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# doctorsNS

## EXCELLENCE IN MEDICINE

**Dr. Ajantha "AJ" Jayabarathan**,  
Distinguished Service Award winner,  
is one of nine physicians honoured  
with a 2024 Achievement Award



### ANNUAL CONFERENCE SNEAK PEEK

Motions for discussion;  
education session preview

### PLDP RELAUNCH

Revised leadership program  
ready to roll

### GOALS OF CARE

New materials support patient-  
centered conversations

# With Honours

Celebrating the winners of the 2024 Doctors Nova Scotia Achievement Awards

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## Distinguished Service Award **Dr. Ajantha Jayabarathan (Dr. AJ)**

After 33 years in medicine, Dr. Ajantha Jayabarathan (popularly known as "Dr. AJ") has been awarded the Doctors Nova Scotia (DNS) Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her dedication, compassion and expertise, which have transformed the lives of her patients and played a pivotal role in building capacity and empowering family physicians across Nova Scotia.

Dr. AJ has a family practice in Herring Cove, where she goes above and beyond for her patients. She chose family medicine, she says, because "it keeps me challenged to manage care across the human lifespan."

Her passion for health equity, health informatics and using geographical information systems to improve health care drives the work she does outside of her practice. In 2021, she created the Nova Scotia Health Geo-View, a virtual mapping tool that helps physicians access socioeconomic data and search for community-based services and other information to help their patients.

Dr. AJ has also been front and centre in providing essential health information to the community through media. Shortly after starting her practice, she hosted "Housecalls with Dr. AJ" on CTV's *Live at Five* and participated in television and radio segments on the CBC and 95.7 FM's *Rick Howe Show*. She also contributed to several columns to the *Chronicle Herald* over the years.

The proudest moment of Dr. AJ's career was when she was working as a resident at the Saint John Regional Hospital in New Brunswick and diagnosed a pituitary adenoma in a patient using clinical history alone. She says, "the internist was not convinced but the ER doctor did the imaging and sent me a note confirming the diagnosis."