



2012 SPOTLIGHT ON FCIHR



NOVEMBER 2012



THE PLATFORM PARTY – FRIESEN PRIZE PUBLIC FORUM - September 19, 2012 – OTTAWA

Left to Right: Mr. André Picard, Public Health Reporter served as MC; Dr. Aubie Angel, President, Friends of CIHR; Dr. Tom Marrie, President, Canadian Academy of Health Sciences; Dr. Heather Munroe-Blum, Principal, McGill; 2012 Friesen Prizewinner Dr. Marc Tessier-Lavigne, President, Rockefeller University; Dr. Arnold Naimark, President Emeritus, University of Manitoba.

President's Report

Reflecting on this banner year, I am pleased to report on a variety of events and achievements that reaffirm our national role in health research advocacy that supports a robust health sciences community. In support of the career development of young clinician scientists, Friends of CIHR has continued its collaborative programs with the Canadian Society for Clinical Investigation (CSCI) and the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS). Increased exposure of the Friesen Prize Laureates throughout the year with Institutional visits and evening broadcasts on national radio through CBC Radio One "Ideas" continues to deliver our message country-wide to centres of higher learning and into the homes of Canadian listeners. The Video History of Medicine in Canada Project continues to grow and is only limited by resources, as project funding remains a challenge. Again, we note our ability to communicate almost instantaneously through various media especially the social networks that play an increasingly important role in the dissemination of information. We are taking full advantage of this with an expanded presence of video clips on YouTube, Facebook photo albums of events and a busy Twitter account. I shall now highlight several activities for the record – A.A.

The Henry G. Friesen International Prize in Health Research.

In February 2012, **Dr. Victor Dzau**, the 2011 Friesen Prize Laureate, visited UBC and St. Paul's Hospital Research Institute and gave a talk entitled, "Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine for Cardiac Care". The host institutions were most hospitable and we are grateful to **Dr. John Hepburn**, Vice-President Research & International, UBC, for his generosity and

The Henry G. Friesen
INTERNATIONAL PRIZE
in Health Research
LE PRIX INTERNATIONAL
de la Recherche en Santé Henry G. Friesen

FCIHR/AIRSC

**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS
2013 FRIESEN PRIZE**

DEADLINE: January 16, 2013

Nominations for the 2013 Friesen International Prize are welcome. Members are encouraged to submit nominations. Forms and terms are available at www.fcibr.ca/prize.

to **Dr. Bruce McManus** for facilitating this Institutional visit. Dr. Dzau's talk on CBC Radio One "Ideas" was featured twice over the past year and the full Friesen Prize Lecture can be viewed online: http://download.isiglobal.ca/fcibr/2011-09-14/archive_with_slides.html

2012 Friesen Prize Program – New York (June 27th, 2012) and Ottawa (Sept. 19, 2012)

We are particularly grateful to **Consul General John F. Prato** who co-hosted a Reception in New York in honour of **Dr. Marc Tessier-Lavigne**, President of Rockefeller University. McGill University co-sponsored the event and special thanks to **Dr. Rose Goldstein**, Vice-Principal (Research and International Relations) and **Mr. Marc Weinstein**, Vice-Principal (Development and Alumni Relations) who participated along with a number of McGill alumni. Photos from this event can be viewed at: http://www.facebook.com/pages/Friends-of-Canadian-Institutes-of-Health-Research/119501454770783?sk=photos_albums



**Presentation of Award – Sept. 19th, 2012 - Ottawa
CITATION**

"For pioneering research in brain development and the discovery of molecules that guide nerve fibers towards their targets. Science advocate at the interface of Industry and the Academy."

L to R: 2012 Friesen Prizewinner Dr. Marc Tessier-Lavigne, President of Rockefeller U.; Dr. Aubie Angel, President of FCIHR; Dr. Tom Marrie, President of CAHS.

On September 19, 2012, Dr. Marc Tessier-Lavigne, President of Rockefeller University, was honoured as the 7th Henry G. Friesen International Prizewinner. Dr. Tessier-Lavigne was introduced to key Ottawa health research personalities at a Leaders' Breakfast hosted jointly by FCIHR with the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute (OHRI) in a stunning setting at the Canadian Museum of Nature. At midday, an informal luncheon gathering of Ottawa neuroscientists allowed for a lively discussion of current Neuroscience programs. Dr. Tessier-Lavigne then met with senior program directors at Health Canada where he discussed advanced neuroscience priorities and the unique research ambiance at Rockefeller University. Later that afternoon, Dr. Tessier-Lavigne gave his public address to a standing-room audience of clinician scientists in training and senior members of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS). His talk, *"The future of translational medicine and drug discovery: is the glass half empty or half full?"* was well received and videorecorded for future broadcast online. Later that evening, a Dinner celebration was held at the Canadian Museum of Nature where Dr. Tessier-Lavigne was presented the Friesen Award.

Joint Symposium with CSCI

On September 19th, 2012, our 5th annual FCIHR Joint Symposium with CSCI took place in Ottawa immediately prior to the Public Forum. This Symposium entitled, *"Translational Science and Research in Medicine: Scope, Challenges and*

Implementation", was chaired by **Dr. Bruce McManus**, VP of FCIHR, and **Dr. Brent Winston**, President of CSCI, who introduced 3 guest speakers including **Dr. Allan Kaplan**, Director of the Institute of Medical Science (IMS), U of T; **Dr. Vicki Seyfert-Margolis**, Senior Advisor, Regulatory Science and Innovation, Office of the Commissioner, US Food and Drug Administration (FDA); and **Dr. Bernie Zinman**, Director, Leadership Sinai Centre for Diabetes, U of T. The Joint Symposium complemented the Friesen Lecture and broadened the discussion of translational sciences as a priority in Canadian health research.

Institutional visit at the University of Ottawa and Luncheon Lecture to CAHS – Sept. 20th, 2012

In accepting the Friesen Prize, the Laureate undertakes 1 or more institutional visits during the year following the Friesen Prize presentation. Dr. Tessier-Lavigne gave a university-wide talk to the Brain & Mind Institute at the University of Ottawa, where he was introduced by **Dean Jacques Bradwejn** and **Dr. Tony Hakim**. The title of his talk was, *"Wiring the Brain: the Logic and Mechanisms of Neuronal Guidance"* and was well received.

At noon, the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences hosted a luncheon with Dr. Tessier-Lavigne as the keynote speaker where he briefly explained the molecular basis and cellular markers of Alzheimer's Disease and new molecular targets for treatment. Our thanks to Dr. Tom Marrie, President of CAHS, for his collaborative support of the Friesen International Prize Program. Following lunch, **Mr. Paul Kennedy**, host of CBC Radio One "Ideas" recorded an interview with Dr. Tessier-Lavigne for broadcast early in 2013.

Video History of Medicine in Canada Project

Members are encouraged to view a number of clips taken from DVDs of giants in Canadian Medicine and Bioscience: www.youtube.com/friendsofcihr These in-depth digital files of distinguished personalities will be deposited at the Robarts Library, U of T, for custodial care. This archival material is to be made accessible to future scientists, scholars and journalists. For more info, visit: www.fcihr.ca

Renew your membership for 2013

We must enhance science literacy and encourage young researchers in their formative years.

Please consider additional voluntary contributions.

Charitable #: 87321 9646 RR0001

Published by FCIHR

Editor: A. Angel, President, Friends of CIHR

Design: C.S. Castellvi, Admin. Assistant, FCIHR