

# DALHOUSIE MEDICINE NEW BRUNSWICK

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Annual Report  
2020-2021



**DALHOUSIE  
UNIVERSITY**

FACULTY OF MEDICINE  
Dalhousie Medicine  
New Brunswick



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## Dean's Message

It has been a remarkable year at Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick (DMNB), as we continue to build a strong reputation for medical education and research in the province.

I have been, and continue to be, impressed with and proud of the Dalhousie Medical School community's response to challenge and change. We have learned to lead by example, becoming more agile, innovative, and decisive when it comes to providing better, more inclusive health care for the communities we serve. We have not simply watched and observed as the world changed; instead, students, faculty and staff have stood up, engaged, and helped their community respond. I want to thank everyone who has been working so hard to keep the public safe in these challenging times.

2021 welcomed the eleventh cohort of students into the study of medicine in New Brunswick, led by our outstanding Associate Dean, Dr. Jennifer Hall. Our preliminary data suggests that a high proportion of DMNB graduates return to work in New Brunswick because of the excellent educational experiences they have received in this province. With five undergraduate teaching sites located throughout the province, DMNB provides learners with one of the best distributed educational experiences in Canada, under the direction of Dr. Robert Boulay, Assistant Dean for Clinical Education.

Throughout the 2020-2021 academic year, DMNB students received a total of \$606,433 in funding. The New Brunswick Medical Education Foundation continues to be a leading support for students, and I am pleased to share that of 42 scholarships awarded, 28 went to DMNB students at the eleventh annual scholarship reception on September 24, 2020.

2021 marks the completion of the strategic plan of the Faculty of Medicine #DalMedForward. This report highlights achievements in what have been three of our strategic priority areas: Education, Research, and Serving and Engaging Society. #DalMedForward has paved the way to fulfilling our vision to be internationally leading in medical education and research and being responsive to the health needs across the Maritimes. As we move toward a new strategic plan, I am pleased with the progress and achievements of our faculty over the past academic year.

As we reflect on our accomplishments, it is important for us to refocus and look ahead to the next phase of strategic planning. In a rapidly changing world and out of the necessity to continue our strong work in medical research, education, and serving and engaging society, there are many opportunities ahead for us to have meaningful impact.

What we, the Faculty of Medicine, are doing to be leaders in system change and how we are serving our communities will make us better educators, scientists and physicians who stand against intolerance, prejudice, and racism. Focusing on diversity, equity, community representation, and disrupting racism and colonialism in all its forms will lead to improved health care for all.

My sincerest thanks to our faculty, staff, students, residents, fellows, alumni, patients, and donors, as well as our community partners; Horizon Health, University of New Brunswick, University of Moncton, and the New Brunswick provincial government. As we move forward, you have been — and will continue to be — the reason for our success.

**David Anderson, MD, FRCPC, FACP**  
Dean, Dalhousie Medical School



## Associate Dean's Update

While the 2019-2020 annual report reflected an academic year split between a pre- and post-pandemic reality with some of our regular activities remaining unchanged, the 2020-2021 report tells the story of a year firmly rooted in change, but also innovation and excellence.

The fall of 2020 marked Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick's 10th anniversary and, to commemorate the occasion, there had been plans to host a more elaborate First Light Ceremony in September followed by a special celebratory event in October. Considering provincial Public Health measures in place at the time, we postponed our 10-year celebration and downsized our First Light Ceremony from a gathering of 120 guests to 50. Moving to a larger venue to help promote physical distancing, the 2020 First Light Ceremony invited the 30 students of the DMNB Class of 2024 and select speakers. Despite these challenges, we were pleased to be able to continue this tradition and welcome our newest cohort into the study of medicine in New Brunswick with an in-person event!

One by one, annual activities moved online. For instance, the Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs) in November transitioned to a virtual asynchronous format, which still allowed for New Brunswick assessors to participate in the process. CaRMS interviews were also conducted virtually; however, I was pleased to be able to celebrate match results in the spring with the DMNB Class of 2021. A small group of faculty and staff stood at a distance and cheered on members of the graduating class as they arrived at the DMNB building in staggered intervals and noted their residency location on the CaRMS map. This year, 54% of DMNB students chose Royal College programs and 46% chose Family Medicine programs with 64% of the class matching to programs here in Atlantic Canada.

To be one step ahead of the pandemic, we planned for three different versions of the Launch Ceremony in May and, in the end, we were able to proceed with Plan A, which was a safe return to an in-person ceremony at the Imperial Theatre! Each member of the graduating class was able to invite three guests and the event was livestreamed to allow family, friends, and stakeholders to join in the celebration.

I am proud to share that, under the direction of Dr. Paul Atkinson, our Associate Dean of DMNB Research, the research enterprise at Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick continues to flourish. This year alone, DMNB Investigators published 50 papers and won 8 grants as principal applicants for a total of \$453,928. As co-applicants, they were awarded 7 national grants and 1 provincial grant for a total of \$14,272,122 – not to mention over \$8M in matching funds! We also celebrated the graduation of Joshua Stanton (MSc, supervised by Dr. Tony Reiman) and Purvi Trivedi (PhD, supervised by Dr. Thomas Pulinilkunnil), and were delighted to welcome Dr. Shane Journeay as the new J. D. Irving Limited Research Chair in Occupational Medicine, based here at Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick.

While this message touches on just a few highlights in a year full of accomplishments, the rest of this report details the many ways in which our students, faculty, and staff continue to make Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick a leader in medical education and research in our province. The pandemic has changed many things about the way we live and learn, but our passion for meeting the healthcare needs of New Brunswickers remains unchanged.

**Jennifer Hall, MSc, MD, CCFP, FCFP**  
Associate Dean, DMNB

**OUR MISSION**

**What we exist to do**

The Faculty of Medicine inspires and enables excellence in health care through its medical education and research programs, and by serving and engaging society.

