

DENNIS L MODRY

BSc, MD, MSc, FRCS©, FACC, FACS

A native of Camrose, Alberta, Dr. Modry received his B.Sc. and M. D. Degrees from the University of Alberta, and his MSc. Degree and training in General Surgery, Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery and Critical Care at McGill University with separate certifications for each by examination from Quebec, Canada, and United States Licensing authorities. Following 3 more years of training in transplantation immunology, heart and lung transplantation and high-risk cardiovascular surgery at Stanford University Medical Center, Dr. Modry joined the medical staff at the University of Alberta in March 1984. In his position as Clinical Associate Professor in the Divisions of Cardiovascular Surgery and Critical Care Medicine, Dr. Modry served as the Director of both the Heart and Lung Transplantation Program and Cardiovascular Intensive Care Unit from May 1984 until January 2007. And after 30 years of practice Dr. Modry retired January 1, 2016.

Dr. Modry implemented Western Canada's first heart and lung transplantation program, and performed the first heart transplant in July 1985, the first combined transplant of the heart with both lungs in August 1986, the first single lung transplant in December 1989 and the first double lung transplant in November 1990. The success of the heart and lung transplant program, which grew to be the largest and most successful in Canada and one of the largest programs in North America, set the stage for the implementation of the very successful liver transplantation program, which facilitated the subsequent development of the renowned islet cell transplantation program.

Dr. Modry was awarded numerous awards starting with a Molson Hockey Scholarship to attend the University of Alberta in 1967. Subsequently, he received several travelling fellowships, the Vanier Award for the Outstanding Young Canadian in 1985; the 'Commemorative Medal for the 125th Anniversary of the Confederation of Canada in recognition of significant contributions to compatriots, community and to Canada' in January 1993; and the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal for the Province of Alberta 'in recognition of significant contributions to their fellow citizens, their community, and to Canada' in February 2003. In 2001 Dr. Modry was named a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. And in September 2005 Dr. Modry received 'The Alberta Centennial Medal', in recognition of outstanding service to the people and the Province of Alberta.

While in practice, Dr. Modry served on numerous hospital committees and successive Alberta Conservative Government's Finance Committees. He has also been a Director of several public companies, and a member of the Editorial Board of the Journal of Heart and Lung Transplantation. From 1984 until his retirement in December 2015, Dr. Modry also served as the President of the Alberta Medical Association Section of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgery. Dr. Modry's academic interests pertained to outcome measures of various therapeutic strategies in heart and lung transplantation and cardiac surgery aimed at eliminating morbidity and mortality.

Dr. Modry's conservative political interests began in high school but were sharpened by the National Energy Policy and the cost inefficiency of the Canadian Health Care System. Notwithstanding his involvement with the Provincial Government Finance Committee during the reigns of Premiers' Lougheed,

Getty, Klein and Stelmach, Dr. Modry embarked on a mission to assist the provincial government in dealing with the dysfunctional relationship between Alberta with Ottawa. In 2003, in preparation for Alberta's Centennial in 2005, Dr. Modry prepared a treatise for Premier Klein and Caucus entitled "Alberta at the Crossroads; Status Quo, Re-Federation, Autonomy", contributed by constitutional lawyers, numerous prominent businesspeople, academics and senior politicians. The document clearly articulated both the irritants imposed on Alberta by Ottawa, not the least of which was and still is the economic pillaging, but also detailed the only algorithm to solve the problem of Alberta's colonial subservience to Ottawa within Confederation and under the Canadian Constitution.

After 116 years in which no Alberta Provincial Government or Canadian Federal Government ever protected Alberta's interests or future prosperity, Dr. Modry concluded that the only logical path forward for Alberta was freedom from the tyranny and oppression of Alberta's interests by Ottawa. Presently, Dr. Modry is inspired to create a brighter and more prosperous future for all Alberta citizens.