From The Editors

The Academy has established Cardiovascular Network as the Official Bulletin to promote education, research, people and places. An enthusiastic editorial team has been put together to publish this bulletin three times each year. It is our hope that we will be able to serve the cardiovascular community throughout the world by insuring exchanges of ideas and networking. The CV Network will also be available on the Academy web site: www.heart.academy.org

Since its founding in 1996, the Academy has been sponsoring 3 – 5 scientific conferences per year, at different places in the world. Meetings of the founding directors have been held at least once a year to develop strategies. These efforts have resulted in two official journals being sponsored by the Academy. The 1st World Congress of The Academy, under the chairmanship of Otoni Gomes, will be held in Belo Horizonte, Brazil, October 11 – 13, 2003. Between now and then, there are several other scientific meetings planned. The Academy was a partner in hosting the immensely successful XVII World Congress of the International Society for Heart Research at the superb facilities of the Winnipeg Convention Centre, July 6 - 11, 2001.

In order to recognize people of significant stature in cardiovascular sciences, the Academy has introduced Distinguished Achievement Awards (for promoting cardiovascular education and research throughout the world). First presentation of these awards was made at the World Congress in Winnipeg in 2001, to Jacques Genest and Ruth Collins-Nakai.

During Executive Director Naranjan Dhalla’s recent visit to Japan, he developed a plan for the Academy’s first regional affiliation. He confirmed with the Japanese Working Group on Cardiac Structure and Metabolism with 350 members to become the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences – Japan Section.

The Academy appreciates the support of the American Heart Association which provided a booth at the AHA Conference in Anaheim, November 2001. The Academy will also exhibit at the 11th International Congress on Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy, May 18 – 21, 2002, in Montreal, Quebec, the 22nd ISHR European Section Annual Meeting, July 3 – 6, 2002, in Szeged, Hungary and the ISHR - North American Section 24th Annual Meeting, July 24-27, 2002, in Madison, Wisconsin, USA.

The Academy leaders have begun approaching potential sources of the funding which will sustain an endowment fund to assure the long-term viability of our efforts to promote cardiovascular education, research, people and places.

We take pride in sharing with you that the hard work invested by the Founding Directors and Officers over the past six years has positioned the Academy for a dynamic growth curve. We ask you to think of CV Network as your own. Please forward newsworthy items to the Editor, which we will be pleased to publish and add to the web site.
Norman Alpert, Burlington, USA
Giuseppe Ambrosio, Perugia, Italy
Piero Anversa, Valhalla, USA
Colin Bloor, La Jolla, USA
Roberto Bolli, Louisville, USA
Horacio E. Cingolani, La Plata, Argentina
Naranjan S. Dhall, Winnipeg, Canada
Ian M.C. Dixon, Winnipeg, Canada
Raul Domenech, Santiago, Chile
Sidney Goldstein, Detroit, USA
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Bohuslav Ostadal, Prague, Czech Republic
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Stephen Vatner, Pittsburgh, USA
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Administrative Structure of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences

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Official Journals of the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences

1) EXPERIMENTAL & CLINICAL CARDIOLOGY
(Editor: B. Ostadal)
- An international, English language, peer review journal covering all aspects of cardiology from basic science to clinical trials and reviews.
- Controlled by an internationally renowned editorial board comprising leading cardiologists from Europe, North America and around the world.

For more info please visit the site of the publisher:
PULSUS GROUP:
http://www.pulsus.com/ecc

2) JOURNAL of CARDIOVASCULAR PHARMACOLOGY and THERAPEUTICS
(Editor: B. Singh)
Four times a year, this respected publication brings critical evaluation and discussion to pharmacologic and therapeutic advances in the treatment of cardiovascular disease

For details, please contact the publisher:
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Our Mission
To promote cardiovascular education of professionals and lay people and to recognize major cardiovascular achievement throughout the world.

The Academy
The International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences was founded in 1996 and is headquartered in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Established by renowned Cardiovascular Scientists, Surgeons and Cardiologists, the Academy provides the organizational structure for the world-wide sharing of research and education information in the field of heart health.

Although great strides have been made in improving the death rate from heart disease, heart attacks and related problems are still the number one killer. The Academy believes that a fundamental problem is the lack of transmission of knowledge to the public. Research has found answers but the facts are too slow in moving beyond the labs.

The Academy, through world-wide representation, builds connectivity and encourages networking through traditional means of journals, texts and symposia, as well as consensus panels made up of advisory board members and other experts. The Academy continually pursues new information technologies which will result in more rapid and wider availability of the latest discoveries to help save lives.

