

Fraser Gurd Biography for Trauma Association of Canada

The Gurd Family arrived in Canada in 1847 fleeing the potato blight in Ireland, giving rise to three successive generations of physicians. David Fraser Gurd graduated from McGill in 1879, practicing family medicine and obstetrics from an office on St. Catherines. His eldest son, Fraser Bailie Gurd, graduated from McGill in 1905, pursued pathology training in Munich and then New Orleans where he became enamoured with surgery and returned to join the McGill surgical staff in 1911. He served with the British Royal Army Medical Corp in the World War I and developed an interest in fractures, incorporating this into his specialty practice on return to McGill. His practice also included chronic chest infections and tuberculosis. He became a Regent and Vice President of the American College of Surgeons, President of the Central Surgical Society, President of the American Association for Thoracic Surgeons and President of the AAST. He was Surgeon in Chief at the Montreal General Hospital and Chair of McGill. He established the diploma course in surgery.

His son Fraser N. Gurd was born in 1914 and was a graduate of McGill class of 1939. He completed a Rotating Internship at Johns Hopkins and a Senior Internship in surgery at the Montreal General Hospital. He then served in the Canadian Armed Forces during World War II. In 1946 he completed the Harrison Surgical Fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania and joined the surgical staff of the Montreal General Hospital in 1947. He served as a member of the Committee on Trauma. He was a Governor and then a Regent of the American College of Surgeons. He was the Scudder orator in 1976 and served as President of the Central Surgical Association and the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma. He served as Chairman of Surgery at McGill from 1963 to 1968. In 1971, he joined the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and worked collaboratively to develop the system leading to speciality certification. In 1985 Dr. Fraser N. Gurd was awarded the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada Duncan Graham Award in Education. The Canadian Medical Association awarded the FNG Star Award for outstanding achievement. Dr. Fraser Gurd exemplified a lifetime pursuit of excellence, standing on the shoulders of his father and grandfather before him. The family changed the face of surgery in Canada. They have had a lasting impact on trauma and surgical care that continues to shape our systems today.

Acknowledgment: *The Gurds. The Montreal General and McGill: A Family Saga* with a forward by Dr. David S. Mulder