



Celebrating 2019  
**AWARD  
RECIPIENTS**

## HONORARY AWARDS



### DR. ALASTAIR NICOLL

From the outset of his career, Dr. Nicoll has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to his patients, community and profession. Drawn to practising in remote areas, and shortly after emigrating from the UK in 1986, he practised in Yellowknife, treating patients with tremendous oral health needs. Later, he moved to Elkford, where he has practised close to 30 years.

During this period, Alastair rose through the ranks of organized dentistry to become: NWT Dental Association Treasurer; CDSBC Council member; Kootenay Dental Society President; Elkford Diagnostic & Treatment Centre Board Chair; BCDA President and Canadian Dental Association President.

Alastair is defined by his intelligence, sense of fairness and desire to do the right thing. His breadth of knowledge and ability to grasp and communicate complex technical issues, without losing sight of the big picture are characteristics demonstrated through his invaluable input on countless committees, task forces and Officer positions provincially, nationally and internationally.

Alastair continues to practise full-time and contribute to the profession – he is a laudable recipient of the BCDA's highest honour.



### DR. RICHARD WILCZEK

Two qualities that many people would attribute to Dr. Wilczek would be *compassion* and *integrity*. Throughout his distinguished 37-year career, Richard has consistently and unselfishly contributed to many community, professional and educational organizations, serving on numerous BCDA committees and its Board, ultimately as President in 2012-2013.

Richard's contributions began shortly after his 1981 UBC graduation, as Vice President, then President of the Prince George & District Dental Society. He was one of the "founding fathers" in creating the north's Dental Studies Program, including dental assisting and dental hygiene at the Prince George College of New Caledonia. In support of this Program he personally agrees to the annual placement of dental assisting students into his practice team for mentorship.

Richard also co-founded the area's Emergency Dental Outreach Clinic, serving dental needs of the less fortunate and working poor, with particular emphasis on the elderly, when, after a full day in his own practice, he frequently continues to volunteer his time.

A deserved recipient of the Association's highest honour, Richard is a fine example of "giving back" and an inspiration to us all.

# DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARDS



## DR. DEBORAH BATTRUM

After graduating from the University of Toronto in 1979 and completing a Master's in Dental Anaesthesia & Pharmacology in 1985, Dr. Battrum practised at Shaughnessy and University Hospitals in Vancouver, providing geriatric and special needs care. She's also a 1995 Baylor University Endodontic specialty graduate and practises in Kelowna and Vernon.

Deborah was elected to the inaugural BCDA Board, serving from 1999–2004; and, she is the first and only woman to serve as BCDA President from 2003–2004. Her service includes numerous BCDA committees and representing BC on the CDA Board of Governors. She is a Council member and examiner for the RCDC Endodontic Specialty Boards and, currently, serves as the Southern Interior representative on the CDSBC Board.

Deborah is the founder of the Old Friends Canada Society, a charity that rescues, rehabilitates and houses abandoned horses, currently numbering 26.

Dr. Battrum's contributions to dentistry over many years exemplifies the dedication and commitment befitting her recognition.



## DR. ANTHONY NADOLSKI

Dr. Nadolski has served the dental profession most of his working career. Since his 1975 UofT graduation and subsequent practice in Victoria, his service includes: President and Scientific Coordinator of the Victoria & District Dental Society; the

College Council and BCDA Board Victoria representative; volunteering on numerous committees and task forces; regularly meeting with the BC government in support of the BCDA Negotiations Committee, dealing with government programs, funding and MSP; and, currently serving as the BCDA's Secretary-Treasurer.

One of his greatest contributions has been as Head of Dentistry for the Vancouver Island Health Authority. While in this role he has measurably improved access to care for hospital dentistry in Victoria and, gained a stalwart reputation by often being on call for patients needing hospital urgent care.

Community-wise, Tony is a long-standing member of the Camosun Gyro Club and is Governor of the Victoria Conservatory of Music.

## PRESIDENT'S AWARD



## DR. JOHN PALMER

Dr. John Palmer has led the BCDA's DPAP Counselling Program, with Ms. Toni Pieroni, for the last 18 years. The program's aim is to promote the health and well-being of dentists, their families, colleagues and staff by assisting them through a variety of challenges affecting their work, family, or personal life. Many dentists believe that John's qualification as a dentist enhances the value of his counselling

role, as he has helped hundreds of our colleagues through often difficult times. While his work is well known provincially, he has also contributed to the area of 'Wellness' nationally and internationally. Unfortunately, the nature of his position is such that most of us are unaware of his accomplishments, unless someone volunteers the information on their own volition.

Anyone who has ever had any interaction with John knows that he is truly empathetic, caring, and honest in all that he does. When I joined the BCDA Board over eight years ago, he was one of the first people I met, and his warm, sincere, uplifting demeanor was instantly noticeable.

