

Debate about our youngest doctor continues

As there seems to be a contest on abragging rights as to who graduated from medical school at the youngest age, how about my contribution?^{1,2}

I am Jewish and I grew up in Holland. As such, I am a survivor of the Holocaust. I was in hiding from late August 1942 until we were liberated by Canadian troops in April 1945. I graduated from medical school at the University of Utrecht in June 1950, when I was 21 years old.

Maurits Gans

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References

1. Sullivan P. Paras Naik, MD: how Scotland produced Canada's youngest physician. *CMAJ* 2000;162(6):870.
2. Tiessen AC. We protest! [letter]. *CMAJ* 2000;162(12):1664.

I graduated from Dalhousie University in 1978 well before I turned 23 and was in practice by the time I was 23. Also, before Newfoundland changed its final year of high school from Grade 11 to Grade 12, I heard that Memorial University produced a fair number of graduates at the same tender age, and I even heard of one who squeaked through at age 21. I don't think we need to turn to Scotland¹ to find our youngest practitioners!

George Burden

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Elmsdale, NS

Reference

1. Sullivan P. Paras Naik, MD: how Scotland produced Canada's youngest physician. *CMAJ* 2000;162(6):870.

Is there some type of contest re: Canada's youngest medical graduate?¹ If so, I guess I could mention my own graduation from Queen's in 1947. At age 21, I was the youngest in my class. At our 5-year reunions, 2 or 3 of

my classmates would invariably ask me for my actual birthdate to make sure I was telling the truth!

Gilles Marion

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Reference

1. Macaulay A. Youngest medical graduate [letter]. *CMAJ* 2000;163(5):498.

My fellow Celts, the Scots, have in the past laid claim to the invention of 2 well-known Irish contributions to the human condition, whiskey and the bagpipes. To be fair, we Irish did produce the latter as a joke. To the Scots must go credit for learning how to play the thing. But now the Caledonians lay claim to being the source of Canada's youngest physician.¹ My graduation from Queen's University of Belfast in 1964 also occurred at the tender age of 22.

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Reference

1. Sullivan P. Paras Naik, MD: how Scotland produced Canada's youngest physician. *CMAJ* 2000;162(6):870.

Scotland was not unique in producing young medical graduates.^{1,2} To the credit mainly of my teachers in England, I also graduated from medical school 1 month after my 22nd birthday, in June 1943. Six months later I was a medical officer in the Royal Army Medical Corps, eventually bound for northwest Europe and the First Canadian Army. Perhaps my premature delivery into the medical world was not inappropriate, as I eventually became a neonatologist.

Paul R. Sywer

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References

1. Sullivan P. Paras Naik, MD: How Scotland produced Canada's youngest physician. *CMAJ* 2000;162(6):870.

2. Macaulay AC. Youngest medical graduate [letter]. *CMAJ* 2000;163(5):498.

[The news and features editor responds:]

We never knew that our brief sidebar on Paras Naik¹ would result in such a flood of correspondence about the age of Canada's youngest physician. However, we do remain convinced that when he graduated last spring, Naik was the country's youngest doctor. We are not disputing the fact that others may have graduated at a younger age in the past.

Patrick Sullivan

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Reference

1. Sullivan P. Paras Naik, MD: how Scotland produced Canada's youngest physician. *CMAJ* 2000;162(6):870.