

## MCMURTRY LECTURE

### **Dr. Robert Y. McMurtry**

Professor and Head, Department of Surgery (1988 – 1992)



Dr. Robert McMurtry is a graduate of the University of Toronto in Medicine in 1965 and a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. During his residency in Orthopedic Surgery, he spent 2 years in Africa, first in a mission hospital in Sekhukhuniland (South Africa) and then with the Canadian International Development Agency in Uganda. Following his residency, Dr. McMurtry did a fellowship in Hand Surgery at the University of Iowa. He started his practice at the former Sunnybrook Hospital (now Sunnybrook & Women's Health Centre) in 1975. It was there that Dr. McMurtry founded and directed Canada's First Trauma Unit and the multi-disciplinary Hand Unit.

In 1987, he was appointed Professor and Chair of Surgery at the University of Calgary and Chief of Surgery at Foothills Hospital. In 1992, he became Dean of Medicine at the University of Western Ontario and subsequently Dean of Medicine and Dentistry, a post he held until 1999. In 1999, he became the first Cameron Visiting Chair at Health Canada – a post carrying the responsibility for providing policy advice to the Deputy Minister and Minister of Health for Canada.

Dr. McMurtry is the founding Assistant Deputy Minister of the Population and Public Health Branch of Health Canada. He was appointed to the Romanow Commission in 2002 as a Special Advisor to Commissioner Romanow. He was also Special Advisor to the Deputy Minister of Nunavut from December 2002 to August 2003 for the purpose of reviewing the Health Care System of the territory.

In June of 2003, he received the Presidential Award of Excellence from the Canadian Orthopedic Association. Presently, Dr. McMurtry is Professor of Surgery at the University of Western Ontario and Orthopedic Consultant at the Hand and Upper Limb Centre. His work involves an active clinical practice as well as teaching and research. In October of 2003, he was appointed to the Transition Advisory Board of the incoming Provincial Government of Ontario. In December 2003, he was appointed to the Health Council of Canada, a post he still holds today. He chaired the Wait Times and Accessibility Work Group from January 2004 to January 2006, and maintains active memberships in the Canadian Index of Well-being Project Management Team, as well as the Alberta Bone and Joint Health Institute. In 2011, he was admitted to the Order of Canada.