



DECEMBER 2011

## 2011 SPOTLIGHT ON FCIHR



### President's Report

2011 has been an eventful year and as it winds up, I would like to take this opportunity to keep our members informed of events and achievements. September was the busiest month this year with the annual celebration of the Henry G. Friesen International Prize in Health Research and ongoing collaborations with the Canadian Society for Clinical Investigation (CSCI) and the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS). Shared programs reflect our outreach and support of nascent health scientists and interest in Canada's most accomplished researchers and academic leaders. Both these communities are fundamental sectors in Canada's Health Research landscape. Knowledge generation and its application to human well-being is a uniquely human endeavour and our freedom to do this speaks volumes about social enlightenment and the liberties we enjoy in Canada. A.A.

### 2011 Henry G. Friesen International Prize in Health Research Program

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011, we honoured Dr. Victor Dzau as the 6<sup>th</sup> Henry G. Friesen International Prizewinner. Dr. Dzau, Chancellor of Health Sciences at Duke University, held forth through a packed program including a Leaders' Breakfast, a special invitational luncheon hosted by CAHS, a Public Forum in the afternoon and a Celebratory Dinner that evening. The ever popular Leaders' Breakfast jointly hosted this year with St. Boniface Hospital Research Institute was held at the newly renovated Canadian Museum of Nature. At noon, Dr. Dzau addressed an invitational luncheon hosted by Dean Catharine Whiteside (U of T), President of CAHS. Dr. Dzau discussed the significance of Global Health initiatives in addressing underserved populations and described in some detail the scope and commitment of Duke University's Global Health Program. Later that afternoon, Dr. Dzau gave a public lecture entitled: "Innovations in Cardiac Care: Stem Cells in the Repair and Regeneration of Heart Muscle". His videorecorded talk is currently available online at our web site: [www.fcibr.ca](http://www.fcibr.ca) That evening, the Award Ceremony took place at the Canadian Museum of

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS  
2012 FRIESEN PRIZE**

**DEADLINE: January 16, 2012**

Nominations for the 2012 Friesen International Prize are welcome. Members are encouraged to submit nominations. Forms and terms are available at [www.fcibr.ca/prize](http://www.fcibr.ca/prize).

Nature and Dr. Dzau was presented with his citation which read: "For outstanding achievement in fundamental and clinical cardiovascular research, for innovations in medical education and for compassionate leadership in global health." Between all these events, Dr. Dzau had the opportunity to meet with senior leadership in the PMO's office and Health Canada where he shared his views on the primacy of health research, the significance of global health as an important priority of well-to-do nations, and the role of the health sciences community in fostering support for the underserved communities of the world. Paul Kennedy, host of CBC Radio One "Ideas", recorded a 1 hour interview for broadcast on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

### The 2012 Institutional Visit at UBC

In accepting the Friesen Prize, the Laureate commits to one or more institutional visits over the year following the Prize presentation. Dr. Dzau will be visiting UBC on February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012 to fulfill this undertaking and this will be organized by VP FCIHR Dr. Bruce McManus, together with Dr. Helen Burt, VP Research UBC, in collaboration with St. Paul's Hospital. Hold-the-date notices have been distributed to the Vancouver community. We are delighted that Dr. Dzau will continue his role as advocate for health research support in his Institutional visit with our colleagues in the West.

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## Video History of Medicine in Canada Project

About a decade ago, Friends of CIHR initiated a pilot project to videorecord in-depth biographical documentaries of iconic figures in Canadian health sciences who have contributed significantly to the growth, development and expansion of health research, education and health care over the past 50 years.

The purpose of these recordings is to provide future students, historians and journalists access to in vivo accounts of the personal histories and specific contributions of these giants over the years. To see clips, visit: [www.youtube.com/FriendsofCIHR](http://www.youtube.com/FriendsofCIHR)

We have collected video documentaries of Dr.'s Charles Hollenberg, Robert Salter, Henry Friesen, Lou Siminovitch, John Evans, Jacques Genest Sr., Cal Stiller and Fraser Mustard. These digital recordings vary in length from 1 ½ to 5 hours and will be permanently stored at the University of Toronto.

Skilled interviewers conducted these biographical debriefings and we thank Michael Bliss, Distinguished Professor of History at the University of Toronto; Mr. Stephen Strauss, Senior Medical Journalist; and Mr. Bernard Derome, Senior Journalist Emeritus of CBC Radio Canada (Quebec) for their superb performances.

## Distinguished Service Award



From time to time, Friends of CIHR recognizes individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to our association by way of service, wise counsel, leadership and creative initiatives. This year, upon his retirement, Mr. Pat Lafferty was recognized for such service and dedication at the Friesen Prize Award Dinner where the Distinguished Service Award was bestowed. Tributes to his contributions were made by Dr. Henry Friesen, as well as President Aubie Angel and a framed citation was presented. L to R: Dr. Angel, Dr. Friesen, Mr. Lafferty.

## CSCI - FCIHR – CITAC Symposium

In collaboration with CSCI and the Clinician Investigator Trainee Association of Canada, a joint Symposium was

organized on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011 in Ottawa, entitled: "The Role of the Public in Influencing Publicly Funded Research". This event was co-chaired by Dr. Bing Gan, President of CSCI and Dr. Angel, President of FCIHR. Speakers included: Cathleen Morrison, Dr. Sean Rourke, Dr. Brian Postl and Dr. Ian Graham.

## Publications and Podcasts:

The Friesen Public Forum Lectures by Dr. Dzau entitled, "Innovations in Cardiac Care: Stem Cells in the Repair and Regeneration of Heart Muscle" and those by Dr. Shirley M. Tilghman (2010) and Sir John Bell (2009) are available on our web site: [www.fcibr.ca](http://www.fcibr.ca). The latter two have also been published bilingually in Volume II of the Friesen Prize Lectures in a handsome book by Coach House Press and is available upon request. Copies have been distributed to members of Friends of CIHR, sponsors and other interested recipients.

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### Renew your membership for 2012

Your continuing participation provides important support for our current activities. We must enhance science literacy in the community and encourage young researchers in their formative years.

Please consider additional voluntary contributions.

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We wish you a Happy & Healthy 2012 !

Aubie Angel, President

Cristina S. Castellvi, Administrative Assistant