**OUR VISION**

**What we work toward**

International leadership in medical education and research, responsive to health needs across the Maritimes.

**RESEARCH**

- F1 International Leadership in Health Research**
- G1** To achieve national/international recognition for accomplishments in important areas of health research
  - P 1.1: Identify relative potential and mobilize
  - P 1.2: Strengthen infrastructure and supports
- F2 Research Responsive to Health Needs Across the Maritimes**
- G2** To leverage the Faculty's research expertise so as to enhance the health of Maritimers
  - P 2.1: Partner to establish focus and momentum
  - P 2.2 Strengthen infrastructure and supports to help drive the joint research strategy

**EDUCATION**

- F3 Building on Educational Excellence**
- G3** To continue producing excellent undergraduate and graduate scientists and physicians by building on innovative education programs and targeted areas of focus
  - P 3.1: Deepen our commitment to continuous improvement
  - P 3.2: Evolve, focus, and transform
  - P 3.3: Build capacity for continuous improvement
- F4 Medical Education Responsive to Health Needs of the Maritimes**
- G4** To enhance the health of Maritimers through excellence in education
  - P 4.1: Engage stakeholders as active partners in our mission
  - P 4.2 Develop capabilities across the education continuum to leverage medical education and accelerate the transformation identified in 4.1
  - P 4.3: Develop leaders in innovation and engagement
- F5 Leadership through Scholarship in Medical Education**
- G5** To continue to be nationally and internationally recognized for scholarship in education which contributes to the health of the Maritime population and more broadly
  - P 5.1: Focus
  - P 5.2: Build capacity for education research and continuously improve

**SERVING & ENGAGING SOCIETY**

- F6 Catalyzing Systems Change to Improve Health Outcomes**
- G6** To be a valuable agent of socially responsible change for Maritime health systems
  - P 6.1: Take stock
  - P 6.2: Partner and challenge the status quo
  - P 6.3: Enhance our own capacity
- F7 Partnering with Communities for Improved Health Outcomes**
- G7** To see equitable health outcomes for diverse populations with underrepresented voices in health systems
  - P 7.1: Get beyond concepts
  - P 7.2 Build capacity for education research and continuously improve

**ORGANIZATIONAL, OPERATIONAL & FISCAL RENEWAL**

**OUR CORE VALUES - What characterizes our work**

Excellence, innovation, life-long learning, and evidence-based critical inquiry

Relationships that are collegial, collaborative, respectful, and professional

Responsiveness to regional, national, and international health needs

Integrity, accountability, transparency, and fairness

Social responsibility, diversity, and advocacy

# Education

*As one of the priority initiatives of #DalMedForward, education is part of the school's fundamental mission to inspire and enable excellence in health care.*

## ADMISSIONS

### Multiple Mini Interviews (MMI)

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Multiple Mini Interviews (MMI) were adapted to a virtual asynchronous format, which meant that assessors would not be interacting directly with the applicants but rather reviewing their video responses to questions.

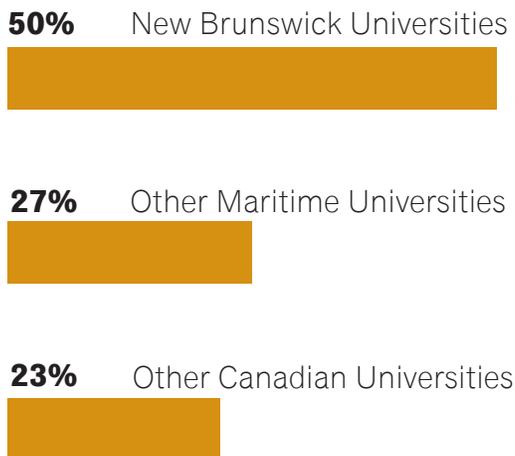
Hosted on the Kira Talent software platform, the 2020 MMI asked applicants to access Kira Talent on a designated date and time to complete the virtual interview. They were presented with five video-recorded questions and had five minutes to respond to each question.

New Brunswick assessors participated in the process and were asked to review and assess applicants' video-recorded responses.

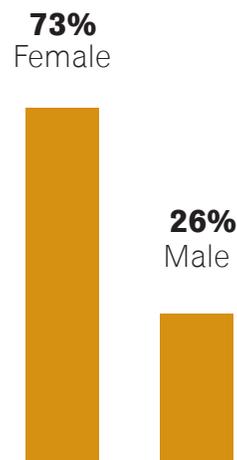
This assessment, in conjunction with all other information collected, is used to help the admissions committee determine which applicants may be best suited for the Medical Education Program at Dalhousie University.

### Class of 2025: Demographic Information

#### Location of Previous Study



#### Male/Female Student Ratio



**9** students from the Class of 2025 hold a graduate degree

# STUDENTS

## Class of 2024

In September 2020, Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick welcomed its eleventh cohort of students into the study of medicine in New Brunswick at the annual First Light Ceremony.

