

David Hawkins

By Johannes Roth, MD

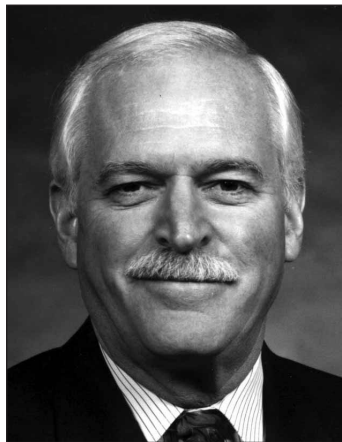
David Hawkins was born in St. John's, Newfoundland, and was always proud of his Newfoundland heritage. He got his early medical education at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia; he then had the opportunity to pursue post-graduate training in medicine and biomedical research at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec, as well as the prestigious Scripps Research Institute in La Jolla, California. From the late 1960s until 1980, he worked at McGill, and then returned to his native St. John's as the third dean of medicine at Memorial University of Newfoundland.

He is author of more than 100 scientific publications. Among them are publications as first or last author in the highest-ranking journals including *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)*, *Nature*, *Science* and *The New England Journal of Medicine*.

From 1995 to 2005, he served as director of the Ottawa-based association that provides the national voice for Canada's 17 Faculties of Medicine. He had been the chair of the Board of the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame since 2007. The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada appointed him Director of Education in 2008/2009.

Dr. Hawkins had extensive experience in the accreditation of programs of medical education in Canada, the United States and the Caribbean. His international accreditation activities had also taken him to Europe, the Middle East and South America. He had been president of several Canadian medical organizations, governor of the American College of Physicians, and Senior Editor of *The Canadian Medical Association Journal*.

In 1993, Memorial University and the Medical Research Council jointly endowed the Annual David Hawkins Lectureship in Health Sciences Research, and in 1995, the Dalhousie Medical Alumni Association named him Alumnus of the Year. The Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA) recognized him as Distinguished Rheumatologist of the Year in 2005. He was later elected to fellowship in the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.



1937 - 2011

Dr. Hawkins contributed to patient care, science, medical education and administration in a unique and impressive way on a national and international level.

Behind all these achievements was an extraordinary, but also very approachable, person with a very kind nature. Nothing can illustrate this more than the fact that Dr. Hawkins, who had been trained as an adult rheumatologist, joined the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) as a pediatric rheumatologist during the last phase of

his career because there was an urgent need for pediatric rheumatology care in Eastern Ontario. He remained in this function for 13 years, making him by far the longest serving pediatric rheumatologist that CHEO has had to date. Beyond patient care, he also contributed as an advisor on many levels.

Thinking of David Hawkins, it is hard to imagine that he would ever retire and indeed, he never did. Only when the pediatric rheumatology division at CHEO had grown to a size that would not absolutely require his presence did he ask to end his contract at CHEO. He immediately went on to work in Saudi Arabia, where he helped to establish an impressive new medical school.

He was in the midst of planning his next career steps when he became ill and died from complications of his disease on February 12, 2011.

For the Pediatric Rheumatology Group at CHEO.

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