



**Resident Physician of the Month
November 2018**

**Dr. Melissa MacPherson
Medical Genetics and Genomics
University of Calgary**

I'm originally from Guelph, Ontario, a small city in Southern Ontario. I did my undergraduate degree in Molecular Biology at McMaster University, PhD in Molecular Genetics at the University of Toronto and Medical School at Western. I decided that it was time to leave Ontario and have an adventure further away from home. I had the good fortune of matching to the University of Calgary for my residency in Medical Genetics and Genomics and to find myself working at the beautiful Alberta Children's Hospital. I'm currently in the fifth year of my residency training. I've received fantastic training in Medical Genetics in Calgary and have been surrounded by a great group of resident physicians, staff physicians, genetic counselors, dietitians, nurses, and laboratory geneticists who have taught me many things along the way.

In my spare time I enjoy camping, hiking and cross-country skiing in the mountains. Sometimes I go alone. Sometimes I bring along my fellow resident physicians who have joined me for adventures in the rain, sun, freezing cold and even smoky forest fire conditions. Surprisingly, despite all of this, they continue to enthusiastically join me for more adventures away from work! I am truly humbled and honoured to have received this acknowledgement from PARA.

A colleague had this to say about Dr. Melissa MacPherson:

"It is our pleasure to nominate Melissa for the Resident Physician of the Month. Melissa is in her 4th year of the Medical Genetics residency program and serving as chief resident physician. We have been so impressed with Melissa's skills balancing her administrative duties as chief, practicing clinical medicine in a demanding specialty, and maintaining a generous outlook and work-life balance. She sets a wonderful example in clinic as she is consistently thorough with her patient evaluations, and takes the time to explain complex genetic conditions to families. She goes above and beyond to teach rotating students, often spending over an hour at a time going through topics. With each new rotation, she will frequently reach out to junior resident physicians to encourage or give words of advice. Our residency is unique in that there is only one resident physician per year, which can be isolating as it can be hard to relate to resident physicians in other programs that we are rotating through. It is comforting to discuss similar experiences with senior resident physicians, and we appreciate her words of advice and concern.

Melissa is truly an exceptional resident physician and we feel she is highly deserving of this award. Thanks for your consideration."

Congratulations Dr. Melissa MacPherson!