

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 2014 CANADIAN ACADEMY OF HEALTH SCIENCES FORUM

COMMERCIALIZATION OF HEALTH RESEARCH FOR HEALTH, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC BENEFIT: TOWARDS AN EVIDENCE-INFORMED APPROACH

The 2014 CAHS Forum topic brought together a distinguished group of speakers and moderators that fully engaged an enthusiastic audience of Fellows and guests.

While the Themes addressed throughout the Forum proceedings highlighted the complexities, and current shortcomings, within the topic at hand, a number of potential directions highlighted by existing exemplars emerged that, taken together with Canada's strengths (obvious and less obvious), merit future exploration.

Setting the stage for the day, Peter Nicholson's keynote address highlighted Canada's academic research excellence as a necessary, but not sufficient, ingredient for innovation (including for-profit and not-for-profit commercialization) directed to the stated benefits.

Speakers in the moderated plenary sessions rose to the occasion, which became a refrain that was also echoed in the breakout sessions, to state the case for sufficiency on the foundation of academic excellence - the need for academia, faculties of health and life sciences, academic health organizations, researchers, providers, trainees, industry, governments all targeting fully engaged end-users (patients, families, and populations) they serve to commit to genuine collaboration within innovation ecosystems.

The case for future exploration requires grounding in solutions that will be forthcoming. Clearly, the health system, broadly considered, where academic excellence represents the existing supply push, now must rise to the occasion to create, through the innovation ecosystem approach outlined, the demand pull focused on a win-win-win-win value proposition for all ecosystem partners. The public-as-partner concept within a quality focus for the measurable win-win-win-win value proposition cannot be overemphasized.

Respectfully submitted: R. J. Riopelle, MD, FRCPC, FCAHS; Co-Chairs: Cy Frank & Rick Riopelle; March 2015

ADDENDUM

The case for future exploration has begun. Building on the CAHS Forum 2014 Summary document prepared by Cy Frank, the theme of the HealthCareCAN-AFMC Symposium 2015 (March 31-April 1) brought an academic perspective to the directions of CAHS Forum 2014 through a focused agenda on innovation and innovation ecosystems involving all ecosystem stakeholder partners.

Such sets the stage for further exploration using realist review approaches (Pawson et al; 2005) that align experiential models to evidenced social theory-based underpinnings as outlined in the CAHS Forum 2014 Breakout Sessions Summary attached.

Respectfully submitted: R. J. Riopelle, MD, FRCPC, FCAHS; April 2015