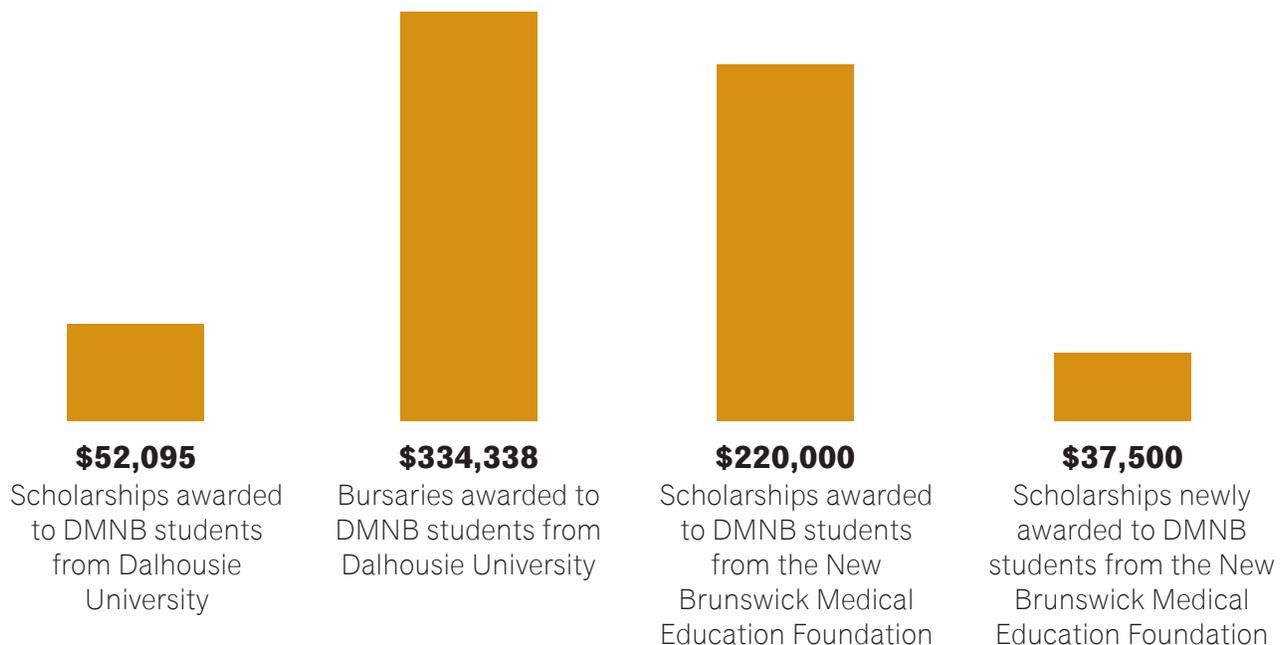
A beloved DMNB tradition, the First Light Ceremony celebrates the entrance of each new class into the world of medicine in New Brunswick, typically inviting DMNB staff, faculty, and special guests. This year, the First Light Ceremony moved venues to help promote physical distancing and was reduced to a gathering of 50 people in accordance with provincial Public Health measures.



*The DMNB Class of 2024 with Dr. David Anderson (far left) and Dr. Jennifer Hall (far right).*

## Funding Awarded to DMNB Students

In the 2020-2021 academic year, DMNB students received **a total of \$606,433** in funding.



## Student Performance

DMNB students performed comparably to DMNS students across all four years of the program.

# CaRMS

In May 2021, 28 DMNB students participated in the Canadian Resident Matching Service (CaRMS), Canada's post-graduate medical training application, selection, and matching system.

Of the 28 students who applied, 93% matched to a residency program in Canada in the first round of CaRMS and the remaining 7% matched in the second round of CaRMS.

## Where DMNB Graduates Go for Residency

**64%** Atlantic Canada



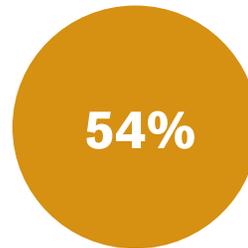
**18%** Central Canada



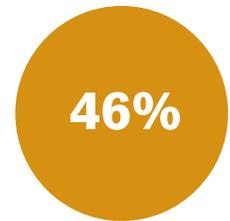
**18%** Western Canada



## Residency Programs



Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC)



College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC)



The number of DMNB Class of 2021 students who will be carrying out their residency in New Brunswick

## CaRMS: An Overview

	2020	2021	Trend
% of students passing the Medical Council of Canada Exam (Part I)	100%	97%	↓
% match in first CaRMS & US System iterations	93%	93%	◆
% match in second CaRMS & US System iterations	100%	100%	◆
% match to Family Medicine Specialty	30%	46%	↑

## Class of 2021

On May 14, DMNB celebrated the end of the Class of 2021's four years with Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick with the eighth annual Launch Ceremony. This year, the ceremony took place in-person at the Imperial Theatre in Saint John, NB and was livestreamed to allow family, friends, stakeholders to join in the celebration.

A pre-recorded version of the ceremony produced in collaboration with Dalhousie's MedIT video and audio production services premiered on the DMNB YouTube channel later that evening.

This year's Launch Ceremony awards included:

**Anchor Award:** *Renea Leskie*. Awarded by the graduating class in recognition of the individual who has made the most significant contribution to their experience at DMNB.

**Best in Class Award:** *Dr. Monica Graves*. Determined annually by the students in the first and second year of their medical program. The recipient is selected as having demonstrated an outstanding commitment to and passion for teaching excellence while exemplifying the best characteristics of a skilled tutor.

**Resident Teaching Award:** *Dr. Matthew Spear (Block) and Dr. Louisa Filice (LIC)*. Awarded to the resident(s) the class feels has most significantly contributed to their medical education clerkship career.

**DMRF Lewis and Atkinson Award for Emergency Medicine and Point of Care Ultrasound:** *Dr. Pat Price and Ilya Abelev*. Awarded to recognize a DMNB student, NB-based Dalhousie Medicine resident, or other healthcare professional working with a Dalhousie faculty member who has undertaken a project that demonstrates excellence and innovation in research and education in Emergency Medicine and Critical Care.

**Builder's Award:** *Brynn Aucoin*. Awarded by staff and presented to the graduating student they feel has made the greatest contribution to DMNB.

**Director's Choice Clinical Skills Award:** *Robert Hanlon* Awarded by the Director of the Skilled Clinician Course recognizing the graduating student who demonstrates aptitude and excellence in Medicine.

**Stefan Mildenberger Award in Social Pediatrics:** *Victoria Kulesza*. Awarded to a graduating DMNB student who has demonstrated exceptional contributions to social pediatrics during their medical school years.

**Humanities Award:** *Natalie Goodine*. Awarded to a member of the graduating DMNB class who has demonstrated the attributes of humanism during their training, and contributed to the concept and spirit of the Humanities in Medicine.

