

The SOGC swears in a new President and honours contributions of its members

Victoria, B.C. – June 29, 2018 - The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) welcomes a new President today while awarding the contributions of two of its members whose work continues excellence in the field of obstetrics and gynaecology in Canada.

Dr. Linda Stirk was sworn in today during the SOGC's Annual Clinical and Scientific Conference as the 75th President of the Association and she will serve in this role from June 2018 - June 2019. Prior to becoming President, Dr. Stirk served as the Board's Treasurer for three years after spending many years on the Finance Committee.

"This is a great honour for me," says Dr. Linda Stirk. "The SOGC works tirelessly in its mission to advance the health of women in Canada, and around the world. And I am especially honoured that I have been appointed President as we celebrate our 75th anniversary as an association in the coming year."

Dr. Stirk completed an undergraduate B.Sc. in genetics, a PhD in biochemical genetics and medical school at McGill University. She completed her residency in obstetrics and gynaecology at Dalhousie University and then worked at the Victoria General Hospital and Grace Maternity Hospital in Halifax, Nova Scotia from 1986 – 1993. Since moving to Toronto, Dr. Stirk has had a busy practice and is an active clinical teacher from 1993 to present. Currently, she holds an appointment at the University of Toronto and a hospital appointment at the North York General Hospital.

Dr. Stirk says she looks forward to carrying on the work of the SOGC Presidency as she succeeds Dr. Michael Bow, who served from 2017 - 2018. The work ahead of her includes warning pregnant women about the risks involved with cannabis use in pregnancy; advocating for the reduction of opioid usage in clinical practice; promoting uniform national standards of care; and strengthening the SOGC's academic voice and education initiatives to improve health research, evidence-based care, and emergency response in medical practice.

"Michael, thank you for mentoring me as you pass on the baton of presidency," says Dr. Stirk.

As Dr. Bow welcomed Dr. Stirk into the role of SOGC President, he also acknowledged the achievements of Canadian leaders in the field of obstetrics and gynaecology with two awards.

"The SOGC President's Award is the highest recognition awarded to a member. It is with great honour that I present this year's President's Award to Dr. Douglas Bell," says Dr. Bow.

Dr. Douglas Bell is Associate Executive Director/Managing Director, Safe Medical Care with the CMPA.

"While not measurable, it is likely that Doug has prevented a great deal of medical error in his career with the unfailing commitment he has shown to educating all obstetric and gynaecology practitioners...many of us mark [his] sessions in our syllabus as a must attend," adds Dr. Bow.

The 2018 winner of the SOGC Distinguished Service Award is Dr. Tony Armson, professor and head of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology at Dalhousie University, senior physician for the women's and newborn health program for the IWK health centre, and the central zone chief, obstetrics and gynaecology for the Nova Scotia Health Authority.

Dr. Tony Armson is also president-elect for the SOGC 2019 - 2020 term.

For more information or to arrange a media interview please contact:

Anne Trueman, Director of Communications

Email: atrueman@sogc.com

Telephone: 613-617-7074

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About The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada

The SOGC is one of Canada's oldest national specialty organizations. Established in 1944, the Society's mission is to promote excellence in the practice of obstetrics and gynaecology and to advance the health of women through leadership, advocacy, collaboration and education. The SOGC represents obstetricians/gynaecologists, family physicians, nurses, midwives and allied health professionals working in the field of sexual reproductive health. For more information, please visit www.sogc.org