In Memoriam

Dr. Michael Teschuk, Assistant Professor
1964-2019

An exceptional colleague who enriched the lives of those around him

Dr. Teschuk was the long time Residency Training Director in the Department of Clinical Health Psychology, Max Rady College of Medicine; his vision and dedication to training the next generation of psychologists is a remarkable professional legacy. He was on medical staff as a child psychologist with the CHP Program (WRHA) since 1995, based at Health Sciences Centre. Mike’s passion for teaching, his genuine curiosity and keen intellect, and his compassion were evident to all who had the opportunity to work with him, patients and colleagues alike. He was a gifted mentor, especially valued for his wisdom, pragmatism, and humour. Mike’s enthusiasm, positive outlook on life, and unique combination of exemplary leadership, energy, and knowledge, in addition to his warmth, humanity, and generosity, made him a treasured friend and colleague. Mike’s colleagues with CCPPP, the national clinical training programs organization, paid tribute to his contributions by naming their service award in his honour. The inaugural Mike Teschuk Service in Psychology Award was presented to Dr. Karen Cohen, current Executive Director of CPA, in May 2020.

Career Highlights

Among the many career highlights are the following:

Dr. Teschuk facilitated the expansion of the department’s role in undergraduate medical teaching in the College of Medicine, proactively engaging faculty in a broader range of teaching activities

He was nominated multiple times by the Manitoba Medical Students Association for their Teaching Excellence Award.

As CHP’s Residency Program Director from 2008 to 2019, he led the residency through two successful national accreditations.

- he significantly expanded diversity training experiences
- he championed training in emerging areas of care and significant unmet need such as indigenous health, transgender health, and primary care
- he enhanced residents’ involvement as undergraduate medical student instructors, and in inter-professional training.
• he elevated the profile of the rural training stream nationally to attract highly competitive candidates.

In 2018, Dr. Teschuk was the recipient of the department’s Robert McIlwraith Award for Excellence in Clinical Training, recognizing his commitment to high standards of professional training.

In 2019, Dr. Teschuk was awarded the Canadian Association of Medical Education Certificate of Merit, one of only two recipients from the University of Manitoba’s College of Medicine.

At the national level, Dr. Teschuk served on the Executive of the Canadian Council of Professional Psychology Programs (CCPPP) from 2011-2017.

In 2017, Mike was awarded the CCPP Executive Special Award in recognition of his mentoring contributions to training programs across the country.

With the Canadian Psychological Association, he served on the national residency supply and demand task force (report, 2017) and on the steering committee for the 2019 national summit on professional training.

Dr. Teschuk was a highly respected diagnostican. He was also a talented and creative clinician, engaging young children and challenging teens alike to do the hard work of therapy.