

Dr. James Rourke Biography



Dr. James Rourke is a Professor Emeritus and former Dean of Medicine (2004-2016) and Professor of Family Medicine (2004-2019) at Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada. Dr. Rourke grew up on a farm in rural Canada and attended a one-room primary school. He graduated MD from the University of Western Ontario and completed Family Medicine training. Dr. James Rourke was a full-scope rural family physician in Goderich, ON, Canada for 25 years with his wife and partner, Dr. Leslie Rourke. His rural generalist practice included care for patients in their office, on house calls, in the nursing home and the hospital, including emergency work and obstetrics, attending 740 births. This provided a lived-experience foundation for a

lifetime of leadership in rural medicine, medical education, and research with over 100 published journal articles. He remains active in retirement, providing sought-after advice on rural health, healthcare systems, medical education, and rural projects including as a jury member for the [Canada Space Agency's Deep Space Healthcare Challenge](#). His honours and awards include the 2017 WONCA 5 Star Doctor Award for North America, shared with Dr. Leslie Rourke from the World Organization of Family Doctors.