

Dr. Russell Harpur

Dr. Russell Harpur completed his medical degree in 1968 at Queen's University of Belfast in Ireland. He went on to complete residency training in general medicine; pediatrics, surgery, emergency medicine and internal medicine.

In 1969, Northern Ireland was rocked by intense political and sectarian rioting and Dr. Harpur was involved in responding to many emergency calls in riot areas of Belfast.

During his training, he also served as a member of the intensive cardiac flying squad of the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast.

He completed additional training in Dermatology and STDs at the Montreal General Hospital in 1974. From 1978 to 1990, he received ongoing training in treating STDs from the American College Health Association Scientific Assemblies.

He became certified by the College of Family Physicians of Canada in 1975 and he participated in CFPC training workshops to provide medical education on HIV/Aids in the late eighties. In the nineties he received additional training in Acupuncture in Toronto.

Dr. Harpur opened a family practice in Lewisporte in 1970 and he practiced there for seven years.

In 1977, he became the Director of Student Health Services at Memorial University, which provides a full service on-campus clinic for students at MUN and the Marine Institute, as well as students' children and families of international students.

He also became a Clinical Associate Professor of Family Medicine, and has had a lasting impact on the many medical students and residents who he taught and trained at MUN's student health clinics. This also included classroom and clinical teaching of nurse practitioners.

He served as a member of the NLMA Continuing Education Committee and a member of the Board for the College of Family Physicians of Canada. He also served as Member and chair of the CFPC's Self Evaluation Program.

Dr. Harpur was also a Senior Examiner for the College of Family Physicians of Canada and an Examiner with the Medical Council of Canada.

He was also an active member of the American College Health Association, which links college health professionals throughout the world to advance the health of college students and campus communities through advocacy, education, and research. He also served with the Canadian Association of College and University Student Services.

During his career, Dr. Harpur was actively involved in reaching out to communities in the province to raise awareness on issues affecting health and wellness of teens and young adults.

This included multiple radio and TV interviews, visits to youth camps, schools, community colleges, Memorial University, the Grenfell Campus, community groups and the police.

He also participated in the Provincial Teaching Tour on HIV/AIDS and was an annual guest lecturer in human sexuality for third-year psychology students at Memorial.

He also introduced a peer health education program at Memorial, which was extended to rural communities, and he led the design of new medical clinics for the University Centre and the community of Lewisporte, where he first practiced.

He is also credited for introducing health and wellness education to Newfoundland and Labrador. And he was the first in the province to introduce pre-school medicals, which was started in Nortre Dame Bay.

During his career, Dr. Harpur was also very active with his church. He completed seminary courses in theology and pastoral care at Bible College. He became the Chairman of Deacons for the First Baptist Church in St. John's and he founded the First Baptist Academy private K-12 day school in 1981.

Since retirement from medical practice in 2006, Dr. Harpur has served as Pastor of Baptist churches in Carbonear, Mount Pearl and St. John's and he has served as church organist and choir master. He has also provided interfaith Sunday services to residents in seniors and retirement homes.

He is a former member and referee for the Newfoundland and Labrador Soccer Association and he still enjoys soccer in his spare time, as well as gardening.

He resides in CBS with his wife Barbara of 47 years. Together they have four children and 11 grandchildren.

In 2012, Dr. Harpur received the Honorary Life Membership Award from the Canadian Medical Association.

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