

March 30, 2025

Brief Biography – Peggy Cassidy BN, RN

Margaret (Peggy) Cassidy graduated from the University of Calgary with a bachelor's degree in nursing.

Shortly thereafter, Peggy became a cardiology nurse at Foothills Hospital in Calgary and moved into the nascent area of the cardiac arrhythmia service led by D George Wyse, L Brent Mitchell, Anne M Gillis and Henry J Duff.

Peggy has been in a leadership role in Cardiac Arrhythmia for the bulk of her career. She first served as the coordinator of the Foothills Hospital Cardiac Arrhythmia Service from 1987-1991. After a brief respite, she took over the leadership role again in 1996, and remained the leader until 2010.

In that time, Peggy has served on the Canadian national Working Group on Cardiac Pacing, and she has served on advisory boards for Medtronic, Guidant, and St. Jude Medical. Her work with industry was primarily focussed on remote monitoring and how this could be optimized in a patient-centric manner.

Over the years, Peggy has been a member of the Heart Rhythm Society, and more recently the Canadian Heart Rhythm Society. She has volunteered for the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

Peggy was intimately involved in Calgary for the first ablations, the first defibrillator implantations (including defibrillation testing), internal cardioversions for atrial fibrillation, and later for atrial fibrillation ablations.

She has been at the help of the Calgary Arrhythmia Clinic from the days of epicardial ICD patches and abdominal generators. In fact, she still has an x-ray showing an abdominal ICD that migrated down into the pelvis into a suprapubic location.

In her decades of leadership, Peggy developed much of the patient education materials that have been used by the patients in Southern Alberta, the interior of British Columbia and southern Saskatchewan. These materials are still the foundation for much of the patient education materials that we use to this day.

In this time, Peggy has helped to train several generations of cardiac electrophysiologists over almost 40 years. She has always done so with an unassuming style – educating the fellows without demeaning or belittling them.

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Even to this day, she is a source of knowledge both about the history of cardiac electrophysiology, and of optimal contemporary management.