CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF
General Surgeons

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The G. William N. Fitzgerald Award for Excellence in Rural Surgery and in Trainee Rural Surgery

The annual awards will be bestowed to one surgeon and one trainee who has shown substantial commitment to the betterment of surgery for rural populations and to the practice of the surgical arts through education, advocacy, and dedication.

Practicing General Surgeon Award Criteria

This award, established in 2019, is given to an individual who has served a rural practice in some capacity for over 10 years and who has gone beyond the call of duty for his/her community and patients.

Dr. G. William N. Fitzgerald was CAGS President from 2006-2007, and a passionate leader and advocate for rural practicing General Surgeons in Canada. An engaged CAGS member and volunteer for many years, he contributed to the various CAGS committees, Chair of the CAGS Program Committee, and helping to establish the Canadian Surgery Forum. He received the order of Canada in 2017. Dr. Fitzgerald passed away in April 2023.

Below outlines the award criteria for the G. William N. Fitzgerald Award for Excellence in Rural Surgery.

Nomination Criteria:

- Must be a CAGS member in good standing
- Serving a rural practice for at least 10 years
- Must demonstrate strong interactions and assimilations into the community socially and professionally
- Advocates for Rural Surgery at a Provincial or National Level
- Shows leadership in public health or quality assurance in their hospital/practice
- Engages in teaching of students, nurses, residents, or other doctors
- Uses innovative approaches to adapt rural practice to meet modern standards – Ensures needs of the patient are met based on the broadest possible interpretation of the determinants of health
- The award will be open to members across Canada

Trainee Award Criteria

The trainee award honours a medical student or resident who has dedicated their efforts to the practice of rural surgery, either through research, advocacy, or active rural training, and who has shown promising leadership in the future and sustenance of rural surgical practice.

- Must be a CAGS medical student or resident member
- Demonstrates strong interactions/assimilations into the community socially and professionally.
- Electives and rotations have focused on rural medicine (Note: Medical student electives are not all surgical)
- Advocates for Rural Surgery at a Provincial or National Level
- Shows leadership in public health or quality assurance in their training program
- Engages in research into rural medical issues or attends rural conferences to improve their understanding of rural surgery in Canada
- Uses innovative approaches to adapt training to meet rural practice needs (i.e., additional techniques, ultrasound training, wilderness medicine courses, etc.)
- The award will be open to members across Canada

Nomination Submission Requirements

The following items will need to be submitted with the nomination submission:

- A full CV
- Two letters of reference in support of the application
- A detailed letter in a word document (or PDF) that addresses the required elements as set out on the awards criteria document