

## Canadian Neurological Sciences Federation's 2023 Distinguished Service Award

### Dr Draga Jichici



Draga joined the CNSF in 1992 after his internal medicine residency at McMaster University and starting Neurology residency at University of Toronto. He participated regularly to all CNSF meetings while in Canada. He subsequently completed a Neuro Critical Care Fellowship at the Cleveland Clinics in Cleveland Ohio. Thereafter he developed and directed a Neurocritical Care Program and Fellowship in Neurocritical care at the Hahnemann University in Philadelphia. When returning to Canada as Neurocritical Care staff at McMaster University in 1999, he became the President of the Canadian Neurocritical Care Group, an Affiliate Society of CNSF. He took the task of organizing Neurocritical Care Half day programs at the CNSF Congress with his neurocritical care colleagues across Canada. He continues to be intimately involved in Neurocritical Care educational activities through CNSF. He has served on CNSF Scientific Program Committee (SPC) as Vice Chair and Chair, and is still an active member on SPC committee. He remains very involved in the organization of CNSF Congress, provides input in the scientific content, chairs and presents at the CNSF sessions most years, and volunteers as Auditor and Abstract moderator at the Congress sessions. He is continuing to serve on the CJNS editorial board since 2019 and is the current CNSF Chair of the Clinical Practice Guidelines committee (CPGC).

Outside of CNSF, Draga has successfully lobbied the Royal College Critical Care Nucleus committee to change the admission criteria from specialty based to competency-based criteria. This allowed thereafter Neurology and Neurosurgery residents to apply to Critical Care Programs in Canada. He served on the American Neurocritical Care Guidelines committee from 2011-2016 and participated in development of guidelines involving Devastating Brain Injury and DVT prevention in Neurologically injured patients. He was part of the Canadian Forum that determined the current Canadian Criteria for Neurological Determination of Death. He served for 10 years as Co-Chair of the Organ and Tissue Donation Committee at Hamilton Health Sciences. He Co-Founded the Canadian Neurocritical Care Society along with Dr. David Zygun from the existing Neurocritical Care Group that became a multidisciplinary Society, and served as the Chair from 2005-2017. He served on the Neurology Residency Program Training Committee and Research Committee at McMaster University. He developed the Hamilton Health Sciences Neurosurgical Level II Intensive Care Unit. He conducted and participated in many clinical research studies in the field of Neurocritical Care.

**Draga, on the behalf of the CNSF Executive and Board, CNSF Members and the Secretariat thank you for your dedication to the CNSF in the past, the present and hopefully for years to come.**