

FCIHR ACKNOWLEDGES

The Friends of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (FCIHR) prepared this calendar in collaboration with Partners in Research (PIR) to share the excitement of discovery.

SHARE THE EXCITEMENT OF DISCOVERY...



A green ink signature of Dr. Aubie Angel, written in a cursive style.

Dr. AUBIE ANGEL
President, FCIHR

This calendar celebrates the past achievements of two recent inductees into The Canadian Medical Hall of Fame (see Dr. H. Friesen - Oct 2001, and Dr. C. Scriver - Dec 2002) and features the Scientific Directors of the 13 institutes of CIHR and their areas of scientific enquiry. The images were selected to stimulate the curiosity of viewers interested in contemporary issues in the biological and health sciences.

FCIHR is a non-profit national organization dedicated to support the goals and ideals of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). CIHR is the premier agency in Canada that funds biomedical and health research to generate new knowledge that will advance the health of all peoples.

PIR is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to educating the public, especially primary and secondary school students on issues relating to biomedical research. It was established in 1988 and is particularly interested in promoting the wise and humane use of animals when necessary.

We thank the following groups for assisting in the production of this souvenir calendar: the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Health Canada, the Coalition for Biomedical and Health Research and National Health Research Awareness Month.

A Pledge to the Future:

As federal Minister of Health, I am delighted to welcome users of this calendar to a sixteen-month journey through health research issues and outcomes. Research plays a vital role in continually re-invigorating our health care system for the benefit of all Canadians.

In the year 2000, the Government celebrated the creation of CIHR (Canadian Institutes of Health Research) and pledged to increase its support for health research. We are determined to become one of the top five countries for research and development performance within the next decade, a commitment that will double the current federal investment in research and development by 2010.



WE ARE DETERMINED TO BECOME ONE OF THE TOP FIVE COUNTRIES FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

Through its thirteen virtual Institutes linking researchers from coast to coast, CIHR offers an innovative and integrative approach to health research. It embraces individuals and networks of researchers from a broad spectrum of research perspectives - basic biomedical, clinical, health systems and services, and population health. Each of these thematic institutes is lead by a Scientific Director who is internationally recognized in his or her own field of health research. Working together as champions of CIHR, their role is to foster and inspire research discoveries as part of a broad national health research agenda.

I congratulate the Friends of Canadian Institutes of Health Research on this calendar initiative as a way of sharing the progress of CIHR and its Institutes with students, educators, public officials and other interested Canadians. Canada has a proud tradition of health research that will continue to excel with the strong scientific leadership provided by CIHR.

ALLAN ROCK
Minister of Health

As a historian of Canadian medicine I'm often asked this question: "The discovery of insulin started it all, didn't it? Didn't that event cause Canadians to become interested in medical research?"

"No", I reply. "That gets the story backwards. Canadians first had a vision of what research might achieve. About a hundred years ago, in the early years of the Twentieth Century, they began building world-class hospitals and laboratories and university departments. As in the movie, "Field of Dreams", they believed that if you built for the future, great things would happen. The discovery of insulin in the early 1920s was the first of those great things. Many others are mentioned in the pages of this calendar.

One of the most heartening Canadian public events of the late 1990s was the renewal of our commitment to the healthcare research vision. It was most evident in the great transition in Ottawa from the old Medical Research Council to the new Canadian Institutes of Health Research and all their associated partners and activities. Once again our country is building its research capacity, in the belief that great things will happen in the Twenty-First Century.



An Historical Perspective: BUILDING CANADIAN RESEARCH FOR THE MILLENNIUM

Dr. MICHAEL BLISS
University of Toronto

It's too bad that we don't have a calendar equivalent of a crystal ball to list Canadian research achievements in advance (July 14: new arthritis treatment ... September 12: Alzheimer breakthrough ...). Without doubt there will be important research news to pencil in during the months covered here. And notice this: It's a sign of our times when we put the pictures of Canadian scientists, researchers, and health-care workers on calendars.

Health and health-care have moved to the top of our national agenda. These are the fields in which Canadians are building for the future, so we can make more history.