



**NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR
MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

Physicians elect Dr. Yordan Karaivanov as the new President of the NLMA

For immediate release – June 10, 2013

St. John's, NL – Dr. Yordan Karaivanov was installed as the 88th President of the Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association (NLMA) during its annual general meeting at the Sheraton Hotel on Saturday, June 8.

Originally from Bulgaria, Dr. Karaivanov began his practice in family medicine at the Labrador Health Centre in Happy Valley-Goose Bay in 2001.

During his inaugural speech, Dr. Karaivanov said that addressing the needs of rural physicians and international medical graduates (IMGs) will be significant priorities during his presidency.

“The recently established NLMA Rural Physicians Advisory Council has identified several pressing needs of rural physicians that it will attempt to address over the coming year. Issues include recruitment and retention, the inability to obtain locum coverage and onerous on-call obligations that can lead to physician burnout,” said Dr. Karaivanov.

“We know that training more doctors in Newfoundland and Labrador is the best way to address physician shortages. In the meantime, the NLMA must also address the needs of its IMG physicians who will continue to play a vital role as the province grapples with its aging population and increasing demands for complex care,” he said.

Dr. Karaivanov said the NLMA has also established an IMG Advisory Council that will look at new approaches to help IMGs transition to rural practice once they arrive, such as better orientation materials and mentoring programs.

Also addressing the meeting was Canadian Medical Association Past President Dr. John Haggie. He presented the CMA Honorary Life Membership Award to retired St. John's Ophthalmologist Dr. Robert Lawton and retired family physician Dr. Phyllis H. Madryga, whose endowment has provided scholarships for medical students since 2005. The award recognizes those who have put into practice the aims and ideals of the medical profession.

The NLMA Honorary Life Membership Award was presented to retired family physician Dr. George Richard Seviour who practiced in St. John's for 41 years. The award was also presented to Dr. Yong Kee Jeon, who practiced family medicine, orthopedics, general surgery and obstetrics and gynecology for more than 26 years in Brookfield. The award recognizes physicians' achievements in medicine and their service to the NLMA.

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