It is with great sadness that the Trauma Association of Canada recognizes the loss of one of our beloved leaders, mentors and friends, Dr. Murray Girotti. Dr. Girotti succumbed December 26 2010 after a long heroic battle with scleroderma. TAC has lost a beloved family member.

Murray was a general surgeon, traumatologist and intensivist whose career spanned through Queen’s University, Kingston, University of Toronto, and ultimately London and the University of Western Ontario. He was an outstanding clinician, teacher and surgical leader as evidenced by his involvement in numerous regional, provincial and national leadership positions throughout his career. He was always actively involved in trauma system development, teaching, surgical leadership, injury prevention and research.

Dr. Girotti was President of the Trauma Association of Canada in 1993-94 and also received the organization’s honour of presenting the Fraser Gurd Lecture. He attended every Trauma Association of Canada meeting – indeed he replied to an email just this past November indicating that his health would prohibit him from participating in the spring 2011 annual meeting.

Ultimately Murray was a friend to everyone who had the privilege of contact with him. In someway he impacted the career of most of Canada’s foremost trauma surgeons. Murray had the knack of selflessly mentoring, encouraging, promoting, and guiding those with whom he worked and interacted. He will be greatly missed.

It is in recognition of Dr. Murray Girotti’s great contributions to this organization and its individual members that the inaugural Murray Girotti Injury Prevention Lecture will be commenced this year. Injury Prevention was a passion of Murray’s. This honourary talk was given on April 7, 2011 at the annual meeting in Banff, Alberta by Dr. David Wesson.