



# Research Canada On the Move

June 2016

## A New Tone in Ottawa

At **Research Canada's 2016 AGM** we were pleased to welcome government relations expert, Michelle McLean, who is Vice-President at Hill & Knowlton Strategies Canada. Ms. McLean described the new government as being more accessible and receptive to stakeholder input. There is a different tone in Ottawa and it is one that gives the research community some encouragement.

In terms of the research agenda, she identified three priorities for the new government: the review of federal funding programs for research by the Minister of Science's ministry; the selection of a Chief Science Officer and; the Innovation Agenda.

This week the Science Minister launched An Independent Review of Federal Funding for Fundamental Science. Dr. David Naylor has been named as Chair. "The review will assess the program machinery that is currently in place to support science and scientists in Canada. The scope of the review includes the three granting councils along with certain federally funded organizations such as the Canada Foundation for Innovation." Please read the press release for further information including the composition of the panel.

Nothing yet has been announced with regards to a science advisor yet; however, Research Canada encourages its Members to reach out now to the Minister of Science's Office if you have recommendations on who this individual should be and what the mandate of this office should be.

In terms of the Innovation Agenda Ms. McLean suggested there will be five different themes: entrepreneurship, global collaboration, regional clusters, clean economic growth and the digital economy.

In terms of health priorities for the Minister of Health, Ms. McLean identified home care, mental health services, affordable and accessible prescription drugs and innovation as the top priorities for Minister Philpott's department.

Research Canada gratefully acknowledges the support of **Innovative Medicines Canada, The Concordia University PERFORM Centre** and the **Canadian Association For Neuroscience** at this year's Research Canada Annual General Meeting.

## Media Release: Research Canada Welcomes Three New Board Directors

Ms. Tara Bingham, who leads Federal Public Policy and Government Affairs for AstraZeneca Canada, Dr. Tarik Moroy, President and Scientific Director of the Institut de recherches cliniques de Montréal (IRCM) and Ms. Mina Mawani, President and CEO of Crohn's and Colitis Canada. Retiring Directors of Research Canada, Mr. Peter Brenders, Dr. Peter Nickerson, and Dr. Marla Shapiro, were thanked and honoured for their service. Read the entire media release here.



Ms. Tara Bingham



Dr. Tarik Moroy



Ms. Mina Mawani

## Welcome Event

On March 7, Research Canada held a Welcome Event for re-elected and incoming Members of Parliament. The event was hosted by the Minister of Health. Pictures of the event are on our website.

## HRC Paediatric Research and Child Health in Canada Kiosk and Reception

On May 9, a Parliamentary Health Research Caucus event on Paediatric Research and Child Health was held just across from Parliament Hill in the new Parliamentary events space. To learn more about the research that was profiled and view pictures please visit our website here.



## Health Research Caucus



Comité sur la recherche en santé

We are grateful for the support of **AstraZeneca, Innovative Medicines Canada, The Alberta Children's Hospital, The Michener Institute at the UHN, Sanofi Genzyme, SickKids Research Institute, CHEO Research Institute, CAMH, Alberta Health Services, The Graham Boeckh Foundation, IRCM, Purdue, Genome Canada** who made that event possible.

## Research Canada Update Spring 2016 Issue

Following our Paediatric Event, Held on May 9, Research Canada published our Spring edition of our UPDATE publication to Parliamentarians. This edition profiles two members: The University of Saskatchewan and Alberta Health Services. To read this edition and previous editions please visit our website.

## Leadership Award

Research Canada launched its Leadership Award Call for Nominations in mid-May and encourages its Members to put forward nominations for the 2016 Award. The Leadership Award honours champions (individuals/organizations) in health research advocacy who/which have made outstanding efforts in advocating for Canadian health research at the local, provincial and/or national level.

The Award Gala will be held in Toronto on November 22nd at the Toronto Convention Centre. For more details visit Research Canada's website.

## Health Research Caucus Reception on Frailty

One way to identify older people at risk of poor outcomes is by identifying frailty. Frailty is a common condition in older people, although it is not an inevitable part of ageing. It is characterized by weakness, weight loss and a decreased ability to cope with illness and life challenges.

The fundamental problem with frailty is a reduced ability to bounce back from biological insults, such as infections and injuries. Only in recent years has the term "frailty" become a medical diagnosis, defined by specific symptoms and increasingly focused on by those who deal with the medical issues of the elderly.

As daunting and complex as the challenge may appear, evolving research may indicate the direction to take. This fall on October 24th, Research Canada will host a Parliamentary Health Research Caucus Reception on Frailty Among the Aged in Canada on Parliament Hill from 3:30 pm until 6:30 pm. We will bring researchers from Research Canada Member institutions across the country who are working in the following areas: the Biology of Frailty, Identifying Frailty, Frailty and our Healthcare System, the Societal Impact of Frailty and the Prevention of Frailty.

## Health Research Innovation Portal

What a difference a newswire service makes! The Health Research Innovation Portal is an original idea, formulated in-house to better serve Research Canada Members. The Portal is a single place to go to find news, releases and comment for, about and by the research and innovation communities. It is designed to provide an online meeting place that up until now has not existed. In other words, the Portal will host the news and commentary our community wants to see. But it will do more than this.

We heard from Members who expressed frustration with the cost of sending press releases. As a result many reported that they limit the number of releases they send out, restricting their communications, missing out on potential news coverage, but also brand recognition within the community. Many Members send to national media lists, but miss out on targeted lists like a number of science or health reporters. Accessing niche audiences relevant to our community is expensive and very difficult. The Portal is designed to fill this gap and add value to research communications.

The Media Portal is in the testing phase and we hope to launch this new service to Members in the fall of 2016. In the meantime you will be able to visit the web page, to view our BETA version of the Portal and see a new feature in our **On The Move** Newsletter, **News From the Portal**. This will feature News Releases sent out through the Portal.

## New Members

Research Canada was delighted to welcome seven new Members over the past year:

IWK /Capital Health The IWK Health Centre is respected for its world-class research into disorders and diseases affecting women, children, youth and families and is home to many leading research centres. Capital Health is Nova Scotia's largest provider of health services.

The University of Calgary, one of Canada's top research universities.

The University of Alberta, a top Canadian university and one of the Top 100 in the world.

The Canadian Association for Neuroscience (CAN-ACN), which promotes communication among neuroscientists throughout Canada, and represent the interests of Canadian neuroscientists at a national and international level.

Hamilton Health Sciences, which is the second largest hospital group in Ontario and serves as a regional referral centre for cardiac, stroke, burns, trauma, neurosurgery, pediatrics, digestive diseases, high-risk obstetrics, cancer, orthopedics and rehabilitation services.

Women's College Research Institute (WCRI), which is one of only a few hospital-based research institutes worldwide to focus on women's health.

The University of Saskatchewan, which is a member of the U15 Group of Canadian Research Universities (the 15 most research-intensive universities in Canada). It has a reputation for conducting leading-edge research and they house the Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization, another one of Research Canada's highly valued Members.

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## News from the Portal

Minister Duncan Honoured at Research Canada's AGM

Neil Fraser of Medtronic Canada Appointed as Chair of the MEDEC Board of Directors