**Humanities Award: Fostering Professional Identity:** *Scott Fenwick*. Given to a graduating DMNB student who has demonstrated professionalism, community service, and teamwork through the Humanities Program at Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick.

**Dr. John M. Steeves Research in Medicine (RIM) Award:** *Faith Moore*. Awarded to a graduating DMNB student in recognition of excellence in the completion of the four-year course in Research in Medicine (RIM).

**Dr. Mahesh Raju Internal Medicine Award:** *Nicholas Quinn*. Presented to the graduating DMNB student with the highest academic standing in internal medicine.

**LICD Highest Academic Standing Award:** *Emma Jeffrey*. Given to a graduating DMNB student who achieved the highest academic standing among the students assigned to a LICD site in New Brunswick.

**LICD Patient Champion Award:** *Emma Jeffrey*. Given to a graduating DMNB student who demonstrated aptitude and excellence in fostering continuous, caring relationships between patients and their families, and the coordination of care in the healthcare setting.

**Award for Excellence in Family Medicine:** *Scott Fenwick and Benjamin McMullin*. Given to the graduating DMNB student(s) who had the highest academic standing in Family Medicine and who matched to Family Medicine in the Maritimes.

**Award for Excellence in Geriatric Medicine:** *Lucy Eum*. Awarded by the Geriatrics Department at the Saint John Regional Hospital to a graduating DMNB student who demonstrates aptitude and excellence in the field of geriatric medicine.

**Award for Excellence in Internal Medicine:** *Nicholas Quinn*. Awarded by the Saint John Regional Hospital Internal Medicine Department to a graduating DMNB student who demonstrates aptitude and excellence in the field of Internal Medicine.

**Dr. Paul Handa Excellence in Nephrology Award:** *Nicholas Quinn*. Presented on behalf of Dr. Paul and Mrs. Eileen Handa, this is awarded to a graduating student who demonstrates aptitude and excellence in the field of Nephrology.

**Award for Excellence in Emergency Medicine:** *Benjamin McMullin and Robert Hanlon*. Awarded by the Saint John Regional Hospital Emergency Medicine Department to the graduating DMNB student(s) who demonstrate(s) aptitude and excellence in the field of Emergency Medicine.

**Award of Excellence in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation:** *Molly Jackson*. Awarded by the Stan Cassidy Centre for Rehabilitation to a graduating DMNB student who demonstrates exceptional skill and enthusiasm towards the specialty of physical medicine and rehabilitation.

## Convocation

On May 21, all 28 students in the DMNB Class of 2021 became Doctors of Medicine during the virtual Convocation Ceremony that took place live from Halifax.

Excitingly, 4 out of the 10 students who graduated with distinction were DMNB's own Brynn Aucoin, Scott Fenwick, Emma Jeffrey, and Kim Mosseler. Our students also went on to win 7 awards:

**Dr. John F. Black Prize:** *Nicholas Quinn*. This prize is awarded to the graduating student with the highest standing in surgery.

**Dr. Mabel E. Goudge Prize:** *Emma Jeffrey*. This prize is awarded for outstanding achievement among female medical students.

**Dr. Clara Olding Prize:** *Scott Fenwick*. This prize is awarded for the highest standing in the clinical years, character, and previous scholarship being taken into consideration.

**Dr. Leonard Kay & Simon Levine Scholarship:** *Alyssa BeLong*. This prize is awarded for pursuing studies in Family Medicine.

**The James Walker Wood Award:** *Scott Fenwick*. This prize is awarded to a student entering a Family Medicine Residency Program at Dalhousie University with preference given to those involved in extracurricular activities such as medical research, rural family medicine interest groups, community participation, leadership qualities.

**The Albert A. Schwartz Prize in Orthopedics:** *Victoria Kulesza*. This prize is awarded for demonstrating excellence and aptitude in Orthopedics.

**Earle Family Prize:** *Scott Fenwick*. This prize is awarded to students who have demonstrated the skills necessary to practice rural medicine in New Brunswick.

Sponsored by the Dalhousie Medical Alumni Association, the DMAA Gold & Silver D Awards are a long-standing tradition; recipients are selected based on: class participation, activity with the DMSS, sports involvement, outstanding class spirit, and leadership or involvement that is not part of the formal class positions.

2 members of the DMNB Class of 2021 were the recipients of DMAA Gold & Silver D Awards:



**Gold D Recipient**  
*Brynn Aucoin*



**Silver D Recipient**  
*Natalie Goodine*

# CURRICULUM

## Clinical Education Update



The clinical education of students at Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick continues to thrive, amidst (and sometimes despite) the continuing global pandemic. Episodic travel restrictions between the Maritime provinces, other national and international barriers to travel, and ongoing evolution and spread of the COVID-19 virus and its variants of concern certainly made it an interesting and challenging 12 months for medical students, faculty, and administrative staff at DMNB. Students at all sites were able to successfully complete objectives for their third year clerkships, and have transitioned into their fourth year electives.

The Class of 2021 completed their Dalhousie-based electives and have made the successful transition into residency training; all DMNB graduates successfully matched into training programs. This year, we are fortunate to see many of our graduates remain in New Brunswick and the Atlantic provinces for their postgraduate training. We look forward to welcoming them into practice in New Brunswick at the completion of their residencies!

Some restructuring at the Undergraduate Medical Education (UGME) level has resulted in the hiring of new directors for PIER 1 and 2 (Dr. Colin Rouse, Saint John) and PIER 2 (D. Paul Frankish, Saint John). We were sad to see the departure of Natalie Vautour, the Director of Operation at DMNB, as she was an invaluable member of our team since the inception of DMNB, and her hard work and tireless support for our clinical teaching will be missed. Melissa Budd

has been hired as our new Director of Operations, and we look very much forward to working with her as we strive to continuously improve and grow our educational opportunities across the province.

Our many Clerkship Directors in Saint John and across the province, as well as our Director of Clinical Skills, Dr. Ross Morton, and our Director of Interprofessional Education (IPE) and Simulation, Dr. Marc Nicholson, have been instrumental in delivering a high quality education to our students in our unique New Brunswick context.

