



## **2026 CSPM Dr. Balfour Mount Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient, Dr. Harvey Max Chochinov**



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The Canadian Society of Palliative Medicine (CSPM) is pleased to award a Dr. Balfour Mount Lifetime Achievement Award, previously known as the Lifetime Achievement Award, to Dr. Harvey Max Chochinov, in recognition of his sustained and lasting contribution to palliative medicine and to the CSPM.

Dr. Chochinov completed his MD at the University of Manitoba in 1983 followed by a Bachelor of Arts (English) and Doctor of Philosophy through the same university over the following 13 years. During this time, Dr. Chochinov became the only Canadian Psychiatrist who was named a Soros Faculty Scholar for the Project on Death in America Faculty Scholars Program, which ran from 1994 to 1997. This project sought to better understand and reshape the culture and experience of dying through various research efforts, and through humanities and arts, and scholarships.

Dr. Chochinov's research and insight has enriched the palliative medicine field as it provides an empirical basis for understanding human suffering and addressing palliative and end-of-life care experiences for patients and their families. He has also led a large program of research targeting issues related to dignity in the healthcare setting, which includes the development and study of Dignity Therapy which affirm personhood. Otherwise stated, his work addresses the psychosocial needs of patients, rather than just transactional concerns, which leads to more comprehensive treatment covering all aspects of patients' needs. He is quoted as saying "If you want health care systems to be healthier, you need to engage in care that is not just transactional but is also relational" i.e., "a system of both health care and a system of health caring".

With more than 350 career publications, Dr. Chochinov can be described as a prolific scholar. His publications have been cited over 30,000 times which is indicative of the impact he has had on various health care disciplines and ultimately patients and their families. Publication topics cover diverse topics such as depression, quality-of-life, suicide, vulnerability, spirituality and existential distress towards end-of-life. He is co-editor of *The Handbook of Psychiatry in Palliative Medicine*. One of his groundbreaking works – *Dignity Therapy: Final Words for Final Days* - aims to preserve a person's sense of dignity at the end of their life resulting in better palliative care. Other major works

include *Dignity in Care: The Human Side of Medicine* and *In Search of Dignity: A Lifetime of Reflections*. All these books have been published by Oxford University Press.

Dr. Chochinov is a Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Manitoba and a Senior Scientist and CancerCare Manitoba Research Institute. He is the co-founder of the Canadian Virtual Hospice an organization that provides information and support to patients, families, and caregivers. For CSPM, he has been a speaker several times and has led national academic half-days for residents.

Dr. Chochinov is the recipient of numerous honors and awards. He has received the Canadian Medical Association's highest recognition, the F.N.G. Starr Award – an award that recognizes “outstanding and inspiring lifetime achievement.” He is an Order of Manitoba recipient, for his demonstration of excellence and achievements that have enriched the well-being of Manitoba and residents of Manitoba. He is an Officer in the Order of Canada and in 2020 he was inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame.

Dr. Chochinov has demonstrated exemplary humility, kindness and compassion in the palliative care field, significantly influencing both practice and thought. The CSPM is proud to present Dr. Harvey Max Chochinov with the 2026 Dr. Balfour Mount Lifetime Achievement Award for his significant contributions and positive impact to the palliative care community.