

General discussion

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The school has been very important in providing the attendees with exposure to world-class faculty and regional specialists in the field of headache medicine. The didactic lectures, interactive sessions and demonstrations all solidify the need in the minds of the attendees to have a clear understanding of the pathophysiological basis of headache disorders, clinical assessment, investigation treatment and long-term management.

In essence the ultimate educational experience in medicine comes from a combination of an interested clinician an interested student interacting with an interesting topic, in this course it is headache. Ultimately, however, it is a specific case with the patient being seen by the clinician and observed by the learner that will have the greatest influence in transferring knowledge. Ultimately, if the teacher does a good job the student will step in and take over allowing the teacher to withdraw and move on.

One could never expect that the information provided in this Master School will remain constant and unchanging. Over the next several years much of what is heard will change in science and clinical medicine including management. Nevertheless, the remembrance of being taught in the context of patients or cases from individuals who in summation have centuries of knowledge among them will stick, learning will have occurred and the school will be successful.

R. Allan Purdy is Professor of Medicine (Neurology) at Dalhousie University. He was Professor and Head of the Department of Medicine, and Chief of the Medicine Service of the Department of Medicine at Dalhousie University from 2005 to June of 2011. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Canada, He was the Professor and Head of Neurology at Dalhousie from 1994 to 2006.

Dr. Purdy is Past - President of the Canadian Headache Society. He is on the editorial boards of *Cephalalgia* and *Headache* and is on the Boards of the American Headache Society and International Headache Society. He is the Chair of the Scientific Program Committee of the American Headache Society and is Co-Chair of the Scientific Program for the International Headache Society in Boston in 2013.

He has received Excellence in Teaching Awards from his University on numerous occasions. He is the 2005 recipient of the *Arnold P. Friedman Distinguished Clinician Research Award* from the American Headache Society for outstanding contribution to the field of headache, and the *2007 Life Time Achievement Award* from the Headache Cooperative of New England. He was elected a Fellow of the American Headache Society in 2010 and is the current Treasurer of the American Headache Society.