Dr. William Vail, MD, FRCSC

CMA President, 1985-86
University of Ottawa, 1952
General surgery

Dr. Vail, who served in the infantry, was one of many CMA Presidents to see action overseas in WW II. He entered medical school after the war, and served as President of the Ontario Medical Association before moving into the CMA’s top job. While serving as President, he encouraged the association to act as an advocate for the membership and as an adviser to governments and the public on matters of health care. “There comes a time,” he told CMAJ, “when you have to stop fighting city hall and start negotiating.”