As always, we owe a large debt of gratitude to our partners and colleagues; our undergraduate education program in New Brunswick is as strong as it is because of the dedication of all faculty and educators who have had the heavy burden of caring for patients across the Horizon Health Network during unprecedented times. It goes without saying that these individuals have incorporated medical education into their daily lives; the success of our students continues to be proof of their commitment.

### **Robert Boulay MD, CCFP**

Assistant Dean Clinical Education DMNB

## Lectures Delivered

Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick is aiming to have 25% of all lectures for the undergraduate medical education program delivered from New Brunswick. Faculty development and engagement at our distributed sites is a major component of the numbers.

### % of Overall Lectures Delivered by New Brunswick Faculty (Med 1-4)

Year	2019-2020	2020-2021	Trend
Med 1	22/204 (10.8%)	65/267 (24.3%)	↑
Med 2	14/212 (6.6%)	20/222 (9%)	↑
Med 3	15/30 (50%) *	18/43 (41.9%)	↓
Med 4	16/37 (43.2%) *	11/43 (25.6%)	↓

\* Number of total lectures decreased due to moving some sessions to webinars and other online modules.

## Tutorial Facilitation



253

=

New Brunswick Faculty  
Involved as Tutors

# Research

*Like education, research is another priority initiative of #DalMedForward, which aligns with the Dalhousie Faculty of Medicine's fundamental mission to inspire and enable excellence in health care.*

## ASSISTANT DEAN, DMNB RESEARCH UPDATE



Following the limited reopening of our research laboratory in the summer of 2020, we hoped that the 2020-2021 academic year at DMNB might return to normal. Unfortunately, COVID-19 remained with us through the year; however, our research program continued to grow thanks to the perseverance and commitment of our Faculty of Medicine researchers and support staff here in New Brunswick.

We were delighted to welcome Dr. Shane Journey in 2021 as the new J. D. Irving Limited Research Chair in Occupational Medicine. A Dalhousie Medical School graduate, Shane has training and certification in both Occupational and Environmental Medicine as well as Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Shane is establishing a nationally networked Occupational Medicine research program here in New Brunswick.

We were also very pleased to welcome Jennifer Skinner, our new research manager at DMNB in 2021. Jennifer joins us from Alberta and brings with her a superb skill set in research administration.

Unfortunately, we said goodbye to some faculty, notably Dr. Ansar Hassan of the NB Heart Centre and our cardiovascular research team, as well as Dr. Amanda Caissie who moved within the Department of Radiation Oncology to Halifax.

I am thrilled to report that our Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick Research Council continued to provide a forum for discussion, collaboration, and problem solving for Faculty of Medicine researchers across the province. The DMNB Research Council supports four main groups:

1. Discovery Science Research Group, chaired by Dr. Thomas Pulinikunnil
2. Health Services Research and Population Health Group, chaired by Dr. Daniel Dutton
3. Clinical Research Group, chaired by Dr. Pamela Jarrett
4. Educational Research Group, chaired by Dr. Kavish Chandra.

In addition, our teams have engaged in the DMNB-hosted Digital Network Solutions Health group, partnering with leaders from Horizon Health Network and University of New Brunswick.

Strategically, we have worked with our colleagues in Halifax to develop programs and continued to align with the University of New Brunswick, Horizon Health Network and New Brunswick Community College in planning for the future of health research in New Brunswick. The research teams that make up our groups have worked innovatively over the past year and have made many notable achievements (read more at <https://medicine.dal.ca/departments/core-units/DMNB/research/fom-research-nb.html>).

Our emergency medicine research team with myself and Dr. Kavish Chandra as co-investigators received significant funding awards, including four CIHR awards for national COVID registry projects, selective neuroimaging for head-injured emergency patients who take anticoagulant medication, and the Monitoring Impaired Driving in Canada/Transport Canada Enhanced Road Safety Transfer Payment Program. Dr. Tony Reiman received a substantial grant for a project in which he is a co-investigator: "The Terry Fox Research Institute (TRFI) Atlantic Cancer Consortium Pilot Project for the

Marathon of Hope Cancer Centres Network.” Dr. Daniel Dutton was part of the CIHR Maritime SPOR SUPPORT Unit team who received ongoing Phase II funding.

We were pleased to provide enhanced funding through the Chesley Family research fund, matched this year by the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation (NBHRF) with winning proposals from teams led by Dr. Thomas Pulinilkunnil, Drs. Keith Brunt and Ansar Hassan, Dr. Tsetan Dolkar, and Dr. Duncan Webster.

Other notable funding awards were won by Drs. Colleen O’Connell, Daniel Dutton, Ismael Foroughi, Thomas Pulinilkunnil, Shelley Doucet, and Wendy Stewart.

Our faculty were honoured with several prestigious NBHRF researcher awards this year. The DMNB-affiliated Canada East Spine Centre won New Brunswick Health Researchers of the year 2020. Drs. Petra Kienesberger, Daniel Dutton, and Thomas Pulinilkunnil each received researcher/mentor of the month awards.

Drs. Pam Jarrett, John Thomson, Rob Dunfield, and members of the Canada East Spine Centre each won national research presentation awards.

We would also like to acknowledge the following achievements by DMNB researchers during the 2020/21 academic year:

- Dr. Purvi Trivedi obtained her PhD during the Dalhousie University Spring 2021 Convocation. Dr. Trivedi was supervised by Dr. Thomas Pulinilkunnil, Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology.
- Joshua Stanton, one of Dr. Tony Reiman’s trainees, successfully defended his MSc thesis at the University of New Brunswick in June 2021
- Dr. Dipsikha Biswas completed her postdoctoral fellowship.
- DMNB and IMPART researcher Dr. Keith Brunt was appointed as Board President of the Heart & Stroke Foundation of New Brunswick in December 2020.
- NB Social Pediatrics team led by doctor-researcher Sarah Gander launched a non-profit and partnered with the Business Community Anti-Poverty Initiative (BCAPI) to deliver care in the community to pediatric patients.

