

The Dave Roberts Anesthesia Award

Notes on the Dave Roberts Award as provided by Dr. Pete MacEwen, an anesthesiologist and close friend of Dr. Roberts.

The Dave Roberts Award was established in the spring of 1998 by then Chief Resident, Scott Morrison, to honor the memory of Dr. Dave Roberts, a popular and superb anesthesiologist at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO). Dave passed away in February of that year after a devastating seven-month illness.

Each year, the final-year anesthesia residents at the University of Ottawa identify and award the person who best demonstrates the exceptional qualities that Dave possessed. The inaugural award was bestowed on a final-year resident who battled ill health throughout his residency while excelling clinically and academically and helping his fellow residents. Over the years, the Dave Roberts Award has been granted to department administrators, an OR nurse, an OR RPN, and several staff anesthesiologists.

Dave Roberts was born in Twillingate, Newfoundland in 1947. He graduated in medicine from Queen's University in 1974, interned at what was then the Ottawa Civic Hospital, and completed his anesthesia residency at the University of Ottawa in 1978. After a one-year fellowship in pediatric anesthesia at CHEO, he joined the staff there in 1979 under the leadership of Dr. Gary Johnson. Dave was a superb clinician, outstanding teacher, and excellent role model and mentor. He always remained calm during emergencies and led by example. For 19 years, his reassuring manner, practical wisdom, and sense of humor were an inspiration to his colleagues, the surgeons and OR staff, the residents in our program, and above all, his patients and their parents. Family was extremely important to Dave, and he devoted all of his time away from work to his wife and two children. He was also a steadfast and loyal friend. Dave's most memorable feature was his big smile, which brightened the day for all those around him.

Dave passed away in Ottawa in February 1998 at the age of 50 after facing his final illness with bravery and his unflagging sense of humor. He inspired all who were privileged to have known him, both in how he lived and how he died.

The Dave Roberts Award is a most fitting memorial to him.

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