

## **In Memoriam: Dr. Gerald Arthur Klassen**

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on behalf of

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To: DAL-ANNOUNCEMENT@LISTS.DAL.CA <DAL-ANNOUNCEMENT@LISTS.DAL.CA>

### **In Memoriam: Dr. Gerald Arthur Klassen**

It is with a heavy heart that we share the sad news that Dr. Gerald Arthur Klassen, former professor of Physiology and Biophysics and Vice President Research at Dalhousie University has passed away.

Dr. Klassen graduated from the University of British Columbia Medical School in 1957. Post graduate training took him to Montreal (McGill), London, UK (National Heart Hospital), Vancouver (VGH), back to Montreal as a Resident and Fellow in Cardio-Respiratory Medicine where he was involved in the early implantation of pacemakers in Canada; and finally 2 years in Baltimore, Maryland (Johns Hopkins) where he was a Fellow in Physiological Medicine under the mentorship of Dr. Kenneth Zierler. He returned to McGill and the Royal Victoria Hospital in 1965, as a clinician/researcher /teacher and was Director of the Cardiovascular Division RVH from 1974-77.

In 1977, he came to Dalhousie as Head of Physiology and Biophysics. Then in 1981 he switched gears again and was Vice President Academic and Research for 2 years and a final year as Vice President Research. In July 1984 he returned to being a fulltime cardiologist/researcher/teacher in the Dalhousie Department of Medicine. During all those years he continued to peruse his research interests in the coronary circulation and collaborated with colleagues in many countries, including a sabbatical year in Pisa. He served on many medical boards and committees and was particularly involved with issues of Bioethics in Human Research. His years at Johns Hopkins were formative and he was so honoured to be appointed a Member of the Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars in 2002. He had wanted to be a doctor since he was 4 years old and he was that and a teacher to the end.

In accordance with Gerry's wishes, donations in memory may be made the [Dalhousie Medical Research Foundation](#).