In terms of publications, it was a busy and productive year, with 50 peer-reviewed publications recorded by DMNB researchers across the spectrum of topics addressed by our faculty and representing significant outputs within each research group at DMNB. This high level of research output represents our work nationally and internationally, and impacts biomedical and medical science significantly.

I wish to thank all who continue to contribute to our research program within the Faculty of Medicine here in New Brunswick, and we look forward to continued DMNB research success in the 2021-2022 year, when we hope to hold our Research Celebration Dinner and acknowledge these achievements in person.

**Paul Atkinson, FRCPC**

Assistant Dean Research, DMNB

Professor, Faculty of Medicine, Dalhousie University

# A NOTE ON THIS YEAR'S RESEARCH SECTION

## Change in Reporting Period

In previous DMNB annual reports, research activity was based on the fiscal year (March 30 to April 1). In an effort to align more closely with the education component of the DMNB annual report, which reports activity based on the academic year (September 1 to August 31), this year's research section will report on the October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021 period.

As a result of this change, the period from April 1 to September 30, 2020 represents a gap in reported activity on this and previous annual reports. Research activity for this period is presented below and in the research section of the DMNB website under DMNB Research News & Reports > Quarterly Reports: <https://medicine.dal.ca/departments/core-units/DMNB/research/dmnb-research-news/quarterly-reports.html>

### New Staff and Trainees for the Reporting Period

*Apr 1, 2020 to Sept 30, 2020*

Principal Investigators (PIs)	0
Senior Scientists	0
PhD Students	0
MSc Students	3
Summer Students	0 (COVID-19)
Post-Doctoral Researchers	0
Grant-Paid Staff	1

### Full Complement of DMNB Research Staff and Trainees

*Total Count as of Sept 30, 2020*

Principal Investigators (PIs)	4
Senior Scientists	1
PhD Students	5
MSc Students	5
Summer Students	0 (COVID-19)
Post-Doctoral Researchers	4
Grant-Paid Staff	15

## RESEARCH ACTIVITY 2020-2021

### Research Staff and Trainees

#### New Staff and Trainees for the Reporting Period

*Oct 1, 2020 to Sept 30, 2021*

Principal Investigators (PIs)	0
Senior Scientists	0
PhD Students	1
MSc Students	5
Summer Students	0 (COVID-19)
Post-Doctoral Researchers	0
Grant-Paid Staff	9

#### Full Complement of DMNB Research Staff and Trainees

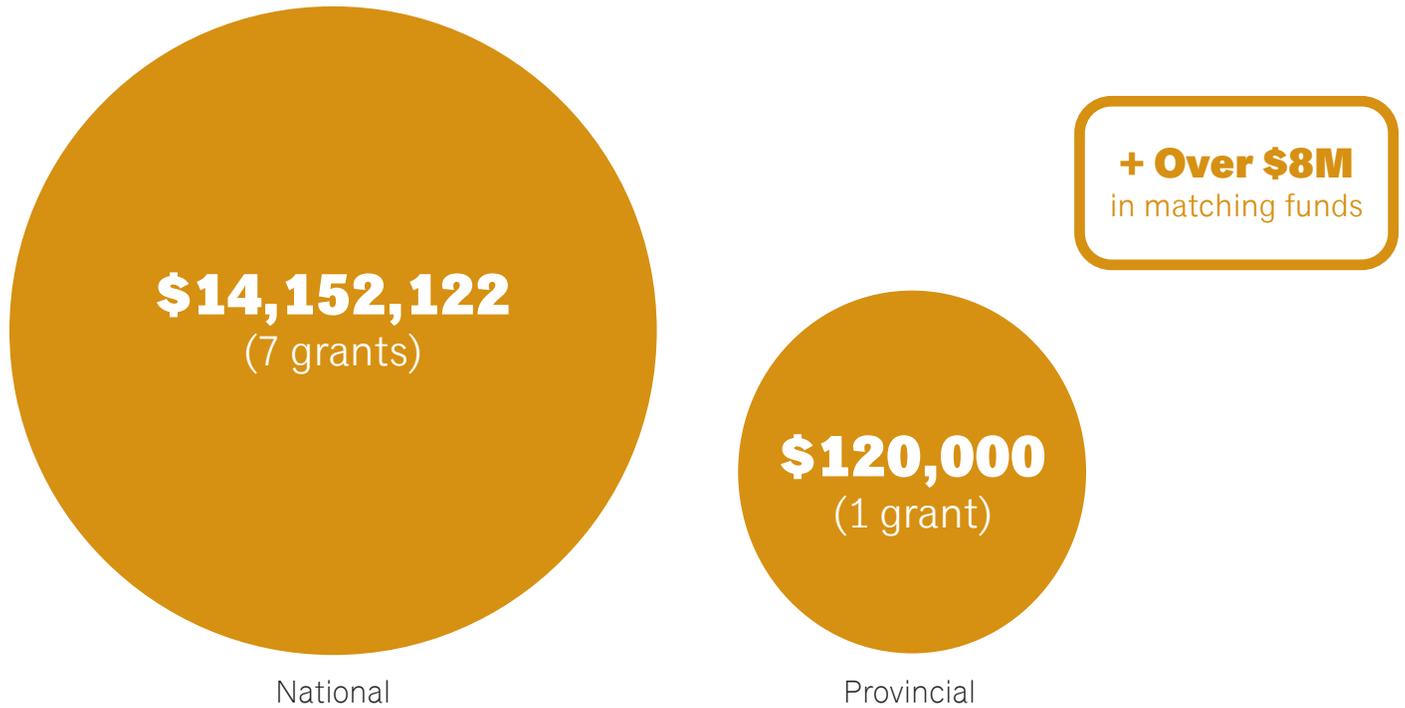
*Total Count as of Sept 30, 2021*

Principal Investigators (PIs)	4
Senior Scientists	1
PhD Students	4
MSc Students	10
Summer Students	0 (COVID-19)
Post-Doctoral Researchers	3
Grant-Paid Staff	18

