

2021 Dr Charles Burns TAC Board Recognition Award

About the Award- The Dr. Charles Burns Board Recognition Award was created in 2015 and was awarded for the first time in 2016, to recognize and honour the visionary leadership of Dr. Burns, the first Chairman of the Coordinating Committee on Trauma for C.A.G.S. that met on Feb 19, 1983, to discuss the formation of a trauma association in Canada. He subsequently chaired the founding Executive Committee that led to the creation of a proposal for a Canadian Trauma Association. On Sept 20, 1983, Dr. Burns became the first President of the Trauma Association of Canada/L'Association Canadienne de Traumatologie (TAC/ACT). Dr. Burns' hard work and volunteer efforts, combined with his unrelenting passion to make a difference to the care of trauma patients and their families resulted in a significant contribution to the creation of TAC, bringing together and strengthening the network of trauma specialists who care for the injured patient. He was highly respected for his efforts in developing, maintaining, and sustaining the Trauma Association of Canada over many years. He passed away in Winnipeg on December 9, 2013. In his honour, the Board of Directors of TAC has created and sponsored this recognition award to be presented to an individual (Physician or other Health Care Professional) who has been a past member of TAC and who, on a consistent basis, exemplifies the characteristics of Dr. Burns by demonstrating outstanding leadership, endless passion, a spirit of volunteerism and who is considered a visionary and innovator in the field of trauma care by their colleagues.

2021 Recipient-We are pleased to advise the membership that **Dr Mary van Wijngaarden-Stephens** was selected as the 2021 recipient. Mary received her award on April 9th at the virtual Awards Ceremony of the TAC 2021 Annual Scientific Meeting and Conference.



Dr. Mary vanWijngaarden-Stephens is a General/Trauma/Critical Care Surgeon in Edmonton Alberta. She did her surgery training at the University of Toronto and trauma training in Baltimore, MD. Dr. Stephens currently has a busy general surgery practice, also working in the Neuro Intensive Care Unit. Under her leadership the trauma program at the University of Alberta Hospital was developed and accredited. Dr. Stephens has held numerous positions within the Trauma Association of Canada including president from 2002-2004. Some of her other trauma related positions include Trauma Director University of Alberta Hospital 1998-2014, Provincial Trauma Committee Chair 2009-2014, Director Alberta Trauma Registry, member National Trauma Registry Advisory Committee 1996-2010, current ATLS Director Edmonton, and past Chair Region XI (Western Canada) American College Surgeons Committee on Trauma. Her

biggest pride is her family – husband Roger and two children Juliana & Noah, who are active teenagers.