

In Memoriam - Dr. Brian Hennen

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on behalf of

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In Memoriam - Dr. Brian Hennen

It is with great sadness that we share the news that Dr. Brian Hennen, a retired faculty member in Dal's Faculty of Medicine, passed away on August 30, 2021.

Dr. Hennen earned his medical degree in 1962 from Queen's University and his master's degree in educational psychology from Michigan State University in 1969.

In 1969, he was one of the first 12 physicians to receive the Certification in the College of Family Physicians (CCFP) designation.

Among his many accomplishments, Dr. Hennen served as president of the College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) and as chair of the board of the Canadian Council of Health Accreditation. He was the first chair of the Section of Teachers for the College in 1978, and the first recipient of the D.I. Rice Fellowship. During his practice career, Dr. Hennen was a member of the Independent Living Nova Scotia Board and the Eastern representative of CFPC's national committee on developmental disabilities – one of his key areas of expertise and advocacy.

Dr. Hennen was an influential family physician and academic who made significant contributions to Dalhousie University as professor and head of the family medicine department at Dalhousie University from 1974 to 1987, then professor and chair of family medicine at Western University from 1987 to 1999, before joining the University of Manitoba as dean of medicine. Dr. Hennen sat on the boards of St. Boniface Hospital and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba.

He felt strongly that medical schools should be responsive to the concerns of students, residents, and graduate students. "They need to have influence on their learning programs," he said. "They need to be able to provide feedback . . . and it needs to be listened to."

In 2014, Dr. Hennen received a Lifetime Achievement in Family Medicine Research Award from the CFPC. The award honours individuals who are trailblazers and leaders, and who have made a significant career contribution to family medicine research.

He will be remembered in the hearts of many who have been helped by his skills, kindness, and selflessness. The Dalhousie University Faculty of Medicine and the entire Dalhousie University community extend condolences to Dr. Hennen's family.