DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY | FACULTY OF MEDICINE

INFORMED NEWSLETTER

May News

From celebrating trailblazing alumni to unveiling breakthroughs in brain surgery simulation and mental health research, this issue of *REMEDY* is all about progress, purpose, and possibility.

Meet Dr. Franklin Sim, a Dalhousie graduate whose life of service has shaped global medicine.

Discover how the latest Molly Appeal is transforming surgical training, and how Dal researchers are mapping the genetics of OCD.

Plus, explore how stories of innovation, equity, and student excellence continue to define our shared vision for healthier communities.

More stories like this can be found on our website.

Empower documentary showcases Dalhousie researchers' cancer wellness program

A new documentary about a unique program two Dalhousie researchers created to improve the mental health, wellness, and quality of life of people with cancer premiered May 4 at the Joseph Straub Concert Hall.

Faculty of Medicine researchers highlight solutions at Dal Engagement Day

From finding ways to stop an aggressive breast cancer from spreading, to using surgical robots to personalize osteoarthritis treatment, Faculty of Medicine researchers presented their solutions to pressing health challenges at Dalhousie's Engagement Day on May 2.

Unlocking the genetic clues behind OCD

A groundbreaking study led by Dalhousie University researchers has produced the most comprehensive genetic map of obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), identifying 30 areas of the human genome linked to the debilitating mental health condition that affects up to three per cent of the world's population.

News & Updates

More exciting updates from Dalhousie's Faculty of Medicine are below. To learn more or donate, visit our website.

Transforming Surgical Training and Saving Lives Through Simulation

molly appeal FOR HEALTH RESEARCH

This spring, the Molly Appeal is helping to bring revolutionary simulation technology to the operating room—empowering surgeons with the tools they need to rehearse life-saving procedures before they happen.

With your support, Dalhousie University's Faculty of Medicine will train surgeons using the new Mentice IVR Simulation Device, a state-of-the-art piece of equipment that functions like a flight simulator.

This system will help train the next generation of neurovascular specialists improve surgical outcomes for stroke and aneurysm patients, and open new doors for research in surgical education and patient safety.

Girls Just Wanna Have Funding

The "Girls Just Want to Have Funding" campaign is designed to empower women researchers and amplify their contributions to the scientific community. This initiative celebrates International Women's Day by raising critical funds to support women-led and women-focused research at Dalhousie's Faculty of Medicine.

CHECK OUT THE LATEST ISSUE OF REMEDY MAGAZINE!

READ IT HERE

Featuring stories like:

THE GIFT OF JOY: Remembering Andrew MacEachern

HEATING UP THE FIGHT AGAINST CANCER: Dal Researcher Develops Targeted Immune-Boosting Therapy

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS World-Leading Researcher's Push for Prevention and Cure

A Life of Service, A Moment of Honour: Dr. Franklin Sim Receives Dalhousie's Highest Recognition

When Dr. Franklin Sim first stepped onto the Dalhousie University campus as a wide-eyed 17-year-old from Pictou County, Nova Scotia, he had two dreams: to study science and to play hockey.

Like many Canadian boys, Dr. Sim was passionate about Canada's game, and he saw a path to playing pro. When the scouts came knocking, Dr. Sim's mother put her foot down.

"She said to me, 'son, if you're going to play hockey, you're doing it at university' and so I changed my track," Dr. Sim recalls.

"Over the next eight years, I achieved both," he recalls with a smile. He balanced playing for Dalhousie's hockey team while studying medicine. "I had a wonderful time at Dalhousie, and I still feel that sense of awe and commitment to the university to this day."

Dalhousie's Highest Honour

That lasting connection has now come full circle, as Dr. Sim receives Dalhousie University's highest honor—an honorary doctorate—in recognition of his extraordinary contributions to medicine, education, and global health. A globally recognized leader in orthopaedic oncology, Dr. Sim's career has spanned five decades, beginning with his surgical training at the Mayo Clinic in 1965. There, he became a pioneer in the then-emerging field of musculoskeletal tumor surgery.

"When I started, the results were dismal," he says. "Survival rates were low, and amputation was often the only option. But over time, rapid advances in imaging, chemotherapy, and surgical techniques revolutionized the field."

Dr. Sim had a front-row seat to that evolution—and often, a hand on the steering wheel. He helped develop early limb-salvage surgeries and custom implants for patients with bone tumors, ultimately influencing practices around the globe.

"It was a compelling field, and it asked a lot of us, and of our brave patients," he says. "But we kept pushing forward. Now, with 3D printing and computer-assisted surgery, it's incredible how far we've come."

Shaping the future of orthopedic surgery

Beyond the operating room, Dr. Sim made equally significant contributions to education and research. At Mayo, he co-founded a tumor fellowship program in 1972, training a generation of surgeons from around the world. "We're very proud of their accomplishments," he says. "Many became leaders in the field."

Continue Reading...