Dr. Duncan L. Kippen, MD, CRCPC

CMA President, 1970-71
University of Manitoba, 1942
Gastroenterology

Dr. Kippen, the son of a rural GP and a World War II veteran, served as President of the Manitoba Medical Association before assuming the CMA’s top job. He became President while Canada’s medicare system was still in its infancy, and later recalled the new system’s heady first days: “The most obvious change was that doctors were now paid for everything they did, so their incomes increased by up to 50%. Later on, as I had always warned, the squeeze came.” He also issued a warning about medicare’s future: “Government has limited money. If all of it is spent on health care, who will build the bridges and roads and schools and provide the essential services? When it comes to satisfying the increasing aspirations and demands of the public with respect to health care, there is no limit — it is a bottomless pit.”