The best thing my preceptor taught me was...

“humility is the key to beginning the journey to being a patient’s ally. Being an ally means asking new patients, ‘What is important for me to know about you to best care for you?’ It also means not focusing on what’s the matter with them, but what matters to them.”

- Thomas H (MB)

From left: Drs. Frank Martino, Brian Klar, and Jobin Varughese at the 2019 Celebrating Family Medicine Teaching Dinner at Family Medicine Forum.
Focus on Health Humanities

Why focus on the humanities and family medicine teachers?

Because family physicians, and those who train them, have always known medicine is equally an art and a science; because family medicine has always been a human endeavour, with heart and humanity at its core; and because creativity will always be the foundation of stronger and more resilient communities.

With that in mind, here are several things we do.

Mimi Divinsky Award 2020 Theme: Artificial intelligence

The Mimi Divinsky Award for History and Narrative in Family Medicine recognizes the best submitted narrative account of experiences in family medicine. It is named in memory of Dr. Mimi Divinsky for her role as a pioneer in narrative medicine in Canada.

The theme for 2020 submissions is “Artificial intelligence,” and the deadline is 4:00 p.m. (ET) on March 3, 2020. Award details and instructions are available on the Foundation for Advancing Family Medicine (FAFM) website.

For inspiration, check out Dr. Anjali Bhayana’s winning entry from 2019, "What they teach us," which was published in Canadian Family Physician in January 2020.

Join the CFPC’s new health humanities community

The CFPC’s History and Humanities in Family Medicine Committee wants to engage family medicine teachers in the development of our new health humanities community.

We’ve created a health humanities listserv on our online collaborative workspace. We hope the workspace will be used to share information about and collaborate on new and exciting initiatives. We’ll also highlight relevant workshops and conferences.

Please email education@cfpc.ca to be added to the listserv.

From left: CFPC President Dr. Shirley Schipper presented Dr. Anjali Bhayana with the 2019 Mimi Divinsky Award along with FAFM Chair Dr. Marie-Dominique Beaulieu at Family Medicine Forum
Spotlight on: Upcoming conferences

Creating Space 10
The Canadian Association for Health Humanities is hosting its annual Creating Space 10 conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, from April 17 to 18, 2020, in conjunction with the Canadian Conference on Medical Education. Creating Space 10 will focus on opening up discussions about humanism and explore how to incorporate it in the clinical and educational practices of health care and health professions education.

The Canadian Conference on Medical Education (CCME) is the largest annual gathering of medical educators in the country. The conference will take place April 18 to 21, 2020, in Vancouver, British Columbia. In recognition of the growing global importance of the health humanities, this year the conference’s theme is “Weaving humanism into the fabric of medical education.” The program includes workshops, posters, oral presentations, and plenary sessions.

In memoriam
Dr. Joanna Bates, who received the 2019 Ian McWhinney Family Medicine Education Award, passed away peacefully on January 18, 2020. Her legacy includes many accomplishments, such as establishing the family practice residency at St. Paul’s Hospital in Vancouver, British Columbia; enhancing the recruitment of Indigenous medical students at the University of British Columbia; and introducing the Centre for Health Education Scholarship. She will be remembered fondly by all those whose lives she affected.