

In Memoriam: Dr. David Gass

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on behalf of

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To: DAL-ANNOUNCEMENT@LISTS.DAL.CA <DAL-ANNOUNCEMENT@LISTS.DAL.CA>

In Memoriam: Dr. David Gass

The Faculty of Medicine is deeply saddened to announce the passing of our great friend and former colleague, Dr. David Gass.

Dr. Gass was born April 29, 1945, in London, Ontario. He graduated from Mount Allison University in 1967 and attended Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar in 1969. Dr. Gass graduated *cum laude* from Dalhousie Medical School in 1973.

Dr. Gass started his practice in family medicine in Fredericton in 1973 and joined the Department of Family Medicine at Dalhousie in 1978, where he began his illustrious career as a leader and educator. Dr. Gass served as the Head of Department of Family Medicine from 1987-1995 and was responsible for the leadership and management of a large department with over 150 members. He prided himself on maintaining healthy, genuine working relationships with the teaching hospitals and his colleagues. Under his direction, the department grew in number and influence.

Dr. Gass served as Director of Primary Health Care and as Physician Advisor for Physician Health Human Resource Planning in the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness. Dr. Gass also served as the Chief of Medical Staff at the Cumberland Health Authority and was responsible for recruiting and implementing interprofessional teams in rural settings. He was steadfast and focused on creating change to the existing health system that would prioritize the needs of population and community health.

Cheerful and indefatigable, Dr. Gass came out from retirement to become Interim Head of the Department of Family Medicine on two occasions between 2017-2020, where he continued to advocate for the expansion of distributed family medicine educational programming. He led the opening of the North Nova Family Medicine residency training site in 2019.

In 1998, Dr. Gass was awarded the Donald I. Rice Merit Award from the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) in recognition of his outstanding work and contributions to teaching, vision and leadership in the discipline of family medicine. He was Chair, and a member of, numerous CFPC and other committees, including Chair of the Canadian Medical Association Committee on Ethics.

Dr. Gass was a wonderful leader and physician who was highly respected and admired by his colleagues and friends. He was a mentor to countless learners and physicians, who became better doctors because of his positive influence. He was passionate about family medicine. "Family physicians are specialists and they *are* special," he would say. No one embodied this attitude more than Dr. Gass himself - he was special.

Dr. Gass will be remembered for his compassion, kindness, sense of humour, humility and sincerity and as a person who was always there to help. He will be missed.

Dr. Gass' full obituary can be read here: <https://www.thechronicleherald.ca/obituaries/david-andrew-gass-53275/>