Dr. Frederic N.G. Starr, MD, FACS

CMA President, 1927-28
University of Toronto, 1889
General surgery

Dr. Starr’s service to surgery and medicine wasn’t limited to Canada, for he was a founding fellow of the American College of Surgeons (ACS). In Canada he not only served as CMA President but also as the first secretary-general. At the time he was 26, and had left medical school just four years earlier. “Membership in the CMA increased dramatically during his eight-year tenure,” the ACS would later write. He was also a driving force in the creation of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1931 and served as its first surgeon president. He was also highly regarded in clinical medicine, serving as senior surgeon at the Toronto General Hospital. “His genius was essentially clinical,” CMAJ stated in his obituary. “His operations were models of clear planning, quietness and rapid work, and he had one of the largest surgical practices in the Dominion.” In 1936, two years after his death, the CMA created the F.N.G. Starr Award, its highest honour. It recognizes doctors for their medical and humanitarian contributions to Canadian medicine.