In May, John will be retiring, and he will be missed by all of us. However, his impact on our profession and his honorable and inspiring character will be everlasting. It is because of his exemplary contribution to dentistry that Dr. John Palmer is most deserving of the 2019 President's Award.

- Dr. Raymon Grewal, President



## DR. BILL RIDDELL

Dr. Riddell's contributions to the dental profession prior to and since his graduation from UBC in 1987 are punctuated by such peer-supplied descriptions as kind, caring, calm, approachable and ethical.

Bill was an inaugural member of the BCDA Board in 1999, representing the Fraser Valley. Since then, he has volunteered on many committees and task forces, including Chair positions with the Economics Committee, Claims Management Task Force, Insurer Relations Subcommittee and an enthusiastic and long-standing member of the UBC/BCDA Mentorship Program, assisting students and reliably attending program events, despite the considerable travel distance in often sub-par traffic conditions. He is also an active member of the Business of Dentistry Subcommittee and sits on the CDA's Uniform System of Codes & List of Services Committee, tasked with managing procedure codes for Canada's dentists (kudos to him for representing BC on a very dry subject).

Along with his Alma Mata and community, the Abbotsford Food Bank dental clinic has also benefitted from Bill's volunteerism – his contributions deserve this award.

# MERIT AWARDS



## DR. KEVIN LAUWERS

Dr. Lauwers is known as a passionate, tireless volunteer, beginning at UBC as Class President from first to third years and Dental Undergraduate Society President. Since graduating from in 2005 he has been heavily involved in organized dentistry and his community. Accomplishing a dizzying number of achievements

as a volunteer, mentor and peer, in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside; UBC's Community Dental Clinics, the UBC/BCDA Mentorship Program and Chair of both the BCDA's Editorial Board and Public Education & Communications Committee; Kevin also offers no-cost dental care for a variety of underserved populations locally and internationally.

Kevin is a Fellow of the Pierre Fauchard Academy, the American College of Dentists and the recipient of two BCDA Service Awards. He has the ability to help those around him find joy in service and excellence – all significant and unique contributions to be celebrated by this award.



## DR. JOHN PAPPEL

Dr. Pappel, a McGill 1982 graduate, earned his orthodontic speciality in 1984 from the University of Minnesota. Although recently retired after 32 years from his Nanaimo and Port Alberni practices, his contributions to peers, patients and community will be felt for many years to come.

Since commencing practice, and throughout his career, John participated in organized dentistry as President of both the Nanaimo & District Dental Society and Upper Island Dental Society. Several study clubs benefitted from his mentorship of providing free continuing education to dentists and their staff, nurturing careers and enriching skills.

On the home front, John was actively involved in raising his family, being a Scout leader and coaching kids' teams. He provided generous scholarships to several local schools, and contributed to many local charities, demonstrating an ongoing commitment and investment in his community. He deserves recognition and acknowledgement.



## DR. RICK ODEGAARD

Dr. Odegaard has been practising in Kamloops since graduating from UBC 30 years ago and receiving his orthodontic specialty degree from Oregon in 1997.

Over time, Rick's contributions to organized dentistry have been significant and worthy of recognition.

A long-term member and President (several times) of the Kamloops & District Dental Society, Rick embodies the spirit that has kept the society vibrant, healthy and collegial, despite challenges faced by other societies. He served the BC Society of Orthodontists as Secretary and President; the Canadian Association of Orthodontists as BC representative, Board member and President (ultimately, improving the relationship between the CDA and the NIHB Program); the American Association of Orthodontists as Canadian representative; and, he is the immediate Past President of the World Federation of Orthodontists.

Rick has a super sense of humour and is a keen supporter of his community, contributing to the Kamloops Food Bank, minor hockey and the Royal Inland Hospital Foundation.



## DR. JAN VERSENDAAL

Dr. Jan Versendaal grew up in Edmonton and graduated from the University of Alberta in 1985. Within a couple of years of graduation, he moved to Pitt Meadows, BC.

Settling into practice, Jan became active in the Fraser Valley Dental Society and served in all executive

positions, including Society President. Subsequently, he was elected as the Fraser Valley representative on the BCDA Board for four years. During this time, he was also a member of the Audit Committee and MLA Network.

Over the years, Jan built a successful and busy general dental practice; and, along with his wife, Val, raised four children. Jan's spare time finds him on the water fishing for salmon or in his woodworking shop creating one of many projects; building model railroads or serving as the Historian for the local model railroad group.

The Merit Award is in recognition of Dr. Versendaal's many years of service to the profession.

Join Us at the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual

*Toothfairy Gala*

**Saturday, March 9, 2019**

Vancouver Convention Center

Tickets at [pdconf.com](http://pdconf.com) or [bcdental.org](http://bcdental.org)

Early bird pricing available until February 1