



Dr. John F. Scott: CSPCP Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient, 2018

The Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians (CSPCP) is pleased to award a CSPCP Lifetime Achievement Award to Dr. John Scott, in recognition of his sustained and lasting contribution to palliative medicine and to the CSPCP.

Dr. John Scott is Associate Professor in the Division of Palliative Medicine at the University of Ottawa. In most of the last decade he has been based at The Ottawa Hospital, Civic campus as consultant to neurology, cardiology, geriatrics and other non-malignant diseases. He has been an active palliative care physician longer than anyone in this field worldwide, but he is now anticipating retirement from full-time practice.

Dr. Scott graduated from Medicine at the University of Toronto (1973) and interned at the University of Montreal. In early 1975, he joined Dr. Balfour Mount and Dr. Ina Cummings in developing Canada's first palliative care program at the Royal Victoria Hospital, McGill University. At that time, Dr. Scott and Dr. Cummings were two of only six physicians in the world practicing full-time palliative or hospice care along with another six part-time physicians. Like his two McGill colleagues, Dr. Scott spent five weeks at St Christopher's Hospice, London absorbing the expertise and philosophy of Dame Cicely Saunders, Dr. Mary Baines, Dr. Tom West, Dr. Therese Vanier and Dr. Robert Twycross. This close transatlantic connection had a pivotal impact on his life and on future palliative care development in Canada. Dr. Scott was a speaker at the inaugural Montreal Congress on Palliative Care in 1976 at which Dr. Mount had secured both Dame Cicely and Elizabeth Kubler Ross as keynote speakers.

Dr. Scott went on to undertake postgraduate studies in Theology (University of Toronto, M.Div. 1979) and Clinical Epidemiology (McMaster University 1982-5). He developed pioneer programs in the new discipline of Palliative Care at the University of Toronto (both St. Michael's Hospital and Women's College Hospital) and McMaster University (St. Joseph's Hospital). In 1984 he authored The Monograph on Cancer Pain Management which was distributed by Health Canada to all Canadian physicians promoting the methodology and philosophy of palliative care. It acted as a model for the 1986 WHO Cancer Pain Relief program. His CV went on to include many publications.

In 1988, Dr. Scott was recruited to Ottawa and was appointed Head of a newly created Division

of Palliative Medicine – the first such academic division in Canada. He was Chief of the clinical programs at both Bruyère and Ottawa General hospitals and later became Vice-President of the Bruyère Hospital. During his tenure as Division Head (1988–1998), there was significant growth in academic activities: Canada’s first postgraduate training program in Palliative Medicine and Canada’s first research institute in this discipline – The University of Ottawa Institute of Palliative Care. There was also rapid expansion in clinical activities with the Regional Unit at Bruyère becoming the largest unit in Canada and development of one of Canada’s earliest regional programs which included a consultation service throughout Eastern Ontario.

Dr. Scott was one of the founding members of the Canadian Society of Palliative Care Physicians. In 1992 he was one of a small group of leaders within the Canadian Palliative Care Association who envisioned the need for a distinct physician organization to advance the discipline. He was on both the original Pro-Tem Board of 1993 and the First Elected Board of 1994. From 1993-1998 he was Secretary-Treasurer with all business for the Society conducted from his Ottawa office (which also hosted the Secretariat of the Canadian Palliative Care Association of which he was a founding member).

John and his wife, Josie, have 8 children and from 1996-2008 they operated a farm on the outskirts of Ottawa which direct-marketed grass-fed organic meats.