Membership
This Academy will consist of Members, Fellows, Corporate Members, Patrons and Supporters.

a) Members: Any individual at the rank of full professor, senior scientist, celebrated cardiologist or cardiovascular surgeon who has made substantial contributions in their field of expertise, can be nominated for the membership of the Academy.

b) Fellows: The Fellow of the Academy will be elected by membership with 80% majority. The Fellow must be a member of the Academy. The number of Fellows will not exceed 250 at any given time.

c) Corporate Members: Any corporation or organization which shares the mission of the Academy and willing to support its activities will be invited to become Corporate Members.

d) Patrons and Supporters: Any individual who shares the mission of the Academy and is willing to support its activities will be invited to become part of the Academy in an appropriate category.

e) holding scientific symposia on focussed topics of current interest
d) developing news bulletins highlighting different programs of cardiovascular centres and institutes all over the world
e) publishing cardiovascular journals, books and symposia proceedings as well as developing an interactive Web Site - www.heartacademy.org - for promoting cardiovascular education

3. To increase public awareness with respect to cardiovascular health and disease by:

a) making the general public aware of the cardiovascular risk factors by holding public seminars and lectures
b) expressing views on cardiovascular issues through national and international media
c) cooperating with national government, public and private agencies concerned with improving cardiovascular health and preventing cardiovascular disease

4. To recognize the achievements of cardiovascular investigators by:

a) identifying established investigators of high reputation for awarding Fellowships of the Academy (not more than 250 at any given time)
b) awarding major prizes to distinguished scientists
c) selecting young talents for awards and travel grants

e) collaborating with various national and international organizations dedicated to both clinical and experimental research in the area of cardiovascular sciences

5. To raise funds from individuals and corporate sources for various programs of the Academy by:

a) naming symposia/workshops/seminars in cardiovascular sciences
b) making corporate members of the Academy
c) identifying patrons and supporters of the Academy

Objectives:
1. To promote the scientific basis for the practice of cardiology and cardiovascular surgery by:

   a) organizing Cardiovascular Teach-ins all over the world for continued education of practicing physicians, surgeons and experimental cardiologists

   b) establishing cardiovascular forums in all major cities of the world for organizing and increasing the interaction of clinical cardiologists as well as surgeons with basic scientists

2. To foster the exchange of information among cardiovascular scientists by:

   a) establishing national and international networks of various centres and institutions for optimal utilization of resources

   b) promoting exchange programs among different countries through respective governmental agencies

   c) setting up national offices of the Academy for coordinating its activities in different countries

   d) cooperating with various national agencies in different countries concerned with the education of medical students, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows

   e) collaborating with various national and international organizations dedicated to both clinical and experimental research in the area of cardiovascular sciences
More than anyone else in Canada and probably in North America, Dr. Jacques Genest has devoted energy and time to promotion of the status and essential importance of the physician-scientist as the vial link between basic research and patient.

Dr. Genest has been a most consistent and ardent promoter of biomedical and clinical research and of its importance in modern society, stressing the importance of the physician-scientist for the understanding of physiological process toward more effective treatment and prevention of diseases. He has given numerous lectures around the world on this subject and has been a true leader in this area for more than three decades.

In addition, through his inquiries in the United States and in Europe, and his many trips around the world, Dr. Genest has been a most consistent and ardent promoter of biomedical and clinical research and of its importance in modern society, stressing the importance of the physician-scientist for the understanding of physiological process toward more effective treatment and prevention of diseases. He has given numerous lectures around the world on this subject and has been a true leader in this area for more than three decades.

Dr. Genest has been considered as a giant in Canadian medicine, and one of the first three living Canadian physicians to be nominated in 1983 in the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame in Kingston, Ontario.

His many contributions have been recognised by numerous awards (see below) and his nomination on the Board of the Merck & Co., Inc. (1972-1992) and of the Montreal Trust (1979-1989) which have permitted him to have an important insight into the world of high finance and in the administration of multinational corporations.

For 40 years, one of the world leaders in hypertension research and patients’ management. According to Irving Page: “Genest and his group in Montréal have made some of the most important contributions to the pathogenesis of hypertension in the last 30 years”. He helped save the Université de Montréal, Faculty of Medicine in 1962 when, after many successive visits, was threatened with cancellation of its accreditation as a medical school by the Joint US and Canadian Council on Medical Schools in 1950, 1955, 1960 and 1962, if specific recommendations repeatedly made were not put in place within a year. At this time, the Board of Governors of the Université de Montréal invited Dr. Jacques Genest to become a Board Member and President of its Committee on Medical Affairs, with Drs. Roger Gaudry and André Montpetit. Within two years, the budget of the Medical School was tripled, full-time teachers were appointed both at the pre-clinical and at the clinical levels. Changes were made in the high echelons of the Faculty and means for a better collaboration and integration between basic and clinical departments were taken. At the end of this two-year period, the same committee came back and was so satisfied that the Université de Montréal got its accreditation renewed for a five-year period.

