



Today's Discoveries Support Tomorrow's Health Care

June 2013

### ***Navigating political shockwaves: Two weeks and counting...***

Expect a raucous two weeks on Parliament Hill before the House rises and MPs head back to their ridings for the summer. The Senate expense scandal and the actions and resignation of the Prime Minister's Chief of Staff, Nigel Wright, have sent shockwaves through the Senate, House of Commons and beyond.

We expect the government to steer the conversation back to the economy and hopefully, in light of the recent [Science, Technology and Innovation Council \(STIC\) report](#), back to the critical need for sustainable and comprehensive R&D funding. Gary Goodyear, Minister of State for Science and Technology, sums it up well: "It's not one or the other. It is a continuum that includes the full spectrum of activity from basic research to innovation and through to the commercialization of those discoveries."

But Canada is lagging behind its competitors, dropping in rank from 16th to 23rd in overall R&D expenditures relative to GDP. And basic research that fuels the sector has taken a back seat to applied research and shorter-term commercial initiatives.

In the wake of this report, Research Canada's Chair, Maureen Adamson and our President & CEO, Deborah Gordon-El-Bihbety, will be meeting with policy-makers from all sides of the House, including representatives from the PMO and Mr. Goodyear's office, to advocate for discovery research, its importance to the commercialization pipeline, and the policies needed to attract private sector investment.

Stay informed. Parliamentary updates will be posted on our [blog](#).



*Left to right: Ms. Deborah Gordon-El-Bihbety and Ms. Maureen Adamson speaking to researchers, parliamentarians and lead sponsors at last month's Health Research Caucus event on Parliament Hill.*

***Message from Research Canada's Chair, Ms. Maureen Adamson and President & CEO, Ms. Deborah Gordon-El-Bihbety***

### **ALSO IN THIS ISSUE**

[Message from Board Chair and President & CEO](#)

[Response to STIC Report: State of the Nation 2012](#)

[Advocating for Clinical Trials Infrastructure](#)

[CIHR Reforms: Strengthening Health Research in Canada](#)

### **SAVE THE DATE**

Research Canada's 8th  
**Annual General Meeting**

Chateau Laurier, Ottawa  
**November 27th, 2013**

Stay tuned for program and registration info in the next issue of *On the Move*

Interested in sponsorship opportunities? Email: [\*\*r chopra@rc-rc.ca\*\*](mailto:r chopra@rc-rc.ca)

### **WE NEED YOUR INPUT**

We will be conducting our **5th public opinion poll** over the summer.

*What questions would you like to ask Canadians about health research and the importance of health innovation to our economy?*

Please email your submissions before July 31st 2013 to: [\*\*r chopra@rc-rc.ca\*\*](mailto:r chopra@rc-rc.ca)

Everyone agrees that health research holds the promise of future cures to debilitating and life-threatening diseases - that investments in health research improve our wellbeing, create jobs and help grow our economy. But *educating* parliamentarians and Canadians about health research is a different matter all together.

Helping policy-makers and the public understand the nature of discovery research and its critical connection to innovative technologies and treatments that save lives is a process that requires a consistent and comprehensive advocacy program that does not give in to the political priorities of the day. [Read more.](#)

### ***Research Canada Science Advisor Dr. Michael Julius responds to Science, Technology and Innovation Council report***

Seven chapters, replete with diligently thought through metrics for R&D performance, accompanied by a complex array of supporting statistics adopted by 40 other international jurisdictions, resolved yet again that in 2012, Canada has not moved forward toward its explicit goal of global leadership in science, technology and innovation.



Canada is not simply lagging: its ranking among OECD members is falling at an alarming rate in many dimensions that comprise the STI index. The Science, Technology and Innovation Council biennial report *State of the Nation 2012* is explicit in this regard.

[Read more.](#)

### ***Research Canada and R7 partners request meeting with Health Minister to advocate for clinical trials infrastructure***

The competitiveness of Canada's clinical trial environment has diminished and the proportion of global clinical trials being conducted in Canada has declined over the past decade.

In the absence of policy reform and an explicit action plan to retain our private sector partners and better coordinate clinical trials activity across Canada, our clinical trial infrastructure will continue to decline, as will the health and wellbeing of Canadians. [Read our letter to the Minister.](#)

### ***CIHR Reforms: Strengthening Health Research in Canada***

Research Canada was pleased to welcome **Dr. Jane Aubin**, CIHR's Chief Scientific Officer and Vice-President of Research and Knowledge Translation, at our May 6th Board meeting in Ottawa. Dr. Aubin provided us with an overview of the current discovery research budget, plans for SPOR and an update on CIHR Reforms to the Operating Grant Program. [View the full presentation here.](#)

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[www.rc-rc.ca](http://www.rc-rc.ca)

And check out our [blog](#) to view photos, videos and our latest news.

Nos nouvelles et mises à jour sont aussi disponibles [en français](#) sur notre blogue.

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#### **JUNE IS...**

[ALS Awareness Month](#)

[Brain Injury Awareness Month](#)

[Stroke Awareness Month](#)

[Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus Awareness Month](#)

[Senior's Month](#)

[Relay for Life](#)

[National Sun Awareness Week](#)  
June 3-9, 2013

[National Cancer Survivors Day](#)  
June 3, 2013

[National Memory Screening Day](#)  
June 12, 2013

[World Blood Donor Day](#)  
June 14, 2013

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