

## **MEDIA RELEASE**



Ontario College of Family Physicians  
Education | Leadership | Research | Advocacy  
A Chapter of the College of Family Physicians of Canada

### **Greater Toronto Area family doctors and health centre celebrated for excellence in patient care**

TORONTO, Nov. 8, 2017 – Two family doctors and a family practice in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) have been recognized for their medical leadership in Ontario by the Ontario College of Family Physicians (OCFP).

**Scarborough’s Dr. Paul Caulford** and **Woodbridge’s Dr. Brian David Klar** have been named 2017 Regional Family Physicians of the Year, while **Toronto’s Sherbourne Health Centre** has been named a 2017 Family Practice of the Year along with co-recipient Northeastern Ontario Medical Offices in Sudbury.

The announcement comes during Family Doctor Week in Canada, which runs from November 6-11, and is an opportunity to acknowledge the vital work family physicians do to help keep Ontarians healthy.

“Family medicine is at the heart of an effective health system, and it is the skill and dedication of family physicians and commitment to high-quality, compassionate, comprehensive and coordinated care that help keep Ontarians healthy,” said Dr. Glenn Brown, OCFP President. “I congratulate these deserving GTA awardees for exemplifying these values that are so integral to our profession.”

The OCFP’s Awards program recognizes excellence in community and medical leadership, outstanding contributions in teaching and exceptional teamwork. A list of all awardees is posted on the [OCFP website](#). The awards will be presented during the 2017 OCFP Awards Ceremony on November 23 in Toronto.

#### **Dr. Paul Caulford, Regional Family Physician of the Year (Toronto Central and Central) – *A tireless advocate for the health of marginalized populations***

Dr. Paul Caulford has dedicated his 39-year career as a family doctor to working on behalf of the disadvantaged. In 1999, he played a pivotal role in creating access to medical care for refugees and other marginalized populations by starting a community volunteer clinic in Scarborough - the first of its kind in Canada. Today, the Canadian Centre for Refugee and Immigrant Health Care has recorded more than 40,000 medical and dental visits and treated 13,000 refugees from over 120 countries.

Dr. Caulford’s leadership extends to education. As the first Program Director for Family and Community Medicine Education at the Scarborough Hospital, he helped establish and operate the first Family Medicine Program with the University of Toronto. He is well known as an encouraging and supportive mentor who never misses the opportunity to pass along his special knowledge of international and migrant health to the next generation of medical professionals.

#### **Dr. Brian Klar, Regional Family Physician of the Year (Mississauga-Halton and Central West) – *An inclusive leader and mentor dedicated to promoting excellence in family medicine***

Dr. Brian Klar has cared for patients from all walks of life for over three decades, through his comprehensive family practice in Woodbridge and in varied community settings – from seniors’ homes to the emergency room to the Safehaven Project for Community Living where he provides care for children with multiple disabilities and complex medical needs. Currently chief of Family Medicine at William Osler Health System, he provides experienced leadership for family physicians working within Osler’s three hospital sites and surrounding communities.

His passion for mentoring learners in their formative years has enriched the education of multiple students and residents, building their confidence and competence in delivering compassionate and high-quality care. While site director for the McMaster Family Medicine Residency Program, Dr. Klar helped champion a number of strategic initiatives to support the curriculum. These efforts built on the inherent strengths of the Brampton site, maturing it into a sought-after residency program.

**Sherbourne Health Centre, Toronto – *Supporting the diversity of its community through high-quality, responsive and culturally-appropriate care***

Located in downtown Toronto, Sherbourne Health Centre provides holistic primary care, chronic disease management, health promotion and education, outreach, social supports, and mental health services. The centre features a vibrant team of 11 physicians, 20 interdisciplinary health providers and administrative staff, with a focus on the LGBTQ community, homeless and under-housed people and newcomers to Canada.

Sherbourne responds to the emerging needs of the community and leads initiatives to improve access, holistic care and continuity of care to the neighbourhood. Among these initiatives are population-based out-of-hours clinics and unscheduled care, and Sherbourne’s Health Bus program, which provides ‘on-the-spot’ primary health care to homeless and under-housed people and supports over 10,000 client visits per year. Sherbourne is also known as a leader in providing primary care to trans and gender-diverse clients.

**About the Ontario College of Family Physicians (OCFP)**

The Ontario College of Family Physicians is the voice of family medicine representing over 13,000 family physicians providing patient care across communities throughout the province. The organization’s mandate is to support members by providing evidence-based education and professional development, by promoting and recognizing leadership excellence in family medicine, and by advocating for the role family physicians play in delivering the highest quality care to patients and families across Ontario.

**About Family Doctor Week in Canada**

From Nov. 6-11, 2017, the College of Family Physicians of Canada and its provincial chapters are celebrating Family Doctor Week in Canada. This special week is an opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding contributions made by family doctors to improve the health and well-being of their patients through their roles in clinics, hospitals, universities, and many other health care facilities in Canadian communities.

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**For more information and to schedule an interview:**

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