In 1965, he was appointed by Dr. J.S.L. Browne, founder of the Canadian Investigation Travel Club, as organizer of the Montreal meeting (the first one was held in Montreal and the second one in Toronto) and because of the increasing number of attendees to the CITC annual meetings, Dr. Genest proposed the Club be changed in a formal clinical investigation society with its own charter and by-laws. This was accomplished in 1960-61, the new society being formed (CSCI) and a federal charter to its representatives: Drs. Robin Chernack, Ramsay Gunton and Jacques Genest. The latter was elected as its first President.

Following this example, Dr. Genest founded the Club de recherches cliniques du Québec in 1959. Which that has held meetings each year ever since and has been most successful in promoting clinical research in the province of Québec. He also created in 1963-64 the Conseil de la recherche médicale du Québec that became, in 1981, the Fonds de la recherche en santé du Québec (FRSQ), with an annual budget of over 60 million dollars a year. The latter organization has been most successful in promotion of the importance of clinical research in Québec at all medical schools, as well as university hospital research centres.

Dr. Genest created the Clinical Research Institute of Montreal which has been a model and a prototype of the modern organization of clinical research, especially in regard to integration of basic sciences of molecular biology, genetics and immunology to clinical disciplines, especially in the fields of hypertension, cancer, endocrine disorders, hematopoiesis, retrovirology and cardiovascular diseases. The IRCM was the model followed by the Lady Davis Research Institute, the Robarts Research Institute in London and others in Canada as well as in the world.

Instead of attempting to recruit older researchers of the highest standard and with international reputation, it was decided to start the Institute with young researchers on the basis of their talents and the quality of their early productivity, and to create a climate where the passion for the acquisition of new knowledge and the pursuit of excellence would give them the best changes of realising their goals.

The Clinical Research Institute of Montreal, inaugurated in 1967, was the first one to establish as a priority the creation of teams of physician-scientists and basic researchers in each thematic laboratory such as hypertension, enzymology-endocrinology (convertases), atherosclerosis, hematopoiesis, AIDS, etc. It was also the third in the world (after Georgetown and Hudson's centres) and the first in creating within a biomedical research institute a Bioethics Centre which became a leader in Canada and in the world.
Dr. Collins-Nakai, affectionately known by many of her patients as "Dr. Ruth", is a physician, mother, wife, educator, scientist and community volunteer. This native of small-town Alberta has been extraordinarily successful in her chosen specialty of Cardiology, and has proceeded to serve her profession, her University and her community with distinction, skill and enthusiasm. Dr. Collins-Nakai completed her undergraduate, medical school, and postgraduate education at the University of Alberta, McGill and Harvard Universities. After nearly a quarter of a century as an academic with the University of Alberta, in 2001, she chose to continue to see patients on a part-time basis, but to leave the University and pursue additional health care consulting opportunities which have increased steadily since she completed her MBA in 1998.

Dr. Ruth established the Heritage Pediatric Cardiology Program, the precursor to the successful Congenital Heart Program at the University of Alberta which now serves Western Canada. She introduced ultrasound of the heart there more than two decades ago and helped establish an infant heart surgery program. An innovator, she introduced many new techniques to take the place of surgery, and to decrease pain and suffering in the children and adults she treats. Always willing to serve her profession, Dr. Collins-Nakai has worked at provincial, national and international levels in such prestigious roles as President of the Alberta Cardiovascular Society, Commissioner on the Premier’s Commission on Future Health Care for Albertans, President of the Alberta Medical Association (first woman), Chair of the Board of Governors of the American College of Cardiology (first woman and first Canadian), and most recently, as the President of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society (first woman). She has worked on national projects ranging from physician resource planning, and health care financing in the country, to federal-provincial surveillance systems. The energy, compassion, intellect and leadership Dr. Collins-Nakai generates is not confined to Medicine. She has been a strong supporter of the need for education and science in the province and has worked to increase research funding overall in the province and in Canada. She has encouraged and helped young entrepreneurs, and through her work on the Board of Management of the Alberta Science and Research Authority has helped to promote a knowledge-based industry in the province. She contributed to an action research project on Women in Leadership, the results of which were released publicly in early 1999. She has also been appointed to the Governing Council of the newly established Canadian Institutes of Health Research and routinely reviews grants for institutions as diverse as the Canada Foundation for Innovation, the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada and the National Institutes of Health. Her research interests have included epidemiology of congenital heart disease, pharmacodynamics of cardiac drugs in infants and children, cardiac metabolism and congestive heart failure.

