

**ASSOCIATION OF ATLANTIC UNIVERSITIES
AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
1999
INSTRUCTIONAL LEADERSHIP AWARD**

R. ALLAN PURDY

Allan Purdy is highly respected at Dalhousie University, both for the excellence of his teaching and for his extensive efforts to enhance the quality of Medical instruction at the divisional, faculty, institutional, national, and international levels. His passion for neuroscience, his dry humour and his comprehensive knowledge of his subject have won him many teaching awards, a testament to the quality of his work. These honours include a 10-year recognition citation for Excellence in Teaching in the Neurology Residence Teaching Program; seven Excellence in Teaching Awards from the Faculty of Medicine; three Dean of Medicine Citations for Excellence in Teaching; two “Silver Shovel” Professor of the Year Awards; and the 1999 Dalhousie Instructional Leadership Award.

Allan Purdy has been conspicuously active in the areas of faculty development and training, as well as teaching methodology design and revision and has planned, facilitated, and delivered a wide variety of workshops on issues of pedagogy within the Faculty of Medicine. He was also centrally involved in the redesign of the clerkship (and the accompanying faculty training) for the new Faculty of Medicine Case-Oriented, Problem-Solving (COPS) curriculum. Also instrumental in implementing small-group problem-based learning for physician continuing education at Dalhousie, he is currently working with Continuing Medical Education to design and provide an interactive Internet program for family practitioners. A regular contributor to the Faculty of Medicine “Teach the Teachers” program, Allan Purdy has authored several books, book chapters, and articles on case-based and problem-based teaching strategies and, over the past eight years, has proposed and contributed to the successful creation of three separate teaching awards programs within the Faculty of Medicine.

Allan Purdy is one of Dalhousie’s teaching gems, treasured by the Faculty of Medicine for his wealth of experience, his passion for teaching, and his depth of knowledge. According to his colleagues, “He consistently uses his commitment, curiosity and warm sense of humour to help the learner along the way.” “He is an excellent teacher who challenges, cajoles and cares for his fellow learners and colleagues, and we are fortunate to have him at Dalhousie.”

Beyond Dalhousie, Allan Purdy maintains a national and international profile as a researcher and teacher of Neurology, having developed courses and teaching strategies for both the classroom and on-line, for such organizations as the Canadian Headache Society and the American Association for the Study of Headache. He is also joint author of a video simulation of a range of case-based teaching strategies, showcased locally and across the country.

What makes this impressive record even more extraordinary is the fact that, as a practicing clinician, Allan Purdy continues to contribute to the enhancement of teaching excellence at his University out of a simple and sincere desire to enrich the experience of students, and to advance the nature of Medical Education in general. He is a most deserving recipient of the 1999 Association of Atlantic Universities Instructional Leadership Award.