

# Canadian Neurological Sciences Federation's 2026 Distinguished Service Award

## Dr. Michael D. Hill, 2026 recipient

**The CNSF Distinguished Service Award recognizes an individual who has shown exceptional and sustained commitment to the Federation and its member societies. Recipients demonstrate deep service in governance, education, Congress activities, and federation building, along with meaningful national advocacy and contributions that strengthen the CNSF's mission and impact. Their work reflects professionalism, collaboration, and leadership that advance the neurological sciences community.**

Dr. Michael D. Hill has a distinguished history of service to the neurological community. Within the CNSF, he has played a vital role in strengthening the national neuroscience community through his contributions to scientific programming, advocacy, and strategic direction. His leadership as President (since 2020) and Member at Large (since 2011) has helped ensure that the CNSF remains a unifying force for clinicians, researchers, and trainees across the country. In the Canadian Stroke Consortium (CSC), he has been instrumental in developing collaborative trial platforms, advancing national stroke guidelines, and fostering a culture of rigorous, practice changing research. His vision and dedication have helped establish the CSC as a cornerstone of stroke innovation in Canada.

Dr. Hill is widely recognized as one of Canada's foremost neurologists and a driving force in advancing stroke research, clinical care, and medical leadership. A full professor of neurology, clinical epidemiology and medicine at the Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary, he has earned international recognition for pioneering contributions that have reshaped the

treatment of ischemic stroke. He has been recognized nationally as an Officer of the Order of Canada. His medical training at the University of Ottawa, followed by residency and fellowship work, laid the foundation for a career dedicated to improving outcomes for patients with cerebrovascular disease. Among his many achievements, he co led the landmark ESCAPE trial, which demonstrated the effectiveness of endovascular thrombectomy (EVT) for removing large vessel occlusions. This pivotal study, published in 2015, transformed global clinical guidelines and dramatically reduced stroke related disability and death, improving the lives of millions of patients worldwide. A prolific clinician scientist, lecturer, and mentor, he has supervised more than 150 students, residents and fellows who now advance stroke care across Canada and internationally.

Dr. Hill's research portfolio spans acute stroke intervention, stroke systems of care, clinical trial methodology, and health system innovation. His leadership has been central to several influential clinical trials in stroke medicine, and his commitment to innovative, patient centred research has revolutionized



the treatment of ischemic stroke. He has helped define modern standards in acute stroke treatment in Canada and worked both provincially and nationally to see them implemented. Beyond his scientific achievements, he has worked as a volunteer and a leader in the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada. He has been a dedicated educator and mentor, helping to build one of the world's most productive stroke research programs and shaping the next generation of leaders in neurology.

Through his exceptional scientific achievements, transformative clinical leadership, and unwavering commitment to improving neurological care, Dr. Michael D. Hill has made an enduring impact on the CNSF, the CSC, and the broader landscape of neurological sciences in Canada and beyond. He is a most deserving recipient of the CNSF Distinguished Service Award.

