

WELCOME AND ADMINISTRATION

Debbie Pestell, MD
 Consultant in Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine
 Introductory Course in Diving Medicine - Fitness to Dive
 11-15 May 2026, Halifax, NS

11 May 2026

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INTRODUCTION

'Introductory Course in Diving Medicine - Fitness to Dive'
 Halifax, NS – Nov 2016



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INTRODUCTION

'Advanced Course in Diving Medicine - Diagnosis & Treatment'
 Summerside, PEI – May 2024



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INTRODUCTION

- upon successful completion, physicians are qualified to conduct initial and periodic diver medicals
 - CSA Z275.2-20 Level 1 qualification
 - can have name listed on the Diver Certification Board of Canada (DCBC) physician list



www.divercertification.com

- accredited for for **35 MAINPRO+ CME credits** with the Canadian College of Family Physicians (CCFP), Course ID No: 300370-001



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FACULTY

- Dr. Debbie Pestell, MD, LCdr (ret'd)** - Medical Director
 Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine Consultant, QEII Health Sciences Centre, Halifax, NS
 Occupational Health Physician, Atlantic Offshore Medical Services (AOMS), Dartmouth, NS
 Hospitalist, QEII Health Sciences Centre, Halifax, NS



- Dr. Neal Pollock, PhD** - Scientific Director
 Associate Professor, Dept of Kinesiology, Université Laval, Québec, QC
 Research Chair, Centre de Médecine de Plongée du Québec, Hôtel-Dieu de Lévis, Québec, QC



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FACULTY

- Dr. Chris Logue, MD**
 Assistant Professor in Emergency Medicine, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
 Medical Director, Centre for Hyperbaric and Diving Medicine, Hennepin County Medical Centre, Minneapolis, MN



- Dr. Geoff Zbitnew, MD**
 Associate Professor, Chair Discipline of Anesthesiology, Staff Anesthesiologist
 Diving and Hyperbaric Physician - Memorial University of Newfoundland, St. John's, NL



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5. Dr. Hafeez Jamal, MD

Hyperbaric and Diving physician, Wound Care specialist, FP Anesthesia
Hyperbaric Medicine Unit, Hamilton General Hospital, Hamilton, ON



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FACULTY DISCLOSURES

Faculty Disclosure

Relationships with commercial interests:

1. Grants/Research Support:
2. Speakers Bureau/Honoraria:
3. Consulting Fees:
4. Other:

Disclosure of Commercial Support

This program has not received financial support from any commercial interest.

This program has not received in-kind support from any commercial interest

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CUHMA

- the Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society (UHMS) is an international scientific organization and authority for diving and hyperbaric medicine
- for >30 years, Canadians were members of the Great Lakes Chapter of the UHMS
 - annual scientific meetings in Burlington, ON
- in 2009, the Great Lakes Chapter dissolved and a Canadian Chapter of the UHMS (CC-UHMS) was established
 - independent by-laws and Board of Directors (BoD), but financially dependent on UHMS
 - could not charge membership fees



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- due to constitutional requirements and different international corporate regulations, the UHMS decided to dissolve all international chapters in Apr 2015
- in Oct 2015, CUHMA (the Canadian Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Association) - a completely independent Canadian diving and hyperbaric medical association - was established
 - new name
 - by-laws IAW Industry Canada rules and regulations
 - Executive and Board of Directors
 - financial structure
 - monthly newsletter: **CUHMA E-News**

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- CUHMA struggled with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic without the ability to hold in-person Annual Scientific Meetings for 3 years
 - one-day, fully accredited virtual meeting held 2 May 2026
 - topics included ECHMO in the hyperbaric chamber, thermal physiology, HOBIT trial, protecting health and safety of divers, revision of pO₂ limits for diving, 5 original research presentation
 - ongoing Affiliate Safety series
- virtual online meeting planned for fall 2027
- for more information, go to the CUHMA website at: www.cuhma.ca

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2025-2026 Board of Directors



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Geoff Zbitnew, MD



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Sherri Ferguson, MSc



Member-at-Large
Cesar Orellano, MD

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DIPLOMA IN HYPERBARIC & DIVING MEDICINE

- Hyperbaric and Diving Medicine recognized as a distinct specialty by Royal College in Apr 2013
 - Working Group established educational standards for physicians to train in Diving and Hyperbaric Medicine
 - competency portfolio for Diploma in Hyperbaric and Diving Medicine received final approval in early 2017
 - both residency and practice-eligibility routes (PERs)
 - applications opened in Mar 2021 and the first recipients of the Diploma have been awarded
 - for more information:
<https://www.royalcollege.ca/rcsite/credentials-exams/exam-eligibility/afc/apply-afc-practicing-e>

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