

Hypertension Innovation Award



Mark Gelfer, MD

**Family Physician
Copeman Healthcare Centre
Vancouver, British Columbia**

Dr. Mark Gelfer is the recipient of the 2019 Hypertension Canada Hypertension Innovation Award. This new annual award recognizes a member that develops or leads implementation of innovative approaches in knowledge translation and education related to hypertension and/or primary prevention.

We celebrate Dr. Gelfer as a longstanding member and co-chair for many years, of the Hypertension Canada, Clinical Practice Guidelines Blood Pressure Measurement subcommittee. Through his work on this committee, he led drafting and creation of numerous and substantial advances in recommendations for the diagnosis of high blood pressure in Canada. Notable clinical practice recommendations that occurred during his time as a committee member include guideline recommendations that strongly endorsed ambulatory blood pressure monitoring and home blood pressure monitoring for the diagnosis and assessment of hypertension; gave guidance on the follow-up of white coat hypertension, and drafted revisions of previous and current diagnostic algorithms. These advances in the Canadian Clinical Practice Guidelines have no doubt improved the care of hundreds of thousands of Canadians, are a testament to your legacy and influence on hypertension in Canada, and have been emulated by guidelines committees globally.

Beyond this, representing an even more impressive accomplishment, is the fact that Dr. Gelfer is recognized globally as the inventor of the BpTRU device. The first automated office blood pressure monitor ever developed is now used worldwide and undoubtedly has been used to perform tens of millions of blood pressure measurements over the past two decades, contributing to the care of millions of individuals. This accomplishment alone in many ways exceeds the requirements and expectations for the award. The invention of the BpTRU has led to creation of a whole new topic entity in the field, known as 'automated office blood pressure measurement' and is responsible for numerous advances in hypertension care, including improved screening of individuals with suspected high blood pressure; reduction in white coat effect; facilitation of recording of multiple in-office readings, with auto-averaging of these measurements; advances in algorithm-based oscillometric blood pressure estimation; and improved blood pressure measurement in clinical trials (including the landmark SPRINT trial).

Without question, Dr. Gelfer's innovative and enduring commitment to excellence in the hypertension community are among the reasons he is most deserving of the Hypertension Innovation Award for 2019.



Hypertension Canada
3780 14th Avenue, Suite 211
Markham, ON L3R 9Y5

Phone: 905-943-9400
Fax: 905-943-9401
www.hypertension.ca