Ontario Alumnus Dr. Vivian McAlister made an Officer of the Order of Canada

We are very pleased to inform the Ontario Alumni that one of our group, Vivian McAlister, has been made an Officer of the Order of Canada. The citation reads: *Vivian McAlister (London, Ont.): For his seminal contributions to and leadership in the military and civilian surgical communities, as a medical practitioner, researcher and educator.* The Order of Canada, created in 1967, recognizes outstanding achievement and dedication to community service.

Vivian McAlister has an impressive resume as a transplant surgeon at the London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) and professor of surgery at the University of Western Ontario's, Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry. However, it is his role as a combat surgeon with the Canadian Armed Forces that is being recognized. Enlisting as a civilian surgeon, after basic training, over about 10 years he completed six tours in Afghanistan (Kandahar and Kabul) and Iraq, and also went to Haiti in 2010 after the earthquake. As a trauma surgeon, he worked in tents at military base hospitals and set up operating rooms inside abandoned homes to save the lives of catastrophically injured soldiers in the war zone. The Canadian Medical Association wrote: *"Dr. McAlister was instrumental in developing trauma protocols to make patient care as accurate and fast as possible … This work was critical because of the need to address the catastrophic injuries caused by anti-personnel improvised explosive devices (IEDs)."* During this period he continued teaching at Schulich and maintaining his general and transplant surgery position at LHSC.

In March and April last year, using his military medical expertise he helped LHSC construct its 144-bed field hospital at the Western Fair District Agriplex, now the site of the hospital's COVID-19 vaccination clinic.

He has also received the Canadian Medical Association's John McCrae Memorial Award in 2019 and helped establish the Office of Military Academic Medicine at Schulich, which

supports Canadian Armed Forces trainees at the medical school.

Vivian wrote, “The education that I received in Trinity and the training that was given to me in Dublin hospitals prepared me for the opportunities that led to this award.” and “It is a great honour that I share with my alma mater.”

Best regards,
Trinity College Dublin Association & Trust - Ontario Chapter

Information taken from the following sources:
The names and citations of the new members of the Order of Canada | The Star – Dec 30, 2020
London surgeon gets 'wonderful' shock being named to Order of Canada | London Free Press (lfpress.com) - Dec 30, 2020
London, Ont., surgeon named officer of Order of Canada for work as combat surgeon - London | Globalnews.ca - Dec 30, 2020