



Dr. Jaco Hoffman

Community: Olds

A doctor who breaks down barriers to ensure rural patients' health needs are at the forefront is this year's winner of RhPAP's Rhapsody Physician Award.

Dr. Jaco Hoffman's colleagues, community advocates and the RhPAP Rhapsody Awards Selection Committee have high praise for the physician who trains the next generation of medical students, encourages collaboration through his leadership and doesn't hesitate to provide on-the-spot medical care as needed at the ball diamond, local store or on-the-street.

Established in 2002, the Rhapsody Physician Award recognizes the contributions of rural physicians, especially those unsung heroes who provide Alberta rural communities with outstanding patient care and make notable contributions to medical practice and to their communities.

The Olds physician has practised in the community for 14 years and also served as medical director for Alberta Health Services Central Zone.

"Dr. Hoffman advocates strongly for reliable care provided outside of the hospital environment provided by first responders and has assisted us in enhancing our service to

the community,” writes Justin Andrew, fire chief/director of protective services for the Town of Olds in his nomination support.

Andrew says Dr. Hoffman volunteers with the Prevention of Alcohol Related Trauma in Youth (PARTY) and participates in scenarios, demonstrates medical procedures and helps debunk myths youth often encounter through various medias.

Heather Venneman, a long-time registered nurse at the Olds Hospital and Care Centre, has “never encountered a physician whom I respect and appreciate more.”

His care and concern for patients and his staff are second to none considering his broad scope of practice including emergency, obstetrics, acute care, long-term care, anesthesia and surgery, Venneman emphasizes. He also operates his own clinic and has held various healthcare leadership roles in the community including board chair for the Peak to Prairies Primary Care Network.

Dr. Hoffman championed the expansion of surgeries in rural Alberta, leading to reduced wait times for some procedures and increased usage of rural facilities.

“Despite his numerous professional commitments, Dr. Hoffman’s genuine passion for patient care remains at the forefront of his practice. He consistently demonstrates deep empathy, respect and dedication to his patients, making a lasting impact on their lives.”

Dr. Hoffman’s commitment stretches beyond his home community.

“His passion for providing compassionate, patient-centered care serves as an inspiration to his peers and embodies the very essence of what it means to be a rural healthcare professional,” remarks Dr. Deon Erasmus, a Provost, Alberta, physician who once worked with him. Dr. Hoffman started his medical journey in the eastern Alberta community 18 years ago after emigrating from South Africa.

[Check out the 2025 Rhapsody nominees here.](#)