## Successful Grant Applications Involving DMNB Investigators

### As Co-Applicants

*New Funding Awarded During the Period, Reflected as Full Grant Amounts*



### As Principal Applicants

*New Funding Awarded During the Period, Reflected as Full Grant Amounts*

**\$453,928**  
(8 grants)

## Publications by DMNB Investigators

**50** \*

Total Papers

\* 11 publications were co-authored  
by multiple DMNB Investigators

# TRAINEE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## Graduations



**Dipsikha Biswas**

Supervised by Dr. Thomas Pulinilkunnil, Dr. Biswas completed her postdoctoral fellowship in the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology at Dalhousie University in December 2020.



**Purvi Trivedi**

Supervised by Dr. Thomas Pulinilkunnil, Dr. Trivedi graduated from the Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology at Dalhousie University with her PhD in June 2021.



**Joshua Stanton**

Supervised by Dr. Tony Reiman, Joshua graduated from the Department of Biological Sciences at the University of New Brunswick with his MSc in June 2021.

# Serving and Engaging Society

The third pillar of the #DalMedForward strategic plan, *Serving and Engaging Society* aims to meet the health care needs of the Maritime community through scientific discovery, training, and working in partnership with government and teaching hospital partners.

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

### Volunteer and Simulated Patient Recruitment

DMNB programs are dependent on engaging community volunteers and other members of the community who enable students to develop their clinical skills.

In the 2020-2021 academic year, 108 simulated patients remained active with 12 new; 21 parent and tot families remained active with 17 new; and 125 volunteer patients (with and without clinical findings) remained active with 10 new.

#### Simulated Patients (SPs)



#### Volunteer Patients (VPs)



## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

### Service Learning Program

DMNB had another successful year with 10 students participating in the Service Learning Program, an optional program facilitated by the Faculty of Medicine's Global Health Office that integrates community-based content into the first year Professional Competencies class. Students have the option to take part in the community-engaged experience component of the program in their second year. Service Learning is a learning enrichment program integrated into the established undergraduate medical education curriculum.

In the 2020-2021 academic year, DMNB students worked with the following community partners:

1. Saint John Human Development Council
2. St. Joseph's Community Health Centre
3. Avenue B Harm Reduction
4. Fresh Start Services for Women
5. Teen Resource Centre (Pathways to Education Program)
6. Big Brothers Big Sisters Saint John (Propel Program)
7. First Steps

The Service Learning Program was able to offer blended delivery options by establishing a review process for a "Return to Community" opportunity via a community exposure form. The form was completed by a community partner and student, and reviewed and approved by the Faculty Leads at each campus. 6 DMNB students took part in the return to community process and engaged in in-person activities. The remaining 4 DMNB students completed their experiences virtually.

*"They have gone over and above in every area — they took everything they did to a level we weren't expecting. We feel so lucky to get good students each year. We really appreciate them and have been amazed at how much they gave to us considering the amount of time med students have "*

— Feedback from a Saint John community partner about DMNB students

## Student Advocacy and Outreach

Despite the numerous barriers that prevented many activities and initiatives during the COVID-19 pandemic, students still found several ways to contribute and advocate:

- Students of the Dalhousie Medical Students' Society represented DMNB at the Canadian Federation of Medical Students (CFMS) virtual Annual General Meeting.
- DMNB students won the Canadian Medical School Phlebotomy Bowl in support of Canada Blood Services with the top donations per capita of Canadian medical schools.
- DMNB students organized the 10th Annual DMNB Charity Event "Virtual Rubber Ducky Race" in replacement of the Charity Golf Classic in support of the Ridgewood Veterans, Saint John Regional Hospital Cancer Care Program, and COVID-19 Recovery Fund for a total of \$5,755.
- Students at Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick raised \$2,310 for the annual Movember campaign in support of men's health.



- DMNB students collaborated with University of New Brunswick nursing students to reach over 500 elementary students at two schools to deliver a teddy bear health clinic. Teddy bears received COVID screening and vaccines, while participants learned about puffers, bloodwork, casting, and X-rays.
- DMNB students created and distributed a survey enquiring about the impacts of COVID-19 to the homeless population served by Fresh Start, and explored the consequences of Public Health guidelines and overall perception of the vaccine. Responses were summarized on a pamphlet for the use of healthcare professionals.
- 2 DMNB students developed and presented an interactive workshop about healthcare access to teens living in low socio-economic areas of Saint John. The goal of the workshop was to empower them with knowledge on how to be advocates for their own healthcare. The focus was on mental health care, where to access care, privacy in health care, and when to go to where (ER, family doctor, walk-in clinic). In addition the students offered weekly tutoring in math and science throughout the year.

## Doctor for a Day at DMNB



*The March 2021 participants for the third Doctor for a Day at DMNB event.*

Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick (DMNB) in partnership with the Under One Sky Friendship Centre and the Dalhousie Global Health Office's Indigenous Health in Medicine program adapted the Doctor for a Day at DMNB event into a five-part series of online workshops hosted on Microsoft Teams for a group of 10 interested students that ran the week of March 1.

Hannah Asprey, Program Manager for Dalhousie University's Indigenous Health in Medicine, joined the planning committee for this event. Together, they developed a week of programming that gave those interested in pursuing a career in medicine a behind-the-scenes look at the admissions process, the medical student experience, and the importance of integrating Indigenous voices into the study of medicine.

The week began with a presentation from the Dalhousie Global Health Office's Indigenous Health in Medicine program on opportunities and supports followed by a presentation by Dalhousie Medical Admissions on their equitable admissions policy and requirements for Nova Scotia and New Brunswick campuses.

