



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.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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2005 Membership of CAHS

Albert J. Aguayo	Robert Evans	Bartha Knoppers
William Albritton	Barton Finlay	Otto Kuchel
Tasso P. Anastassiades	Yves Fradet	Fernand Labrie
Aubie Angel	John Frank	Jean-Claude Lacaille
Jack Antel	Cyril Frank	André Lacroix
Stephen Archer	Henry Friesen	Bernard Langer
Paul W. Armstrong	Abraham Fuks	Andreas Laupacis
Francois Auger	Jacques Genest	Mary Law
Patricia A. Baird	Phil Gold	Yvonne Lefebvre
Michael Baker	Harry L. Goldsmith	Peter Liu
Morris Barer	David Goltzman	Donald Low
Michel G. Bergeron	Paul Grand Maison	Noni MacDonald
Alan Bernstein	Jean Gray	Peter Macklem
Allan Best	Ronald D. Guttman	Stuart MacLeod
John Bienenstock	Carlton Gyles	Paul Man
Joan Bottorff	Vladimir Hachinski	G. B. John Mancini
Michel Bouvier	Antoine Hakim	Karen Mann
M. Ian Bowmer	Judith Hall	Thomas Marrie
Manuel Buchwald	Phillip Halloran	James G. Martin
Helen Burt	Pavel Hamet	Stanley Martin
John Cairns	J. Richard Hamilton	Ernest A. McCulloch
Donald Calne	Mary Elizabeth Hannah	Grant McFadden
Serge Carrière	David F. Hardwich	Patrick McGrath
S. George Carruthers	Susan Harris	Bruce McManus
Vincent Castellucci	David Hawkins	John McNeill
Ray Chiu	Michael Hayden	Graydon Meneilly
Anthony Chow	Rejean Hebert	Nadia Mikhael
Michel Chrétien	Carol Herbert	Richard Morisset
Annette Cormier O'Connor	Clyde Hertzman	Janice Morse
Alastair Cribb	Philip Hicks	David S. Mulder
Richard Cruess	Wayne Hindmarsh	T. Jock Murray
Dale Dauphinee	Ellen Hodnett	J. Fraser Mustard
Jean Davignon	James C. Hogg	Reginald A. Nadeau
Dave Davis	Martin Hollenberg	Arnold Naimark
Jacques de Champlain	Diane Irvine Doran	Louise Nasmith
Naranjan Dhalla	Joy Johnson	C. David Naylor
Henry Dinsdale	Celeste Johnston	Lindsay Nicolle
John Dirks	Jawahar Kalra	Linda O'Brien-Pallas
Ian Dohoo	George Karpati	Chris Overall
James Dosman	Nuala Kenny	Eliot Phillipson
Andree Durieux-Smith	Wilbert J. Keon	Roger Pierson
Mostafa Elhilali	Kevin Keough	Barry Pless

Barry J. Posner
Dorothy Pringle
Remi Quirion
Eugenio A. Rasio
Jeffrey Reading
Dominico Regoli
Richard Reznick
Carol Richards
Kenneth Rockwood
Allan Ronald
Lawrence Rosenberg
David Rosenblatt
Walter Rosser
Ori D. Rotstein
Claude Roy
Ellen Rukholm
Robert B. Salter

Martin T Schechter
Ernesto Schiffrin
Hugh Scott
Barry Sessle
William Sibbald
Melvin Silverman
Bhagirath Singh
Emil Skamene
Ingrid Sketris
Eldon R. Smith
Michael J. Sole
Matthew Spence
Miriam Stewart
Donald Stuss
Roger A. Sutton
Charles H. Tator
Sally Thorne

Aubrey Tingle
Richard Tremblay
Peter Tugwell
Jacques Turgeon
Jeffrey Turnbull
D. Lorne Tyrrell
Jack Uetrecht
Patrick Vinay
Peter Walker
Keith Walley
Mamoru Watanabe
Jeffrey I. Weitz
Catharine Whiteside
Douglas Wilson
Sharon Wood-Dauphinee
Salim Yusuf