



# Research Canada On the Move!



## A Word from our President and CEO Deborah Gordon-El-Bihbety

Happy New Year to Research Canada's Members, Supporters and Partners. Parliament is back, and 2017 promises to be a very busy year with the upcoming release of the Fundamental Science Review, a Federal Budget, the announcement of a Call for a Chief Science Officer and the Innovation Agenda Report expected later in the year.

Research Canada is planning a very busy year ahead focused on profiling and promoting Research Canada's Members on Parliament Hill through six Parliamentary Health Research Caucus events (see below), an AGM, a Leadership Award Gala and the launch of our much-anticipated newswire and media scanning service to Members—the HRI Portal.

### **Budget 2017**

The Liberal Government's second budget is likely to contain more surprises as new programs, and priorities emerge that were not in the Liberal election platform. MacLean's Magazine reported that in the 2016 budget, the government telegraphed possible items that will be in Budget 2017 through references to pilot projects and commitments to "conduct broad-based consultations" with affected stakeholders.<sup>[1]</sup>

### **Innovation Policy**

It was thought in 2016 and now again that Budget 2017 will have a theme, and it is likely to be "innovation."

Last year's budget committed to "redesign and redefine how it supports innovation and growth" through a new "innovation agenda." There were a number of funding announcements in the budget to boost academic science and research, along with supporting private sector innovation. However, these would appear to make up only a small portion of the government's new innovation agenda. There is a little discussion of reforming scientific R&D credits (SRED), a program that neither government nor industry is entirely satisfied with. It is highly likely that there will be reforms to SRED in Budget 2017.<sup>[2]</sup>

### **Fundamental Science Review**

The online portion of the Fundamental Science Review consultation process is now closed. In total, they received over 1250 submissions. These came from across the country and science ecosystem from, agencies and other organizations that distribute federal funds; researchers; administrators; institutions; research facilities; students; trainees; postdocs; provinces and territories; and other interested Canadians. We are now awaiting the release of the report in the next few weeks.

### **Chief Science Advisor**

A Call for the Chief Science Advisor is now posted on the Governor in Council website.

1 "A preview of the 2017 Federal Budget," Mike Moffat, March 22, 2016, MacLean's Magazine  
2 Ibid

## Frailty Among the Aged in Canada



Research Canada in partnership with the Canadian Frailty Network held a Parliamentary Health Research Caucus Reception on Frailty Among the Aged in Canada in October 2016 in the Speaker's Lounge (Centre Block) on Parliament Hill. Over 100 Parliamentarians, Researchers and Representatives from the academic, private and voluntary sectors attended and learned more about the biology of frailty, how to identify frailty, frailty and our healthcare system, the societal impact of frailty and the prevention of frailty. Our Keynote Speaker, Dr. Kenneth Rockwood from Dalhousie University, provided Parliamentarians with an overview of frailty research in Canada and helped them better understand how we can use research to design preventative programs and to optimize a person's care and treatment.

### **Thank you to our Sponsors!**

Sanofi Pasteur, Astrazeneca, Dalhousie University, Innovative Medicines Canada, Health Sciences North Research Institute

Brenda Strafford Centre on Aging at the University of Calgary, McMaster University, Michener Institute, Concordia University PERFORM Centre, Providence Health Care Research Institute, University Health Network, Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute

AbbVie Canada, Baycrest Health Sciences, Bridging Aging and Disability International Network: supported by March of Dimes, CAMH, Centre for Health Evaluation and Outcome Sciences (CHÉOS), Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI), Canadian Nurses Association (CNA), Canadian Society for Medical Laboratory Science (CSMLS), Eli Lilly Canada, Hamilton Health Sciences, Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute: Mount Sinai Hospital, Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research, Ontario Long-Term Care Association, Ottawa Heart Institute, Parkinson Canada, Pfizer Canada, Shift Health, SickKids Research Institute, University of Alberta, University of New Brunswick, Valeant Canada, VON Canada

## Call for Nominations 2017-18 RC Board of Directors

Please note the deadline to submit nominations to the 2017-2018 Research Canada Board of Directors is February 3rd, 2017. frailty research in Canada and helped them better understand how we can use research to design preventative programs and to optimize a person's care and treatment.

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### New Research Canada Members

Research Canada is pleased to welcome the following new Members to the Research Canada Alliance of Members:

#### McMaster University

Home to some of the best minds and research facilities in the country, with research output rivalling universities more than twice its size, McMaster has a well-deserved reputation as a crucible of discovery and innovation. McMaster University is consistently rated among the top one hundred institutions in the world for the quality and breadth of its research enterprise.

#### Hamilton Health Sciences

Hamilton Health Sciences is a family of seven unique hospitals, a cancer centre and an urgent care centre, serving more than 2.3 million residents of Hamilton and south central Ontario, Canada. It 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.

#### AbbVie Canada

Innovation is the cornerstone of AbbVie's business as a global biopharmaceutical company. Its focus is on developing medicines that can provide strong clinical performance, measurable patient benefit and economic value, particularly in areas where there is significant need, such as hepatitis C, neuroscience, immunology, oncology, chronic kidney disease and women's health.

#### Stem Cell Network

Supporting and building Canada's stem cell and regenerative medicine research sector has been the raison d'être of the Stem Cell Network (SCN) since its inception in 2001. Its work has been supported by the Government of Canada from the beginning.

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### Upcoming Events

#### Parliamentary Health Research Caucus

Research Canada will be organizing six Parliamentary Health Research Caucus events in 2017 to profile our Members' excellence in health research and health innovation. Here is a list of our 2017 Luncheons and Receptions:

1. Neuroscience in Canada Luncheon, February 13, 2017
2. Indigenous Health Research in Canada Reception, June 5, 2017
3. Leadership in Health Research Luncheon, June 6, 2017
4. Biotechnology Research in Canada Reception, October 2017
5. Celebrating Research the Gairdner Way Luncheon, October 2017
6. Stem Cell Research in Canada Luncheon, December 2017

## Annual General Meeting

(Tuesday, June 6, 2017 12:00 pm - 3:00 p.m.)

Join us on Tuesday, June 6th in Ottawa for our AGM/Parliamentary Health Research Caucus Luncheon on Leadership in Health Research with Guest Speakers, Dr. Grant Pierce, Executive Director of Research at St Boniface Hospital in Winnipeg, Manitoba and Dr. Julio Montaner, Director of the British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS (BC-CfE). Both Speakers are 2016 Research Canada Leadership Award Recipients.



## Preventing Disease:

### Vaccine Innovation Conference

The Vaccine Innovation Conference will be held on May 10, 2017 in Montreal, Quebec, hosted by the Vaccine Industry Committee. Register here.

## 2017 Leadership Awards

The Call for Nominations for Research Canada's 2017 Leadership Award will be issued in April 2017.



## Media Portal and Media Monitoring

Research Canada is pleased to be offering its Members, Partners and Supporters free Media Monitoring services through its HRI Portal. To subscribe to our RSS feed and receive current news on health research and health innovation in Canada, please visit: [www.hriportal.ca](http://www.hriportal.ca)

We are also offering a media release distribution service at a fraction of the cost of traditional newswire services. The HRI Portal is tailored to our Members, Supporters and Partners and targets health and science journalists specifically. For more information, please contact [sfodyce@rc-rc.ca](mailto:sfodyce@rc-rc.ca)

### News from the Portal

Ottawa hospitals shine in provincial report on organ and tissue donation

AHS to focus on 'community engagement'

New scientific director aims to shine light on Indigenous health issues