



Undergraduate Narrative Award Honouree 2018/19

Dr. Lyle Galloway

The CSPCP Undergraduate Education Committee selects an individual each year who has made a significant contribution to palliative care. This person is invited to participate in the judging process that year and to present the award at the CSPCP conference.

Dr. Galloway worked in both rural and urban family medicine for a number of years before specializing in Palliative Medicine in 2001. He is past Medical Director of the Intensive Palliative Care Unit at Foothills Hospital in Calgary and currently leads the Pain/Palliative Service at the cancer centre there.

During his 11-year term the medical director of the Intensive Palliative Care Unit in Calgary, his actions and leadership inspired an environment of holistic, compassionate care that always honoured patients' stories. His students learned valuable lessons for him, including how to really listen to a person's story, not only to obtain a medical history but to obtain some knowledge about "what makes someone tick;" how to use silence to make room for a patient's story to emerge; how to honour and connect with someone on the unit and provide some joy when it seems unlikely. For example, he has been known to pick up on something they may have mentioned in passing, like a favourite song or music genre, and then take the time to learn the song and play it on the guitar in the "sun room," sometimes in the presence of family and friends. His actions have served as constant reminders that we are not only tasked with looking after patients with end of life medical issues, but that we need to recognize the stories of our patients, and endeavour to contribute to the plot in a meaningful way, however small and humble that contribution may be.

Dr. Galloway has been an active member of the Medical Humanities journal club at the University of Calgary, where narrative medicine articles are discussed and debated amongst a group from diverse disciplines.

Dr. Galloway has a regular meditation/mindfulness practice and loves music. He has multiple bicycles and guitars, two children, and two ferrets.