



Canadian Academy of Health Sciences
Académie canadienne des sciences de la santé

NEWS RELEASE:

June 14, 2005

Health care leaders create Canada's first national health advisory body

The Canadian Academy of Health Sciences will give Government and the public comprehensive expertise and advice on health issues

EDMONTON - When the President of the United States wants advice on a public health issue, he calls the United States' National Academies. When the Prime Minister of Great Britain wants to seek similar counsel, he usually turns to the Royal Society of Britain. But when the Prime Minister of Canada wants similar advice, who does he call?

Well, that's not always entirely clear, given the more narrowly defined mandates of many Canadian organizations. Now, however, owing to a recent initiative by a group of leading health care leaders and researchers, the Prime Minister will be able to call the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS), recently created to:

- Develop informed, strategic assessments on urgent health issues;
- Inform public policy on these issues;
- Enhance Canada's readiness to deal with global health issues; and,
- Provide a recognized and authoritative Canadian health science voice internationally.

According to one of the Academy's key organizers, the establishment of the Academy is long over due—and all the more pressing given the potential global health threats to Canadians, most recently exemplified by the SARS threat. “Ask Canadians what they care about most, and they answer unequivocally: ‘health,’” explains University of Alberta Professor of Medicine Paul Armstrong, CAHS's first president. “It makes sense, therefore, that Canada should have an organization that government—and Canadians—can turn to for sound, impartial advice and research on pressing health issues.”

The organization will also have an international role to play, representing Canada's interests abroad and working closely with other nations' parallel agencies.

Much of the organizational work for creating the Academy has been going on for over a year; the inaugural meeting of CAHS will take place September 21-22 in Vancouver. The gathering will include founding members such as:

University of Toronto President-Elect David Naylor, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research President Kevin Keough, law Professor and senior researcher at the Centre for Public Law Research, Université de Montréal, Bartha Knoppers, prominent University of British Columbia professor Judith Hall; President and CEO of the Canada Foundation for Innovation, Eliot Phillipson; and, Canadian Institutes of Health Research President, Alan Bernstein, who will be the keynote speaker, delivering a lecture entitled, “The promise of the health sciences in the 21st century.”

CAHS will form the third pillar in a triad of founding member academies under the umbrella of the Canadian Academies of Science (CAS), joining its sister organizations, The Royal Society of Canada and The Canadian Academy of Engineering.

The CAS has the official support of the Federal Government. In his response to the Speech from the Throne, October 6, 2004, Prime Minister Paul Martin said: “We seek to create a national alliance of leading scientific and engineering societies, one that will operate at arm’s length from government and receive operational funding...over the next 10 years. The new Academies of Science will be a source of expert advice on scientific aspects of important domestic and international issues, and will give our country a prestigious voice among the choir of international science groups.”

The CAHS has gotten down to work. A CAHS working group led by Dr. Hall, collaborating with the Canadian Institute of Academic Medicine, is undertaking an initial assessment aimed at answering this question: What are the barriers and benefits to interdisciplinary health sciences research in Canada? They’ll report their interim findings at the inaugural meeting.

A membership committee, under the leadership of Martin Schechter, a co-founder of the Canadian CIHR-HIV Trials Network, has also recently completed vetting nominations broadly solicited from across the country in disciplines such as medicine, nursing, pharmacy, dentistry, rehabilitation medicine and veterinary medicine.

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2005 Membership of CAHS

Albert J. Aguayo
William Albritton
Tasso P. Anastassiades
Aubie Angel
Jack Antel
Stephen Archer
Paul W. Armstrong
Francois Auger
Patricia A. Baird
Michael Baker
Morris Barer
Michel G. Bergeron
Alan Bernstein
Allan Best
John Bienenstock
Joan Bottorff
Michel Bouvier
M. Ian Bowmer
Manuel Buchwald
Helen Burt
John Cairns
Donald Calne
Serge Carrière
S. George Carruthers
Vincent Castellucci
Ray Chiu
Anthony Chow
Michel Chrétien
Annette Cormier O'Connor
Alastair Cribb
Richard Cruess
Dale Dauphinee
Jean Davignon
Dave Davis
Jacques de Champlain
Naranjan Dhalla
Henry Dinsdale
John Dirks
Ian Dohoo
James Dosman
Andree Durieux-Smith
Mostafa Elhilali

Robert Evans
Barton Finlay
Yves Fradet
John Frank
Cyril Frank
Henry Friesen
Abraham Fuks
Jacques Genest
Phil Gold
Harry L. Goldsmith
David Goltzman
Paul Grand Maison
Jean Gray
Ronald D. Guttman
Carlton Gyles
Vladimir Hachinski
Antoine Hakim
Judith Hall
Phillip Halloran
Pavel Hamet
J. Richard Hamilton
Mary Elizabeth Hannah
David F. Hardwich
Susan Harris
David Hawkins
Michael Hayden
Rejean Hebert
Carol Herbert
Clyde Hertzman
Philip Hicks
Wayne Hindmarsh
Ellen Hodnett
James C. Hogg
Martin Hollenberg
Diane Irvine Doran
Joy Johnson
Celeste Johnston
Jawahar Kalra
George Karpati
Nuala Kenny
Wilbert J. Keon
Kevin Keough

Bartha Knoppers
Otto Kuchel
Fernand Labrie
Jean-Claude Lacaille
André Lacroix
Bernard Langer
Andreas Laupacis
Mary Law
Yvonne Lefebvre
Peter Liu
Donald Low
Noni MacDonald
Peter Macklem
Stuart MacLeod
Paul Man
G. B. John Mancini
Karen Mann
Thomas Marrie
James G. Martin
Stanley Martin
Ernest A. McCulloch
Grant McFadden
Patrick McGrath
Bruce McManus
John McNeill
Graydon Meneilly
Nadia Mikhael
Richard Morisset
Janice Morse
David S. Mulder
T. Jock Murray
J. Fraser Mustard
Reginald A. Nadeau
Arnold Naimark
Louise Nasmith
C. David Naylor
Lindsay Nicolle
Linda O'Brien-Pallas
Chris Overall
Eliot Phillipson
Roger Pierson
Barry Pless

Barry J. Posner
Dorothy Pringle
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Eugenio A. Rasio
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Richard Reznick
Carol Richards
Kenneth Rockwood
Allan Ronald
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Robert B. Salter

Martin T Schechter
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Barry Sessle
William Sibbald
Melvin Silverman
Bhagirath Singh
Emil Skamene
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