

2018 Member Value Report

The 2018 Advocacy Program

The Parliamentary Health Research Caucus



In 2018, Research Canada held six very popular Parliamentary Health Research Caucus (PHRC) events, each raising awareness among Parliamentarians about the social and economic benefits of Canadian health research and innovation.

In February 2018, the PHRC and Research Canada hosted a Luncheon on the **Opioid Crisis: How Can Research Inform Solutions?** This Luncheon featured researchers from three of Research Canada's Member organizations who identified research solutions to the crisis and emphasized the critical role that government, industry and academe play in solving an unprecedented public health crisis.

The first Reception of the year, held in May 2018, was on **Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning: Reshaping Health Research and Innovation** and featured 15 stellar researchers from many of Research Canada's Member organizations. These Canadian experts spoke with Parliamentarians about the use of artificial intelligence and machine learning to improve health and patient care, solving genetic and genomic mysteries through precision medicine, the rehabilitative potential of artificial intelligence and machine learning, and their application in mental health.

A second Luncheon was held on **Innovations in Healthy Aging**, on the occasion of Research Canada's 2018 Annual General Meeting in June 2018. This Luncheon featured experts in the field from Research Canada's Member organizations and Industry Partners who explored how we can address barriers to adopting healthy behaviours in older adults using, among other things, technology and home design for aging in place, which can offer alternatives for assisted living.



In October 2018, Research Canada and the Parliamentary Health Research Caucus, in partnership with the Gairdner Foundation, hosted a private Luncheon on Parliament Hill to **Celebrate Our Gairdners**. This Luncheon provided key representatives from the Government of Canada the



opportunity to meet Canada Gairdner Award laureates and learn about their incredible contributions to health research around the world.

The second Reception event, also held in October 2018, was on **Northern and Rural Health Research in Canada** and featured 15 experts who spoke with Parliamentarians about the need for a combination of primary, secondary and tertiary interventions to achieve a meaningful degree of prevention and protection of the health problems facing northern and rural Canadians.



Closing out the year's advocacy program, a Luncheon was held in December 2018 on **The Case for Made in Canada: Paediatric Medicines and Clinical Trials**. This Luncheon featured three stellar presenters who spoke to Parliamentarians about the Current State of Canadian and International Paediatric Medicine and Clinical Trials, Exploring Successes in Other Jurisdictions, and How to Build a *Made in Canada* Paediatric Medicine and Clinical Trials System.

A New Parliamentary Health Research Caucus Chair



Following Mr. John Oliver's (Chair of the PHRC) appointment to the position of Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Health, he was required to step down as Chair of the Caucus. Ms. Kim Rudd, MP for Northumberland – Peterborough South, was appointed as the new PHRC Chair by the Minister of Health, the Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor in early October. We are delighted to have her as our new Chair and look forward to working with her in the New Year.

Welcoming the New CIHR President

Research Canada also hosted, in October 2018, a **Welcome Reception on Parliament Hill for Dr. Michael J. Strong**, the new President of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), to introduce him to Parliamentarians and Ottawa's leaders in health research and health innovation. This event featured several guest speakers, including the **Honourable Ginette Petitpas Taylor, Minister of Health**, Senator Judith Seidman, Senate Representative of the PHRC, Ms. Kim Rudd, the new Chair of the PHRC and MP for Northumberland – Peterborough South, Dr. David Hill, Board Director and Past Chair of Research Canada and Research Canada's President and CEO, Ms. Deborah Gordon-El-Bihbey.



Research Canada's Publications

Research Canada continues to produce our three popular publications. ***The Pulse on the Hill*** is a brief update on political and policy Ottawa from Research Canada's President and CEO,



distributed to our Members, Supporters and Partners. **RC On the Move** is Research Canada's newsletter for Members. Produced three to six times each year, the *RC On the Move* provides Members with a political and policy update, information about Research Canada's upcoming Parliamentary Health Research Caucus events, News from the HRI Portal, and more!

RC Update is a newsletter for Parliamentarians that focuses on the most recent Parliamentary Health Research Caucus events and aims to profile the incredible research happening at our Member institutions. As part of Research Canada's commitment to engage and support early-career talent, *RC Update* now includes an Early Career Investigator column to recognize the young research talent among our Members. In addition to those researchers who are selected to participate in Parliamentary Health Research Caucus events, the *RC Update*, along with our website, is able to recognize and profile each of the extraordinary researchers that you recommend to us.



Social Media

At the end of 2018, the Research Canada Twitter account had over 5,950 followers and our tweets over the last six months have been achieving on average 684 Impressions. Our Facebook page now has almost 1,200 likes, and these numbers are continuing to grow each day. Research Canada is continuing to use our social media feeds to help profile our Members and amplify the voices of the Canadian health research and innovation ecosystem.

HRI Portal



In keeping with the priorities of *Research Canada Strategy 2020*, the **HRI Portal** will continue to be used as a vehicle through which we can profile the important and innovative work of our Members and the advocacy and education work that Research Canada does through the Parliamentary Health Research Caucus and policy initiatives such as the National Partners (R8). Research Canada offers this service to our Members to assist you in getting the word out about your ground-breaking research and innovations at an affordable rate.

