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COMMENTARY

Jack Taunton: Mentor, Colleague, Friend

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Abstract

Jack Taunton's dedication to sports medicine has not gone unnoticed. His accolades and achievements speak volumes and his unwavering dedication to teaching and mentorship has had a profound effect on many individuals that have crossed his path. I, for one, am honored to call him my mentor, colleague, and friend!

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Introduction

Paying tribute to Jack Taunton is an honour, and I hope that I am able to do him justice. Jack is an individual who inspires awe. He epitomizes hard work, determination, dedication, and perseverance. Through his tireless efforts, Jack has made significant contributions to both sport and sports medicine in British Columbia and beyond. Although too many to fully list, his accomplishments include: co-founding the Allan McGavin Sports Medicine Center at UBC, where he served as the director for over 25 years; co-founding Sportmed BC; and being both the first Director of Medicine and Director of Sports Medicine for Fortius Sport & Health. Jack established both the Vancouver Sun Run and the Vancouver International Marathon. He was the Chief Medical Officer for the 2010 Vancouver Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, as well as Chief Medical Officer for Canada at the 2000

Sydney Olympics, two Pan American, and two World Student Games. In recognition of all of these achievements and more, among his many accolades Jack was inducted into the BC Sports Hall of Fame in 2014.

Jack is a wealth of knowledge and experience. I first met him during my graduate studies at the University of British Columbia. Inspired by Jack's passion for teaching, and the innovative work being done in sports medicine, I decided to pursue my PhD. However, in the midst of my program, I found myself adrift when my supervisor went on an extended medical leave. The stress of not knowing who would guide me was unnerving. It was a huge relief when Jack, without hesitation, stepped in and enabled me to complete my PhD with minimal disruption. He offered me unwavering guidance and support, day and night, throughout my studies. With his mentorship, I completed my research and

was fully prepared for my defense. But this was only the beginning.

Jack has been my mentor and colleague for well over 20 years. To this day, I continue to learn from his wisdom, knowledge, and insight. Jack and I have collaborated and continue to collaborate on many sports medicine-related initiatives, and we sit together on several provincial and national committees. He continues to strive for excellence and encourages all around him, including me, to do the same. It amazes me how much one person can accomplish, and how this one person is also able to work collaboratively, with great generosity, to raise others up. It is my honour to call both Jack and his deeply supportive wife, Cheryl, my friends. Together, they have always shown me kindness and encouragement, in both my personal and professional journeys.

Jack's humble leadership and dedicated service to sports medicine have cultivated greatness in many, many others. Under his influence we continue to learn and flourish. It was a privilege and honour to have Jack as my teacher, supervisor, and mentor, and it is a continuing pleasure to have him as both a colleague and a friend.

Author's Qualifications

The author's qualifications are as follows: Shelina Babul BSc, PhD.