Dr. Collins-Nakai’s true humanity is revealed in her volunteer activities. Whether chairing a committee for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada or serving a major charity such as the Muttart Foundation in its quest for better lives for children and a more effective charitable sector, or in her role on the Board of Governors for Grant MacEwan College, Ruth contributes to her community. She believes that those of us who can, must contribute to make our communities just a little bit better. A true leader with a heart!

Dr. J. Genest’s Previous Awards:
- Companion of the Order of Canada in 1967 (the first year of the Order)
- Grand Officer of the Ordre National du Québec in 1991 and President in 1996
- Master of the American College of Physicians
- Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada
- President of the Council for High Blood Pressure Research of the American Heart Association (1976-1978)
- Simms Commonwealth Professor of the Royal College of Surgeons of London (1970)
- For his scientific and research contributions*, he was the recipient of many prestigious prizes, besides the Gairdner Award (1963), the Flavelle Award of the Royal Society (1968), the Killiam Award (1986), the Stouffer Award of the AHA (1969), the Marie-Victorin Scientific Prize of the Government of Québec (1977), the Armand-Frappier Scientific Award of the Government of Québec (1996), the FNG Award of the Canadian Medical Association (1982), the Christie Award of the Association of Professors of Medicine of Canada (1988), the Royal Bank Award (1980), the Sir Thomas Lewis Medal of the British Cardiac Society (1985), and others
- Twelve Honorary Degrees among which the Toronto University, the McGill University, the Rockefeller University, the Université de Montpellier, etc.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

Academy Honours
Ruth Collins-Nakai
with Distinguished Achievement Award

5. Woman of the Year Award: 1999, Business and Professional Women’s Club of Edmonton and Northern Alberta

Previous Awards:
1. Teacher of the Year Award: Pediatrics, University of Alberta 1988.
3. Woman of Vision Award, ITV, Connecting Women magazine for professional & community service & leadership, February, 1997
4. Teacher of the Year Award: Pediatrics, University of Alberta 1997.
5. Woman of the Year Award: 1999, Business and Professional Women’s Club of Edmonton and Northern Alberta
Members of the ACADEMY were greatly saddened at news of the passing, Feb. 17, 2001 of one of the founders, Dr. Robert E. Beamish. His death marks the end of a storied career in Canadian cardiovascular medicine. He made major contributions to the improvement of the delivery of excellent health care in this province, and his efforts extend over decades. Dr. Beamish is recognized as the person who promoted the expansion of modern cardiology in Manitoba through his very early efforts with the Heart and Stroke Foundation. He is widely recognized in Canada and the U.S. for his pioneering work in clinical cardiology and he is regarded as a person of singular vision and energy. His interests and pursuits were multiple, varied and were manifest in the scope of his achievements. For example, he served in the second World War, retiring at the rank of Captain. He also provided by example a prototype for the training of research-oriented clinicians. He had a great number of awards including the Order of Canada (1990). He was the founding editor of the Canadian Journal of Cardiology. Dr. Beamish’s work garnered him international accolades, and he maintained an international reputation for excellence in cardiovascular science. He was raised in Western Manitoba and received his early training in Winnipeg. After receiving a prestigious appointment (Nuffield Dominion Traveling Fellowship – 1947) and extensive training in the UK (Assistant Registrar, National Heart Hosp., London, England – 1948, Member, Royal College of Physicians (London) – 1948, Member, Royal College of Physicians (Edinburgh) – 1949) he became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (Canada) in 1950, and then returned to Winnipeg to serve Manitobans for many subsequent decades.

Dr. Beamish always provided young investigators and clinicians with encouragement and support whenever it was due. Many knew him as a gifted mentor and an outstanding orator, who could transform a sundry message to a thing of beauty with his usual mixture of elegance and clarity. Despite his long list of achievements, he always maintained his famous “down-to-earth” demeanor. He was never too busy to drop a pearl of scientific or philosophical wisdom. His rapport with all staff and colleagues was superb. Dr. Beamish long ago became and remains an inspirational figure and model for his colleagues and the current population of students.

The men who gave the world kidney transplants, pacemakers and artificial hearts were named “Living Legends” by their peers in Ottawa yesterday.

A greying panel of 12 scientists -- one wearing a pacemaker whose concept he helped perfect -- were honoured by their younger colleagues on the last day of a weekend symposium at the Ottawa Congress Centre.

Organizers believe it was the first time the men who pioneered organ transplantation, one of medical science’s greatest frontiers, were gathered together in the same room.

"In the last 50 years there has been an explosion of knowledge compared to human history," said emcee Tofy Mussivand, a director at the Ottawa Heart Institute.

