

CSCC Award for Education Excellence
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Trefor Higgins



Trefor Higgins is currently the Director of Clinical Chemistry for DynaLIFE_{DX} (formerly Dynacare Kasper Medical Laboratories) and Associate Clinical Professor in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Alberta.

Born in Newport, Monmouthshire in the United Kingdom, Trefor completed his undergraduate degree at Brunel University in Uxbridge, Middlesex. He immigrated to Canada in the late 1960s and completed his Master's degree at the University of Alberta—Edmonton.

In 2005, Trefor was awarded Fellowship from the Canadian Academy of Clinical Biochemistry (the first individual to be awarded Fellowship by Special Distinction).

Trefor's contributions to education have been exemplary and enthusiastic. In 2004, he was awarded the "Teacher of the Year" award for the General Pathology residency program of the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology at the University of Alberta. In addition, he is an active participant in the undergraduate medical school "LINK" program and teaches clinical chemistry to Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) students. He is a popular faculty member of the MLS program, where he frequently uses clinical cases to make even the least exciting topics of biochemistry interesting! In addition to didactic teaching, Trefor supervises 4th year student projects, several of which have resulted in publications. His many years of experience and clinical research related to hemoglobinopathies and thalassemias have made him an invaluable resource for hematology and laboratory medicine residents.

Trefor's passion for education and knowledge transfer transcends the physical classroom to many other education vehicles. He is a member of the Editorial Board of Clinical Biochemistry and a reviewer for many peer review journals including Clinical Biochemistry, Clinica Chimica Acta, and European Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology. He has presented at many different local, provincial, national and international conferences and meetings on a wide variety of topics and issues in clinical biochemistry.

Perhaps the greatest indicator of an educator's effectiveness is the adjectives his students and colleagues use to describe him. In Trefor's case, these speak for themselves: "entertaining", "engaging", "enthusiastic", "relaxing", "knowledgeable", "practical" and "down to earth".

Trefor Higgins is a very worthy recipient of the 2008 CSCC Award for Education Excellence. On behalf of your friends and colleagues... congratulations and best wishes!!