

Cancer Care Program
Dr. H. Bliss Murphy Cancer Centre
300 Prince Philip Drive
St. John's, NL
Canada A1B 3V6
T: 709-777-7593
F: 709-753-0927
www.easternhealth.ca

Alumni Achievement Award Selection Committee
School of Pharmacy
Memorial University of Newfoundland
300 Prince Philip Drive
St. John's, NL A1B 3X5

To the Selection Committee,

It is my absolute privilege to nominate Mr. Rick Abbott for the Memorial University School of Pharmacy Alumni Achievement Award. As a pharmacist, leader, educator, and innovator, Rick has left an indelible mark on the practice of pharmacy in Newfoundland and Labrador—and across Canada. His legacy, spanning more than three decades, exemplifies the very purpose of this award: celebrating alumni whose careers have significantly advanced the profession and made outstanding contributions to health care.

Rick graduated from the School of Pharmacy at Memorial University in 1990 and rapidly emerged as one of the most influential pharmacy leaders in oncology care in this province. He served for many years as Regional Pharmacy Manager for the Provincial Systemic Therapy Program, where he was instrumental in shaping the province's approach to cancer pharmacotherapy. Through his vision and determination, Newfoundland and Labrador became the first province in Canada to implement dose banding for chemotherapy, a practice that was later adopted nationally as a model for safe, efficient, and patient-centered care.

One of Rick's most impactful legacies is his role in improving patient safety and system efficiency. He pioneered the use of Lean Methodologies and Human Factors Engineering in oncology pharmacy workflows, leading to the "One Mix at a Time" initiative—an innovation that significantly reduced chemotherapy wait times and improved safety in both the St. John's and Corner Brook cancer centres. His work here not only demonstrated bold leadership but also directly enhanced the quality of care for countless patients.

His dedication to advancing pharmacy practice didn't stop at the institutional level. Rick co-authored several peer-reviewed publications on oral chemotherapy safety, patient access to cancer therapies, and outcomes research—work that has shaped national conversations and policy in oncology pharmacy. His 2011 publication in the Canadian Pharmacists Journal was named Best Paper of the Year for its influence on community pharmacy practice.

Rick also demonstrated a deep commitment to mentorship and professional development. He served as a guest lecturer at Memorial University's School of Pharmacy, contributed extensively to continuing education programming for pharmacists across Atlantic Canada, and held

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leadership roles in provincial and national pharmacy organizations—including serving as President of the Pharmacists' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador in 2009.

Over the course of his career, Rick received multiple awards, including the James C. Quick Award for Innovation in Pharmacy Practice and the Canadian Association of Hospital Pharmacists (NL Branch) Leadership Award. At a national level, Rick was awarded the Larry Broadfield Distinguished Service Award in 2018 from the Canadian Association of Oncology Pharmacists. These honors reflect what so many of us who have worked alongside Rick already know—his work has transformed the delivery of oncology pharmacy care in Newfoundland and set new standards across Canada.

Rick retired more than seven years ago, but his influence continues to ripple through our profession. The safety systems, educational foundations, and patient care models he helped build remain integral parts of pharmacy practice in this province. For these reasons, and many more, I strongly believe that Rick Abbott embodies the excellence that the Alumni Achievement Award is meant to recognize.

Thank you for considering this nomination.

Sincerely,
Scott Edwards, PharmD
Oncology Pharmacist
Eastern Health
St. John's, NL