"These people sitting in front of you have been a major contributor to that explosion of knowledge."

On the 10-year anniversary of its creation, the World Artificial-Organ, Immunology and Transplantation Society gave out its first awards to living scientists 60 and older who have made major contributions to humanity through invention or discovery. It was also the organization’s first North American symposium, attracting 250 delegates from 39 countries.

Each of the honoured scientists gave a brief presentation, outlining their careers or making predictions for the future. Doctors who had led research in everything from kidney dialysis to open heart surgery offered a glimpse into the future of artificial eyes, hidden mechanical hearts and brain transplants.

They also shared practical advice for young scientists, such as the value of learning from failures.

"It’s encouraging for new scientists to see how much someone can achieve in their career," said Dr. Mahmoud Shahrabadi, a University of Calgary researcher. "When you see what these people have done, it gives us hope for the future. People who are suffering from incurable diseases should never give up."

The honoured scientists, the oldest 93, were just as impressed with the next generation of
innovators. "I am greatly encouraged to see that the future is really bright," said Dr. Magdi Yacoub.

The scientists honoured yesterday are:

Kazuhiko Atsumi: At Tokyo University, Dr. Atsumi led a team that took up the challenge of developing heart assist devices and artificial hearts in Japan.

Wilfred Bigelow: Among other achievements, Canadian Dr. Bigelow discovered how to lower the body's oxygen requirements by lowering its core temperature, allowing open heart surgery to be performed safely.

Roy Calne: Dr. Calne performed Britain's first liver transplant and discovered azathioprine, which stopped the rejection of new organs in transplant patients.

Michael DeBakey: An American who helped develop the artificial heart and has been credited with inventing or perfecting numerous devices and procedures including heart pumps, arterial bypass operations and heart transplants.

Naranjan Dhalla: A University of Manitoba doctor who has worked in experimental cardiology, focusing on the subcellular basis of heart function.

Wilson Greatbatch: An American who was a pioneer in the development of power sources for implantable medical devices and helped develop and use the pacemaker.

Roland Hetzer: Dr. Hetzer performed the first heart transplant operation in Hannover and helped develop a program for heart and lung transplants. He is the director at the German Heart Institute in Berlin.

Adrian Kantrowitz: An American credited with developing a plastic heart valve, a heart-lung machine, an internal pacemaker and an auxiliary left ventricle.

Wilbert Keon: Canadian senator and founder and director of the Ottawa Heart Institute.

Dr. Keon was a cardiac research pioneer and the first Canadian surgeon to implant an artificial heart as a bridge to transplantation.

William Kolff: Known as the father of artificial organs, this American invented the artificial kidney and dialysis technique. In the 1950s and 1960s he helped develop the heart and lung machine and the first artificial heart at the Cleveland Clinic.

Juro Wada: Honorary president of the World Artificial-Organ, Immunology and Transplantation Society. After inventing Japan's first hyperbaric chamber, Dr. Wada performed Japan's first heart transplant in 1968.

Magdi Yacoub: A British pioneer heart surgeon who developed new surgical techniques for congenital heart conditions. He founded the British branch of Chain of Hope, a charity dedicated to performing operations on children from developing countries.

The World of Heart Health came to Canada! by Lorrie A. Kirshenbaum

The St. Boniface General Hospital's Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and the University of Manitoba Faculty of Medicine were honoured to host the XVII World Congress of the International Society for Heart Research, July 6 - 11, 2001, in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Dr. Naranjan Dhalla, Director of the Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences at the St. Boniface General Hospital Research Centre and internationally recognized scientist for his excellent contributions to the advancement of cardiovascular science around the world, was the meeting Chairman. As a tribute to Dr. Dhalla's international recognition more than 1,800 delegates including cardiologists, cardiac surgeons, basic medical scientists and other allied health care professionals from 70 countries. Government officials Lt.-Gov. Peter Liba, Canada's Minister of Veterans Affairs and M P from St. Boniface honored Dr. Dhalla's, Planning Team of more than 200 global experts, created the most important scientific convention ever held in Canada, in terms of numbers of visitors and the exceptional quality of the science and the people attending. Over 600 of the world’s leading cardiologists, surgeons and scientists accepted invitations to share their expertise in the exceptional professional program consisting of 20 Landmark Lectures, Awards Competitions, 72 Symposia, an Exhibition, and 3 sessions each presenting 200 Posters. All speakers and chairmen received the Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences "Medal of Merit". The local volunteer Team performed in an extraordinary manner to guarantee that visitors enjoyed every minute of the sessions, superb networking opportunities and hospitality which only Manitoba can provide.

