

**Biographical notes for Dr. Louise Caouette Laberge
CMA 2006 May Cohen Award for Women Mentors**

Pediatric plastic surgeon Louise Caouette Laberge's leadership by example, in her many roles that include mentor, teacher, physician and mother, has been described as a professional and personal blueprint for others to follow.

Dr. Laberge obtained her medical degree at Laval University, trained in plastic surgery at the University of Montréal and in microsurgery at McGill University. Since 1982 she has been a full-time academic surgeon at Ste. Justine's children's hospital in Montréal, where she specializes in reconstructive plastic surgery for children with a particular interest in microsurgery, and cleft lip and palate surgery. She has been director of the burn clinic, medical director of the head and neck surgery program, and president of the physician's council. Currently she is chief of plastic surgery and director of the cleft lip and palate clinic. A clinical professor at the University of Montréal, she was director of the plastic surgery residency training program from 2000 to 2006. In this function she has been "an inspiration to the residents, male and female alike." A prolific author, she also has more than 100 scientific presentations to her credit.

Former president of the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons and of the Canadian Microsurgical Group, she has also contributed to the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons as an examiner in plastic surgery for 10 years. A member of the international outreach committee of the American Cleft Palate Association from 1999 to 2006, she has volunteered for 10 overseas missions to treat children with cleft lip and palate deformities.

Her achievements have been recognized by the Royal College of Surgeons, the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, the Knights of Malta, and l'Association des médecins de langue française. She was chosen as Woman of the Year in Montréal in 1986 and has received many awards for her teaching and her dedication to her patients. She enjoys a busy family life with her husband, also a pediatric surgeon, and their four children.