



**Speaking Notes for
Dr. Martin Osmond, Board Director
Research Canada
Paediatric Research and Child Health Reception
Monday, May 9th, 2016
3:30 pm - 6:30 pm
MacDonald Building, Room 200**

Good Afternoon Everybody.

My name is Dr. Martin Osmond, and I am a Research Canada Board Director and the CEO and Scientific Director of the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) Research Institute and Vice President of Research at CHEO. Il me fait plaisir de vous accueillir à cette réception de bienvenue pour les membres du Parlement. I would like to welcome you to this parliamentary Health Research Caucus Reception on Paediatric Research and Child Health. I would like to recognize the Chair of the Health Research Caucus, Mr. John Oliver, who I will introduce to you momentarily. Nous sommes également reconnaissants au Monsieur John Oliver pour accueillir la réception ce soir.

I would also like to recognize the Past Chair of the Health Research Caucus, Senator Kelvin K. Ogilvie, a champion for health research and health innovation in Canada, and Ms. Carol Hughes, the NDP Representative of the Health Research Caucus, who is also a passionate advocate for Canadians' health and our health research enterprise.

Je dois aussi accueillir tous les membres de la Chambre et du Sénat. Nous sommes chanceux d'avoir autant de membres du Parlement qui sont engagés à améliorer la santé des Canadiens et Canadiennes!

I would also like to thank our Sponsors for their generous contributions to this reception and without whom we could not mount these stellar events: they are...Innovative Medicines Canada, AstraZeneca, SickKids Research Institute, CHEO Research Institute, Sanofi Genzyme, Alberta Children Hospital's Research Institute, the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, the Michener Institute for Applied Health Sciences, Alberta Health Services, the Graham Boeckh

Foundation, Genome Canada, the Montreal Institute for Clinical Research and Purdue.

Maintenant, j'aimerais dire quelques mots au sujet de Recherche Canada. Research Canada is a multi-stakeholder alliance of private, academic and voluntary sector organizations dedicated to advancing health research and translating research into innovative products and services that deliver social and economic benefits to all Canadians.

The parliamentary Health Research Caucus is a primary area of focus for Research Canada because we think it is important that Members of Parliament are exposed to the ground-breaking research and innovation Canadian health researchers and innovators are undertaking across this country--research and innovations that are improving the quality of life of Canadians and building a better economy. What better investment can we make than an investment in our health and the health of future generations.

In just a moment Mr Oliver will tell you about the impressive research you will see around the room today but I am going to take a few minutes to provide you with a few important points to remember about child and youth research in general.

FIRST: CHILDREN ARE NOT JUST SMALL ADULTS.

You may have heard this phrase before and its true. They have unique medical and surgical conditions that develop at certain stages of childhood and adolescence. They also have unique physiology that changes with age and which impacts how pharmaceuticals are metabolized in the body. Research findings in adults therefore cannot be assumed to be translatable to children. As a result we require specific discovery bench top research aimed at pediatric diseases (such as was the case with Type I diabetes in the time of Banting and Best and the search for insulin). As well we need specific clinical trials in children to make sure that drug therapies are both safe and effective. Both require strong research networks and well-funded multicenter studies.

This brings me to my SECOND point: PEDIATRIC RESEARCH IS A TEAM SPORT.

Conditions that we study in pediatrics are often relatively rare. Their study requires research networks that are national and often international in scope to get sufficient numbers for our trials. You will see that virtually all researchers in this room are well networked and that their work could not be carried out in isolation. It is the key to their success. Also these are multidisciplinary team with doctors, nurses, bench scientists, epidemiologists, health economists, chemists, bioinformaticians, psychologists, engineers, etc... all playing a role. Parents and children are also more and more a critical part of the study team as recognized and encouraged by the CIHR Strategy for Patient Oriented Research. They help identify and prioritize critical research questions, advise on the feasibility of the study, determine which study outcomes are important to them and help in rapidly translating the results.

**THIRD: THE EFFECT OF THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH
ON CHILDREN IS MASSIVE.**

As parliamentarians you will know this. The effects of poverty, education, diet, exercise, mental health stress and drugs and alcohol on child health outcomes is enormous. You will see this as you visit our kiosks and talk to the researchers. Through their research efforts, we are understanding the role that these determinants play in the acquisition of certain diseases and how modifying them can lead to improved outcomes.

I hope you enjoy meeting the scientists one-on-one and learning more about their important research as you move through the room this afternoon.

It is now my pleasure to introduce to you the Chair of the Health Research Caucus, Mr. John Oliver. Mr. Oliver is the former President and CEO of Halton Healthcare Services (comprising Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital, Milton District Hospital and Georgetown Hospital) and has led the \$2.7B infrastructure project for the recently opened new Oakville Hospital. Il est né dans le sud-ouest de l'Ontario et a vécu à Oakville pour les vingt dernières années .

He holds a Bachelor of Commerce degree from McMaster University and a Master's degree in Health Sciences Administration from the University of Toronto. Mr. Oliver is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Ontario (FCPA).

En 2013, M. Oliver a été honoré de recevoir la Médaille du jubilé de la Reine Elizabeth II Diamond pour le service au Canada.

Please join me in welcoming Mr. John Oliver to the podium.