The Landmark Lecturers included Dr. Eugene Braunwald, Boston, USA; Sir Magdi Yacoub, London, England; Dr. Yoshio Yazaki, Tokyo, Japan; Dr. Claude Lenfant, Bethesda, USA; Dr. Lionel Opie, Cape Town, South Africa; Dr. Eric Olson, Dallas, USA; Dr. Shigetake Sasayama, Kyoto, Japan; Dr. Phillip Poole-Wilson, London, England; Dr. Roberto Bolli, Louisville, USA; Dr. Paul Armstrong, Edmonton, Canada; Dr. Wolfgang Schaper, Bad Nauheim, Germany; Dr. Roberto Ferrari, Ferrara, Italy; Dr. Adolfo DeBold, Ottawa, Canada; Dr. James Willerson, Houston, USA; Dr. Arun Chockalingam, Ottawa, Canada; Dr. Rodolfo Paololetti, Milan, Italy; and Dr. Karl Weber, Memphis, USA.

continued...
Prestigious international awards were presented to:

♥ **Dr. Robert Lefkowitz**, Duke University, Durham, USA – Peter Harris Award from the ISHR

♥ **Dr. Eduardo Marban**, Baltimore, USA – ISHR Research Achievement Award sponsored by Chugai Pharmaceutical Company

♥ **Dr. Hilchen Sommerschild**, Oslo, Norway – ISHR European Section/Servier Research Fellowship

♥ **Dr. Jacques Genest**, Montreal, Canada – International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences Distinguished Achievement Award for Promoting Cardiovascular Education and Research Throughout The World

♥ **Dr. Ruth Collins-Nakai**, President, Canadian Cardiovascular Society, Edmonton, Canada – International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences Distinguished Achievement Award for Promoting Cardiovascular Education and Research Throughout The World

Dr. Arun Chockalingam from Health Canada, the governmental agency responsible for legislating medical treatments in Canada, spoke at the International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences Symposium on the “Global Pandemic of Cardiovascular Diseases”. Also included were speakers from Egypt, Croatia, Iran and Italy. Dr. Chockalingam identified that the incidence of heart attack and stroke are expected to double globally and reach pandemic proportions by the year 2020. With this in mind he suggested that cardiovascular medicine must unified such that different counties become linked globally to bridge gaps between westernized medicine and that currently available in third world and developing countries. Toward this goal, the World Health Organization and along with other health experts established in 1998 the Global Forum on Health Research on Cardiovascular Disease Initiative in Developing Countries. The headquarters for is located in New Delhi, India. The primary goal is to develop new innovative treatment strategies to reduce the morbidity and mortality of cardiovascular disease in third world countries which have limited access to conventional medical interventions.

A magnificent final banquet for the Congress was highlighted by the presentation to Dr. Eugene Braunwald, Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA of the 2001 International Humanitarian Award of the St. Boniface Hospital & Research Foundation. This award has been given to such outstanding people as Mother Theresa, Dr. Christian Barnaard, Prince Philip, Rosalyn Carter, Dr. Jonas Salk and Pope Paul.

The Heart & Stroke Foundation of Manitoba presented 20 prizes for outstanding Posters. Deputy Mayor Lillian Thomas awarded 12 visitors Honourary Citizenships of the City of Winnipeg.

Students and young investigators from several different countries including Mongolia, China, Israel, Cuba, India, Czech Republic, Nigeria, Rumania, Hungary, Slovak Republic, Tanzania and Jordan were extended assistance including from organizations from Canada, Germany and United Kingdom.

Significant sponsorships were identified from a global network including all three levels of Government – Canada, Manitoba and Winnipeg, Canada Safeway, Air Canada, Mitsubishi-Tokyo, Merck-Frosst, Manitoba Liquor Control Commission, Canadian Institute of Circulatory and Respiratory Health, Kowa, Medicure, Aventis, Eli Lilly, Kaito, Pfizer, Bayer, World Heart Corp., University of Western Ontario, ATL, CanWest Global, Pulsus Group, Manitoba Hydro, Wawanesa Insurance, DeFehr Foundation, National Research Council, Myles Robinson Memorial Heart Fund, International Development Research Centre, Great-West/London Life, Dairy Farmers of Canada and Mars/M&M.

Media interest was exceptional – locally, nationally and internationally (even CNN and the BBC aired a report from the Congress). In particular, the Winnipeg Free Press published an 8-page section and more than 30 articles. Dr. Dhalla has arranged with Kluwer Academic Publishers, Boston, for 9 books and focused issues of the work presented at the Congress, including material adapted for the public, with the goal of disseminating this new information to people who could not attend the meeting.

