNSF and CNSS has included being chairman and vice-chairman of the Professional Development Committee (PDC) and chairman and vice-chairman of the Scientific



Program Committee (SPC). The advent of the covid pandemic allowed/required Dr. Megyesi to be the SPC chair for an extended period of time, covering the Montreal Congress in 2022, the Banff Congress in 2023 and the Toronto Congress in 2024. In this role he helped with the planning of this year's 100 Years of Neurosurgery in Canada

celebration at the University of Toronto. Dr. Megyesi has represented the CNSF at the annual National Accreditation Conference (NAC) and has been the National Speciality Society (NSS) representative for the CNSF on the Royal College of Physician and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Accreditation

Dr. Joseph Megyesi, continued

Committee. His involvement with the Royal College continues as he now serves on other related committees. Dr. Megyesi is also a member of the CNSF guidelines committee and is a member of the editorial board of the Canadian Journal of Neurological Sciences (CJNS), where he was Distinguished Reviewer of the Year in 2010. Dr. Megyesi has chaired the McKenzie Prize adjudication committee at the CNSF for several years. Dr. Megyesi has been a chair/co-chair/speaker at many of the CNSF Congresses and has particularly enjoyed his involvement with the organization of the Neurosurgery Resident Review Courses.

During his day job at the London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) and Western University, Dr. Megyesi supplements his clinical duties with both education and research endeavours. He is a member of the CNS Department Education Committee and the CNS Department Research Committee. He organizes the neurosurgery resident seminar teaching and has organized the neurosurgery journal club as well as CNS departmental CPD events. Until recently he organized the CNS Departmental Research Day along with neurology colleague Dr. David Macdonald. He has been principal supervisor/co-supervisor/mentor to undergraduate students, graduate students, residents, and fellows. He has published scientific papers and served as peer reviewer for a number of scientific journals and various granting agencies. He is on the organizing committee of the annual national Ottawa Neurosurgery Review Course.

He is the regional representative in neuro-oncology for Cancer Care Ontario. With neuropathology colleague Dr. Robert Hammond and neuro-radiology colleague Dr. Andy Leung he developed the free on-line case-based learning tool called medCBL (medcbl.com) for neuroscience residents, fellows and consultants. Recently he was awarded the Angelika F. Hahn Award for Excellence in Clinical Teaching at Western University and was the invited Michael T. Richard Visiting Professor in Neurosurgery at the University of Ottawa.

Dr. Megyesi has been a volunteer with Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada (BTFC) for over 30 years, extending back to medical school. He served as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for six years. He has been chair of the research committee and served on several other committees, including advocacy, support and finance. His work led to the reinstatement of a research grant competition, a research fellowship competition, and an undergraduate/medical student research competition at the BTFC. He is co-director of the BTFC Brain Tumour Tissue Bank located at the LHSC-University Hospital in London, Ontario. He helped the BTFC to become a founding member of the North American Brain Tumor Funders Collaborative and laid much of the groundwork for the BTFC to partner with academia to create the Canadian Brain Tumour Registry, now the leading source of data to monitor brain tumour incidence rates in Canada. For his work with the BTFC he received an Ontario Volunteer Service Award in 2017.



Dr. Megyesi enjoys travel and photography. Trips include hikes to the summit of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, to Everest Base Camp in Nepal, to the summit of Half Dome in Yosemite National Park, USA, to the summit of Mount Fuji in Japan, a circuit hike around Mount Blanc in Europe, and a hike along the entire West Coast Trail in British Columbia, Canada. He has created a yearly calendar which includes photographs from many of these trips. This calendar is produced for the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada and is distributed to donors as well as neuroscience colleagues. Dr. Megyesi wishes to thank all the neuroscience colleagues that he has worked with over the years, especially those in neurosurgery, as well as Dan Morin and the staff at the CNSF.

Joe, on the behalf of the CNSF Executive and Board, CNSF Members, and the Secretariat, thank you for your dedication to the CNSF in the past, the present and hopefully for years to come.

View previous recipients at: cnsf.org/about-cnsf/distinguished-service-award