



**NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

Dr. Sandra Luscombe installed as new NLMA President

For immediate release – June 13, 2010

St. John's, NL – Dr. Sandra Luscombe was installed as the 86th President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association (NLMA) during its annual general meeting at the Johnson GEO Centre on Saturday, June 11.

Dr. Luscombe is a developmental pediatrician at the Janeway Child Health and Rehabilitation Centre and is a physician member of the Janeway Child Protection Team. She is also a Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Memorial University's Faculty of Medicine.

During her inaugural speech, Dr. Luscombe spoke about the key issues that will be significant priorities during her term as president, including strategic planning and internal NLMA governance, as well as the plight of children and adolescents with developmental disabilities.

“Many of the patients I see have a wide range of needs, often with coexisting developmental, cognitive and mental health issues. When they reach 18 years of age, they are no longer eligible for pediatric and adolescent services. When these patients enter the adult system, their previous medical team and support network are often no longer there to assist with navigation through the system and, for many, their care becomes fragmented. The burden then falls to their family to ensure that their care is coordinated and maintained. For patients with limited family or community supports, falling through the cracks is a risk they face,” said Dr. Luscombe.

“During my term as President, I intend to gather together medical professionals who provide care for children and adults with developmental disabilities to identify current service gaps, and formally develop a plan to improve the transition to the adult system to ensure that these patients continue to receive the care that they need,” she added.

Also addressing the meeting was incoming Canadian Medical Association President Dr. John Haggie. Dr. Haggie, a general and vascular surgeon from Gander, will be installed as CMA President at the CMA's Annual Meeting and General Council to be held in St. John's in August.

He presented Dr. Christopher Heughan, a retired St. John's general surgeon, with the CMA Honorary Life Membership Award. The award recognizes physicians who have put into practice the aims and ideals of the medical profession and who exemplify the CMA Coat of Arms: *Integrity and Compassion*.

The NLMA Honorary Life Membership Award was presented to retired pediatrician Dr. Albert Davis; Dr. Kim Edward Mong Hong, a retired radiation oncologist; and, retired general surgeon Dr. Georgina Chalker, in recognition of their distinguished service to the Association and for their achievements in medicine.

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