The second workshop was a mock MMI, which paired up volunteer medical students and community members with participants to ask them questions and simulate the Multiple Mini Interview (MMI) experience in virtual breakout rooms.

The third workshop was hosted by Ramona Nicholas, former Elder-in-Residence at the University of New Brunswick (UNB), who performed a virtual smudge ceremony and imparted her knowledge of traditional medicines and healing practices.

The fourth workshop was led by DMNB student leads, Tiffany Brooks and Jenny Melanson, who took the group through a medical school-style lecture on lung and heart physiology and then guided everyone through taking their pulse and a series of breathing exercises.

On the last day of the March break workshops, Amanda Myran, Nursing Instructor and Piluwitahasuwin (AVP Indigenous Engagement) at the University of New Brunswick, joined DMNB student leads, Brooks and Melanson, to share their perspectives and experiences in the health sciences field.

"Planning this workshop was a way to inspire the community that first sparked my own interest in medicine," says Tiffany Brooks (DMNB Class of 2022). "It was a way of using an Indigenous way of knowing, Two-Eyed Seeing (working from the strengths of medicine and culture), to inspire students to see themselves in medicine."

Alyse Duffney, a key player in the Doctor for a Day events since the beginning, echoes these sentiments: "The Doctor for a Day event is not just about building knowledge and skills – it's also an experience which builds confidence and excites students about the prospect of a future in medicine. It fosters Indigenous knowledge and perspectives and empowers Indigenous youth. What resonates with me is the hope of providing future generations with Indigenous health care workers who will care for them for years to come."

# Organizational, Operational, and Fiscal Renewal

The fourth and final pillar of #DalMedForward is Organizational, Operational, and Fiscal Renewal, which provides the foundation and structure needed to effectively implement the strategic plan.

## FACULTY

### Faculty Development Program Overview

- **Fac Dev Lounge Podcast:** The DMNB-led Fac Dev Lounge podcast series, hosted by Dr. Sarah Gander, developed and released 15 episodes in the 2020-2021 academic year.

Moving forward, the Fac Dev Lounge will collaborate with Dalhousie Continuing Professional Development to align with the 2022 launch of Dalhousie's "CPD Anyway/Anytime" program, which will include 4 key streams: 1) Humanities, 2) Wellness, 3) Anti-Oppression, and 4) Faculty Development & Research. This new collaboration aims to retain the conversational feel of the Fac Dev Lounge while leveraging broader leadership input via the 4 stream leads, and with in-house MedIT support.

- **Faculty Development Sessions:** From September 2020 to August 2021, DMNB Faculty Development developed and delivered 18 faculty development sessions engaging 165 participants (some repeating). All sessions were offered virtually and will remain in this modality for the near future.
- **DocTOK (Teaching, Observing, Knowledge):** DocTOK, a monthly teaching tips newsletter series, launched in June 2020, providing faculty with summaries of Faculty Development resources and evidence-based teaching pearls. 6 DocTOK pearls were distributed to faculty in the 2020-2021 academic year.
- **Teaching Faculty Spotlight:** The DMNB Faculty Development team developed a quarterly teaching faculty spotlight featuring DMNB teaching faculty. Dr. Pamela Jarrett was featured in the first edition.
- **Case-Based Tutor Preparation Program:** In the 2020-2021 academic year, an online, asynchronous Case-Base Tutor Preparation Program was developed and implemented for all new and returning tutors. The program is seeing positive feedback and participation, providing the opportunity for faculty to identify additional faculty development needs related to teaching medical learners.
- **Teaching Certificate:** Work continues on designing modules for the Dalhousie Medicine Certificate in Clinical Teaching with a goal to launch early 2022. Many DMNB faculty have lent their expertise to support module content development and there continues to be excellent collaboration between Dal Continuing Professional Development, Dal Family Medicine, and DMNB.

### Med 1 & 2 Core Curriculum Teaching Faculty \*

**110**  
TOTAL

**47** + **63**  
Med 1 + Med 2

**7** + **103**  
New + Returning

\* Includes Med 1 and 2 case-based tutors and skilled clinician tutors.

## Faculty Recruitment



**Dr. Lisa Sutherland**  
*Academic title changed  
from Director DMNB  
Student & Resident Affairs  
to Assistant Dean DMNB  
Student & Resident Affairs*



**Dr. Shane Journey**  
*Appointed as J. D. Irving  
Limited Research Chair in  
Occupational Medicine,  
based at Dalhousie  
Medicine New Brunswick*

## STAFF

### Staff Recruitment



**Michelle Glaspy**  
*Longitudinal  
Curriculum  
Coordinator*



**Jamie Woodworth**  
*Part-Time  
Animal Care  
Technician*

### Saying Goodbye



**Natalie Vautour**  
*After 11 years at DMNB, Natalie resigned from  
her position of Operations Manager in July 2021.  
Natalie has been a valued member of the DMNB  
team since she joined in 2010. We wish Natalie all  
the best now and into the future.*

## Celebrating Staff



### **Anchor Award**

Awarded by the graduating class to the individual who made the most significant contribution to their DMNB experience, the Class of 2021 presented Dr. Renea Leskie (Advisor, Student & Resident Affairs) with this award at the Launch Ceremony.



### **Life Saver Award**

Each year, a DMNB staff member is recognized for going above and beyond in providing outstanding assistance to others throughout the year. This year's recipient of the Life Saver Award is Boon Kek (Education Specialist).



### **DPMG Early Career Award**

At this year's Dalhousie Professional and Managerial Group (DPMG) Awards, the Early Career Award went to Allie Fournier (Communications Coordinator).



### **10 Years at DMNB**

In 2020, Megan Dow (Clerkship Coordinator, Saint John Site) celebrated 10 years at Dalhousie Medicine New Brunswick.



**DALHOUSIE  
UNIVERSITY**

FACULTY OF MEDICINE  
Dalhousie Medicine  
New Brunswick