

Alberta Doctors' Digest

Shine A Light: Dr. Jane Baker

Dr. Jane Baker has been practicing medicine for 20 years, with the last 16 dedicated to family medicine. Over those two decades, she has cared for generations of patients, advocating for them within a complex health care system and supporting them through every stage of life.

A graduate of medical school in England, Dr. Baker completed a rotating internship before moving to Canada, where she pursued her family medicine residency.

"I think I actually always wanted to be a family doctor," she says. "I had a really great family physician myself, and she became a mentor to me. She let me shadow her, and I was drawn to the variety of the specialty and the relationships a family doctor builds over time."



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Longitudinal care and continuity

Caring for patients across years and even generations continues to inspire Dr. Baker, and a big motivator for her is the breadth family medicine offers: treating illness while also focusing on prevention, advocacy and helping patients navigate the health system.

"I like being able to help people feel better in the moment," she says. "That might mean diagnosing acute otitis media or removing something stuck in an ear."

Dr. Baker also practices family medicine obstetrics, allowing her to incorporate her interests in women's health, pregnancy and newborn care into her comprehensive family medicine.

"Access to high-quality prenatal and intrapartum care is becoming more challenging lately," she says. "So I'm more than happy to be able to support patients through pregnancy as part of my family practice."

Dr. Baker also values being a voice for her patients, helping them when they're seeing specialists, as they move from hospital to home, or when they're dealing with work, government or other systems.

That advocacy is part of the long-term relationships she builds with patients over time. Dr. Baker shares in many of the milestones her patients experience — welcoming new babies, watching children grow, celebrating when patients become grandparents and offering compassionate support during palliative and end-of-life care.

"Being there for people through both happy and difficult transitions is a real privilege," she says.

Patient nomination

Dr. Baker's commitment does not go unnoticed. She was nominated for Shine A Light by her patient, Paulina, who described her as an exceptional physician who has made a lasting impact on her family and friends.

"From the moment you step into her office, she creates a welcoming and comforting environment," Paulina shared. "She never rushes through appointments, and always listens attentively. She addresses every question and concern with patience and compassion. She takes the time to explain medical concerns thoroughly, ensuring we understand our health and treatment options."

Paulina also highlighted Dr. Baker's meticulous follow-through — from referrals to test results to follow-ups — ensuring nothing falls through the cracks.

"Dr. Baker's proactive approach gives my family and me peace of mind knowing we are in such capable hands," Paulina wrote. "And beyond her medical expertise, she has a warmth that makes every visit feel reassuring. She embodies everything a great doctor should be: knowledgeable, compassionate and truly invested in her patients' well being."

For Dr. Baker, receiving that recognition was both humbling and energizing.

"It's definitely a boost," she says. "You don't always realize the difference you're making, so it was really nice to hear."

It is a reminder of the relationships at the heart of her work, and of the trust built over time by showing up for patients through both the everyday moments and the most significant transitions in their lives.

About the Shine A Light Program

The AMA's Shine A Light Program allows individual patients or community members to recognize AMA member physicians for the following:

- providing exemplary care that made a difference in a patient's life
- spearheading projects that improve patient and/or community life
- contributing to a high-performing health care system

Do you know a physician who goes above and beyond to care for their patients? You can [nominate them](#) for the Shine A Light program on the AMA website.

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