

DR. BRIAN WATADA NAMED REGIONAL FAMILY PHYSICIAN OF THE YEAR

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MILTON - A Milton physician is one of seven Ontario doctors being recognized for his excellence in family medicine.

Dr. Brian Watada has been named a 2018 recipient of the Ontario College of Family Physicians' (OCFP) Regional Family Physician of the Year Award.

Nominated by their peers, the award is presented annually to Ontario family doctors - one from each region of the province - who provide exemplary care to their patients and are passionately involved in activities that contribute to excellence in family medicine.

Watada is the award recipient for Mississauga-Halton and Central West. He was presented the award at the OCFP awards ceremony, held earlier this month in Toronto. A list of all awardees is posted on the OCFP website.

"Dr. Watada has dedicated himself to lifelong learning, and has been a magnificent educator to future generations of family doctors," said Dr. Nick Cube-

rovic, Emergency Department Medical Director at the Milton District Hospital. "He provides selfless and exceptional care to his patients and practice populations, and I see him not only as a role model to our future generations, but also a role model to already experienced practitioners."

The announcement came during Family Doctor Week in Canada, which ran from Nov. 12 to 17, and is an opportunity to acknowledge the vital work family physicians do to help keep Ontarians healthy; this includes working in primary care, hospitals, home and community care, long-term care and public health, as well as in research and academia.

A well-regarded family physician for more than 20 years, Watada provides exceptional and skilled care to his patients and their families in his community practice, as well as in his roles as staff family medicine and emergency physician at Halton Healthcare's Milton District Hospital and Investigating Coroner for North Halton, states the OCFP. In asking any of his



New OCFP President, Dr. Jennifer Young presented Dr. Brian Watada with the Regional Family Physician of the Year Award at the 2018 OCFP Awards Ceremony in Toronto.

ON College of Family Physicians photo

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- Dr. Nick Cuberovic

patients about him, they would describe him as "making you feel like you're being attended to by a friend with real concern about your problems" with "compassion beyond compare."

As a devoted lifelong learner and educator, Wa-

tada trains residents and students from the Rural Ontario Medical Program and is a peer assessor through the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario. After the hospital's Program Director position was discontinued, he organized speaking rounds

and course recertification for hospital staff. On his own initiative, Watada also educates colleagues on the trends he sees as a coroner - meeting with front-line workers and emergency department staff to inform them about fentanyl overdose guidelines, and with lab services to have fentanyl added to their toxicology screening.

"Dr. Watada's commitment to delivering compassionate care and sharing learnings so others can benefit has made him a beloved family physician in his community," said Dr. Glenn Brown, OCFP president. "Whether through

his own practice, in hospital or as a coroner, he has had a tremendous impact on his patients, peers and future generations of family doctors. It is a pleasure to acknowledge his contributions and achievements through this award."

The OCFP represents more than 13,500 family physicians across the province.

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