Dr. Gordon S. Fahrni, MD

CMA President, 1941-42
University of Manitoba, 1911
Surgery

Dr. Gordon Fahrni, who died in 1995 at age 108, will be remembered for a lifetime of service to the medical profession as a clinician, teacher, military physician, scientist, writer and leader. When he turned 100 in 1987, he told CMAJ that became a doctor because of the diseases that stalked Canada when he was a boy. He lost two friends to diphtheria and tuberculosis, and asked, “Why doesn’t somebody do something about this?” He played a key role in the survival of the CMA in 1921, when he helped to overturn a motion to let the then debt-ridden organization die. He attended his last CMA annual meeting in 1993, when he was 106. The Historical Records Section at the CMA was renamed in his honour in 1991 — 50 years after he has served as CMA President.