

Granger R Avery, MB BS, FRRMS President-elect 2015–2016



A world traveller in his youth, Dr. Granger Avery studied at the University of London in England and the Auckland University in New Zealand before settling in British Columbia (B.C.) in 1973. Following training in advanced obstetrics, he commenced a residency at the Vancouver General Hospital, specializing in anaesthesia, and settled in Port McNeil the following year. There, he started his general practice, which included emergency medicine, obstetrics, surgery and general anaesthesia.

Dr. Avery's lifelong dedication to patient service developed further with outreach clinics in 1979, when he started working with eight remote clinics in isolated communities. The next year was the first of what would be a 35+ year teaching career at the University of British Columbia (UBC). He rose from instructor, to professor, to become a member of several executive advisory committees on admission selection and post graduate expansion. As an advocate for education and equal access to health care, Dr. Avery continued to work in these areas, holding additional leadership positions within the B.C. Ministry of Health, the B.C. Medical Services Commission and the Hospital and Health Authority.

After 12 years of involvement with the British Columbia Medical Association (now Doctors of BC), Dr. Avery was elected president in 1997. In this role, he improved rural physician recruitment in B.C., lobbying the government, convincing them to withdraw the "Proration" laws which would have reduced physician fees and introduce 'On-Call' payments for rural physicians, a process that eventually spread to hospitals across Canada. Dr. Avery also authored the "Wait List" system, which recorded the number of patients awaiting surgery and diagnostic care, and made this publically available, persuading the government to improve funding to many essential services. Now a national initiative, it was the first of its kind in Canada to be developed at a provincial level.

In 2000, Dr. Avery recognized the need for a co-ordinated medical body to help manage the issues faced by those practicing in rural health care environments, and created with government the first BCMA Collaborative committee which now manages BC's rural programs. In 2005, he and his colleagues developed the Rural Co-ordination Center of B.C., an initiative that continues to grow and promote a wide range of activities, including education.

Dr. Avery has also been involved in the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) for many years. He was an integral member of the CMA Council on Health Care in 1993 and has since played a variety of roles within the organization, including serving as Chair of CMA's CEO Search and Review Committee, as well as Director and Vice Chair of the CMA Board of directors.

Dr. Avery continues to be deeply committed to the health care system in his local community, across Canada and around the world. From speaking engagements, to volunteer work, and his membership in a wide-range of associations and commissions, Dr. Avery demonstrates passion and commitment for all the work he does. For the last 10 years, he has been working to understand the importance of, and improve, the entire "Continuum of Care" – a physician's life cycle and the necessary system supports.

Duly recognized for his contributions, Dr. Avery has received awards including the Doctors of BC Silver Medal, the Excellence in Teaching award from UBC's Department of Family Practice and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal for his Services to Rural Medicine.

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