Of unique interest to the media and the public, Dr. Carl Keen, head of the Department of Nutrition at the University of California, presented new exciting research at a Symposium sponsored by Mars/M&M on the cardioprotective effects of food rich in flavanols. Dr. Keen’s findings revealed that chocolate which is rich in flavanol-containing substances could be cardioprotective. Although early in Dr. Keen’s preliminary research, studies indicate that certain chocolate that is rich in flavanol-containing antioxidants can exert a cardioprotective effect by reducing platelet aggregation leading to a reduction in blood clot formation. Foods rich in these antioxidants can be seen to improve cardiovascular health by reducing the incidence of blood vessel diseases leading to heart attack or stroke.

Local hospitality exposed visitors to the best of Canadian food and culture. There were extraordinary evenings highlighting Manitoba’s multi-cultural heritage, French-Canadian Cuisine and Entertainment, the Regent Street Casino, a Western Barbecue and Horse Racing. The social evenings facilitated the interaction of scientists from around the world to exchange new ideas and information in an informal setting as well as establishing
network ties with new colleagues from different countries. Outstanding service was provided by Winnipeg Transit, even including a route on arrival from the Airport along the wide boulevards and mansions of Wellington Crescent. An exciting variety of tours was offered to encourage visitors to return to live and work in Manitoba.

Overall the World Congress meeting of the International Society for Heart Research held in Winnipeg was considered to be a major success and the largest cardiovascular meeting held in Canada. This was attributed to excellent contributions made by Dr. Dhalla and his organizing team that resulted in the dissemination of new information and innovative research strategies to treat cardiovascular disease in the new millennium. The meeting further highlighted the importance of international exchange of information and the establishment and strengthening of network ties among the different counties around the world with the common goal of improving the quality of patient life and reducing cardiac morbidity and mortality through improved education and research.

Delegates’ enthusiasm was best expressed in a recent letter to his members from ISHR European Section President Dr. Jean-Jacques Mercadier, from Paris:

“As reported in the newspaper, “Diet, Exercise Saves Lives, Experts Tell Packed Forum”

By Alexandra Paul, Winnipeg Free Press, Sat, Jul 7, 2001

“MORE than 1,000 people packed the opening forum of an international heart conference yesterday to hear world experts discuss how diet and exercise can help reverse heart disease. Many stayed the entire two-and-a-half hours to hear the panel, chaired by Health Minister Dave Chomiak and pediatric cardiologist Dr. Gordon Cumming, Vice President of Great-West Life.

New research presented included a study on how yoga can reverse some forms of heart disease, reduce angina attacks, lower cholesterol and increase physical endurance in men with advanced narrowing of the arteries.

Other research touched on benefits of moderate consumption of red wine, the advantages of so-called functional foods, such as fish-oil supplements rich in omega-3 fatty acids, and a smoke-free environment. Healthy eating and moderation are the best weapons against cardiovascular disease was the message experts gave yesterday. Moderate consumption of alcohol, particularly wine, improves one’s health and the likelihood of reaching a ripe old age,” said Dr. Harvey Finkel, a medical professor and red-wine advocate from Boston University Medical Centre in Brookline, Mass. Fish rich in omega-3 fatty acids are among the foods that are as powerful as prescription drugs to prevent heart disease, University of Guelph nutrition expert Bruce Holub said. ‘We can actually produce foods that have the action of pharmaceutical drugs,’ he said, referring to omega-3 enriched eggs common in most grocery stores. Even a capsule of 900 milligrams of fish oil a day has been proven to reduce death from cardiovascular disease by as much as 30 per cent and reduce sudden fatal heart attacks by as much as 45 per cent. In the yoga study, a group of researchers headed by Dr. Subhash Manchanda, head of cardiology at the Cardio Thoracic Sciences Centre in New Delhi, India, showed that daily yoga meditation combined with a healthy diet markedly improved the lives of men with advanced coronary artery disease. The study, a pilot project of 42 men, showed that after a year, the men had fewer angina attacks, lost weight and lowered their cholesterol and triglyceride levels.

Community participation is the key to getting couch potatoes up and moving, Mayo Clinic cardiologist Dr. Thomas Kottke said. He offered an overview of a unique lifestyle program, CARDIOVISION2020 that stress success through community involvement.”
The vision for the University of Ottawa Heart Institute was first put forward in 1969 when money from the Ontario Ministry of Education became available to the University of Ottawa, for improvements in medical education and care. Dr. Wilbert Keon, a native of the Ottawa Valley, and a medical graduate of the University of Ottawa, was recruited from Harvard University to develop the Heart Institute. Dr. Keon worked with numerous partners, including all of the hospitals in the region, the University, and the Ottawa Hospital Regional District Planning Council, to ensure the vision of a world-renowned Institute would unfold as planned.

