

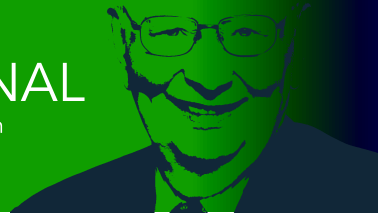
The Henry G. Friesen

INTERNATIONAL PRIZE

in Health Research

LE PRIX INTERNATIONAL

de la Recherche en Santé Henry G. Friesen



(Est. 2005)



September 19, 2007

For Immediate Release

INNOVATIVE FOUNDER OF McMASTER MEDICAL SCHOOL AND MARS DISCOVERY DISTRICT AWARDED FRIESEN INTERNATIONAL PRIZE IN HEALTH RESEARCH

Montreal – Dr. John R. Evans, the creative genius behind the landmark McMaster University Medical School and Toronto's MaRS Discovery District, was awarded the 2007 Henry G. Friesen International Prize in Health Research today in recognition of his exceptional leadership, vision and innovation.

The annual Friesen International Prize recognizes a visionary and groundbreaking medical scientist who has impacted significantly the way the health sector functions worldwide. The award is given by the Friends of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.

Dr. Evans' contributions began with his revolutionary development of the McMaster Medical School model in the early 70s where he became founding Dean at the young age of 35.

The McMaster Medical School was considered radical in its day, and often laughed at, by more traditional programs until finally the model caught the attention of Harvard University, which changed its medical school curriculum to match the innovative McMaster model.

Dr. Evans now speaks about new initiatives in support of Research, but cautioned about the need to be open and accountable to the public that pays for it. He is futuristic in pointing out the need to develop internationally respected teams to be recognized on a global landscape. This can only be achieved by attracting and developing outstanding talent with predictable support. This can happen only by fostering great academic institutions with a strong culture of research and a deep commitment to excellence. Support for this cannot be taken for granted, as governments look for greater accountability in relation to national priorities, economic and social return on investment and innovation in the research process. He states that it is incumbent upon us to show that research is a sound investment of tax dollars.

Dr. Evans brought his spirit of collaboration to his establishment of the MaRS Discovery District (MaRS DD) in the heart of Toronto's hospitals and research institutes. MaRS is a not-for-profit corporation founded by leaders from business and the public sector to improve the commercialization of Canada's discoveries in science and technology. The centre opened in 2005, and while it is still early to measure its success, the innovation is helping to ensure that Canadians receive the full economic benefits of their investment in scientific technology research and development.

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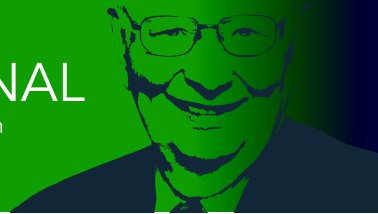
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"MaRS is in place to help Canadian discoveries make a positive difference to the health and quality of life for Canadians and others throughout the world," Dr. Evans explained. "It is important that we strengthen Canada's ability to commercialize innovation arising from its substantial investment in academic research to benefit the health and economic future of Canadians."

The MaRS project spans two acres and is home to scientists, venture finance and established businesses as well as legal and management specialists. There are 27 start up companies in the MaRS "Incubator" and over 200 companies have benefited from advice from business development mentors.

Dr. Aubie Angel, President of the Friends of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research said, "Dr. John Evans is a remarkable visionary in Health Research. From the founding of the McMaster Medical School to his presidency at the University of Toronto and his service with international health initiatives, founding chair of the Canada Foundation for Innovation and now his leadership in the MaRS project, Dr. Evans has been the outstanding Canadian medical leader of his generation. We are proud, along with our colleagues in the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences, to honour Dr. Evans with the 2007 Henry G. Friesen International Prize in Health Research."

Dr. Evans delivered a keynote address at a Public Forum in Montreal today following his acceptance of the award. His talk was entitled:

"The Infinite Horizon of Health Research: Is Canada visible?"

He is the second recipient of the Friesen prize, with Dr. Joe Martin, Dean of the Harvard Medical School receiving the inaugural award in September 2006.

Dr. Evans said in accepting his award. " The most important point in all my career has been to associate myself with exceptional individuals who were team players. It's been great fun."

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