



Dr. Mike Harlos: CSPCP Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient, 2019

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

Dr. Harlos has worked in Palliative Care for 28 years. He has directly and indirectly made a sustained positive impact on patients and families, medical students, colleagues, other health care professionals, and the public.

Prior to his retirement in March 2019, Dr. Harlos was Medical Director of Palliative Care for the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority for 20 years, and also developed and led the Pediatric Palliative Care service after completing a one-year sabbatical in pediatric palliative care in 2006. Dr. Harlos is a Professor in the Max Rady College of Medicine at the University of Manitoba, and was the founding Section Head of Palliative Medicine, serving in that role for 22 years.

In addition to providing care to patients, he has mentored medical students and inspired a passion in many of them for learning more about palliative care. He created countless teaching materials, protocols, and programs for undergrad medical students and residents, student nurses, and professionals in many disciplines.

Dr. Harlos also served a Clinical Team Lead for the Canadian Virtual Hospice (CVH) from 2004 - 2019. His expertise has been shared nationally and internationally through the CVH web site, newsletters, and social media. He takes particular pride in his contributions to some of the online CVH articles such as the When Death Is Near, and the interactive Ask A Professional feature which helps support and inform patients, families, and health care providers about palliative care issues.

He was also a founding co-chair of the Canadian Network of Palliative Care for Children, whose web site he initially developed and maintained. In addition, he developed and maintained the website Palliative.info, which was active for 17 years.

Over the years Dr. Harlos has contributed to a variety of publications, including a chapter in the Oxford Textbook of Palliative Medicine, and an article describing an innovative protocol using intranasal fentanyl for symptom management in palliative newborns.

Dr. Harlos has been a member of the CSPCP since attending its first meeting in 1993 at the Canadian Hospice and Palliative Care Association conference in Winnipeg and was one of its Founding members. He actively contributed to the Society over the past 25 years as participant on numerous committees and working groups and a regular attendee of conferences and AGMs. He frequently volunteered his to help with CSPCP projects, such reviewing documents, and planning for the CSPCP's 21st anniversary celebration in 2014.

Dr. Harlos has been honoured with numerous awards including the Award of Excellence from the Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association (CHPCA) in 2006, the Eduardo Bruera Award from the CSPCP and the University of Alberta in 2007, and the CHPCA Award of Pediatric Excellence in 2017. In 2012, he received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his contributions to palliative care in Canada. For his work with the Canadian Virtual Hospice, he received the Canadian Health Informatics Association Clinician Leadership Award in 2011.

Dr. Harlos looks forward to spending more time with his two young grandsons and pursuing his hobbies of fly-fishing and outdoors activities, including kayaking and hiking.