Initially, the Heart Institute was to be located next to the University of Ottawa's Health Sciences Building. The delay in building the University Hospital, and subsequent planning changes, resulted in the Institute's relocation to the Ottawa Civic Hospital site. A temporary arrangement was made with the Ottawa Civic to provide cardiac facilities until the Institute was built.

The first phase of the Heart Institute was officially opened on May 11, 1976. One of three phases, the Cardiac Unit, as it was then known, provided acute care and life support for severely ill patients, and was funded by the province of Ontario, the University and the public. Subsequent buildings and programs have since been added, but more significant was the transformation from a Cardiac Unit to the comprehensive provision of cardiac care, education and research under the new title of University of Ottawa Heart Institute.

Over its twenty-five years, the Ottawa Heart Institute has become a world leader in offering a complete spectrum of cardiac care, from initial referral to admission, treatment, recovery, rehabilitation, discharge and follow-up. The Institute serves a diverse population of more than 1.5 million in an area that spans from Northern Ontario to the St. Lawrence, to Western Quebec.

Prevention & Rehabilitation
The University of Ottawa Heart Institute goes behind treating or repairing diseased hearts. The Institute’s focus on prevention and rehabilitation aims to curb the effects and threat of heart disease. Risk factor reduction programs and medical expertise work hand-in-hand in the Cardiac Prevention and Rehabilitation Centre to prevent coronary artery disease, to speed the recovery process and to lessen recurrence by offering improved lifestyle programs. The Heart Check Program plays an important role in the community by offering individual cardiac risk assessments and interactive educational programs on smoking cessation, nutrition counseling, stress management and vocational rehabilitation.

Tomorrow’s Answers in Today’s Research
The mission to establish the Research Centre was to foster the kind of scientific excellence and innovation needed to fight North America’s number one killer, heart disease. The Heart Institute has been active over the years in both clinical and basic science research and currently has more than 110 active projects. The major research emphasis has been in five key areas: cardiovascular devices, molecular and cellular biology, atherosclerosis, hypertension and clinical trials. The work of Canada’s top scientists at the Heart Institute allows them to fulfill the University's firm commitment to provide a centre of excellence which not only treats, but also investigates heart disease.

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow
The existence of the Ottawa Heart Institute is the result of the tireless effort of many individuals, institutions and community interest groups in the National Capital Region and beyond. The future of the Institute is bright.
International Symposium: Advances In Cardiovascular Research and Workshop: Genome Based Resources For Identification Of Cardiovascular Genes
Trinidad · March 4 - 8, 2002

The University of the West Indies
St. Augustine, Trinidad, West Indies
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Topics Will Include:
• Apoptosis and necrosis in vascular and cardiac remodeling and cell death
• Genetic determinants of coronary artery disease
• Biochemical markers of ischaemic and myocardial damage
• New techniques to assess cardiac reperfusion, function and integrity
• Magnetic resonance imaging in diagnostic cardiology
• Hyperlipidemia, hypertension, obesity and heart failure
• Arrhythmias and drug therapy
• Surgical revascularization, heart valve surgery and cardiac transplantation
• Recent advances in cardiac gene technology and gene functions

Web Site:
http://www.cariscience.org/cas/index.htm

International Symposium: “The Failing Heart - From Molecular Mechanisms To Clinical Applications”
Slovak Republic · June 30 - July 2, 2002
Stara Lesna, High Tatras, Slovak Republic
A Symposium organized by Institute for Heart Research, Slovak Academy of Sciences in collaboration with: International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences

Scientific Programme:
Each scientific session will include the ‘state-of-the-art’ lecture(s) of the invited speakers followed by free oral communications selected from the abstracts.
Posters will be displayed during the whole time of the meeting and discussed during the chaired Poster Sessions. Poster Competition will be one of the highlights of the meeting.

Main Topics:
• Pathophysiology of heart failure, experimental models
• Hypertension, hypertrophy, remodelling
• Cell growth, survival and death
• Genetics of HF, modifying genes, gene and cell therapy
• Receptors and cell signaling
• Excitation-contraction coupling
• Coronary angiogenesis; atria, lungs, periphery
• Arrhythmias, sudden death; hypoxic/ischaemic tolerance
• Drug therapy and new approaches to management of HF

Web Site:
http://nic.savba.sk/sav/inst/usrd/ usrdconfer/

1st World Congress
International Academy of Cardiovascular Sciences "On The Way To New Cardiovascular Horizons"
Belo Horizonte · Brazil · Oct. 11-15, 2003
Minascentro Convention Centre

Scientific Forum XIII
XIV Congress of the Minas Gerais Cardiology Society
XXI Brazilian Congress on Extracorporeal Circulation

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