The HRI Portal also hosts the news and commentary the health research community wants to see through the **Daily Media Digest** and the French **Weekly Digest (La revue de presse hebdomadaire)**. These stories are made available to our community for free.

FINA Submission

Research Canada submitted a response to the **House of Common's Standing Committee on Finance's (FINA) Pre-Budget Consultations** in advance of the 2019 Budget in August 2018,



entitled *Ensuring Canada's Competitiveness through Investment in the Next Generation of Highly Skilled Researchers*. As encouraged as we are by Budget 2018's unprecedented investment in research, we remain concerned about the impact of previous underinvestment on our next generation of fundamental science research. The recommendations in Research Canada's 2018 FINA Submission speak to ensuring that the promised reinvestment has the best chance of propelling Canada forward through an extraordinarily competitive environment. This includes funding the full costs of research. Our recommendations also speak to building a research system that recognizes the multifold value of Indigenous health research informed directly by Indigenous communities, and that encourages the skilled employment opportunities provided by Canada's life sciences industry.

2018 AGM: Advocating in a New Environment



As part of Research Canada's 2018 Annual General Meeting, we organized two panel discussions related to the day's theme **Advocating in a New Environment**. These two panels featured ten leading voices from various sectors and promising early-career researchers who shared with our Members and guests their insights on **What's Next in Health Research Advocacy** and on **Meeting the Advocacy Challenge for the Health Innovation Ecosystem**. These stellar panelists and audience members raised important issues such as the critical role of the health charity sector in building a robust health research enterprise; the need to re-position healthcare as an industry sector open for business in an effort to grow its receptor capacity for new technologies and; the growing divide among Canada's economic classes and the impact this erosion of the middle class will have on government priorities and our sector's future advocacy strategies aimed at improving the health and well-being of ALL Canadians.

Bridging the Stakeholder Divide: The R8

A cornerstone of Research Canada's mission and mandate is to reach across the many sectors that comprise the health innovation continuum and encourage opportunities to work together in response to public policy processes and to seek out alignment among our national partners on a number of important issues such as the need for more support of early- and mid-career health researchers. Research Canada has continued to meet with the National Partners (R8) to collaborate in our shared efforts to advance health research and health innovation in Canada. In 2018, the R8 convened to discuss policy imperatives for members' sectors and the ecosystem as a whole, such as the Patented Medicines Regulatory Proposals, the need to position health within the national Innovation Agenda, and the upcoming federal budget and election in 2019.

Leadership in Advocacy Award

Research Canada's Leadership in Advocacy Award honours health research advocacy champions and draws greater attention to health research and health innovation in Canada. The award is given on an annual basis to recognize individuals and/or organizations that have made



outstanding efforts in advocating for Canadian health research at the local, provincial and/or national level.



The 2018 Leadership in Advocacy Award, announced at the Prix Galien and the Health Research Foundation's Medal of Honour Award Ceremony on November 20, 2018, was given to **Dr. Marla Shapiro**, Professor, Department of Family and Community Medicine at the University of Toronto.

Dr. Shapiro is a champion for Canadian health research and health innovation. She has worked tirelessly to promote health research and health innovation through her advocacy work including the books and articles she has written, through her television programs and appearances and the behind-the-scenes work she does on academic and voluntary Boards and Committees.

Research Canada Strategy 2020

At Research Canada's 2018 Annual General Meeting in June 2018, we unveiled our new strategic plan, entitled ***Research Canada Strategy 2020: Fulfilling the Promise of Collaborative Advocacy Leadership***. This Strategic Plan aims to position Research Canada for collaborative advocacy leadership – a theme that captures the essence of Research Canada's unique role in convening Members, Partners and Supporters around positions that reinforce shared research. Through this Plan, Research Canada had made the commitment to you as our valued Member and to the health research and innovation community to Amplify our Influence, Broaden our Public Reach and Diversify our Alliance.

Into the Future

Four Parliamentary Health Research Caucus Events in 2019!

In 2019, Research Canada will organize four Parliamentary Health Research Caucus Receptions and Luncheons focused on Veterans' Health and Health Research; the second in a series of events on the Opioid Crisis; Women's Health and Health Research; and the Student Perspective in Canadian health research. We welcome suggestions on research projects and researchers in these fields from our Members.

In collaboration with Senator Judith Seidman and the Gairdner Foundation, we will also be hosting a luncheon to celebrate 2019 Gairdner Award winners in April 2019.



Your Candidates, Your Health

Research Canada will launch our ***Your Candidates, Your Health*** initiative ahead of the 2019 federal election. This initiative will provide our Members with the advocacy tools they need to inform Election 2019 Candidates about health research and health innovation in Canada. Members will receive an Election Primer that describes the funding and policy issues researchers and innovators are facing, as well as information about Candidates and how to engage with them on these important policy issues.

Always Mission-Driven

As a mission-driven organization, Research Canada continues to take the long-term health research and health innovation advocacy view recognizing that advocating for investments in health research and policies that build a strong health innovation system take time and persistence and require a consistent presence on Parliament Hill — a presence that Research Canada has because of your ongoing support.

For more information about Research Canada: An Alliance for Health Discovery, visit rc-rc.ca.

