



# 2017 Spotlight on FCIHR

December 2017

No. VIII



2017 Friesen Prize Lecture at U Ottawa – October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017

Left to Right: **Dr. Alex MacKenzie**, Senior Scientist, CHEO RI & FCIHR Secretary; **Dr. Rod McInnes**, Acting President, CIHR; **Dr. Henry G. Friesen**, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, U Manitoba; **Dr. Alan Bernstein**, 2017 Friesen Prizewinner and President, CIFAR; **Dr. Mona Nemer**, Chief Science Advisor of Canada; **Dr. Sylvain Charbonneau**, Interim VP Research, U Ottawa; **Dr. Aubie Angel**, President, FCIHR; **The Honourable Allan Rock**, Past President, U Ottawa.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am delighted to report highlights of FCIHR events over the past year. We note an atmospheric change in our science community as we anticipate enhanced research funding, given our government's commitment to a knowledge-based economy and endorsement of Science. **Dr. David Naylor's** insightful report, *"Canada's Fundamental Science Review"*, to the federal government on funding of basic research certainly justifies an infusion of resources to make up for past deficiencies. We all hope to see additional support for Discovery Science for our aspiring creative young investigators.

We are also heartened by the appointment of a Chief Science Advisor and congratulate **Dr. Mona Nemer**, the inaugural appointee. Dr. Nemer is a well known and respected basic scientist and has a deep understanding of the importance of Discovery Research as the cornerstone of innovation and the precursor of useful technologies. We await with much anticipation the selection of permanent leadership for the President of CIHR, Canada's leading funder of health research. We also extend much thanks to **Dr. Rod McInnes** for his leadership of CIHR, albeit in an interim capacity, to help restore its functionality and inspire confidence in our granting systems. Both Dr. Nemer and Dr. McInnes were a visible presence at the Friesen Prize Program and Award Dinner on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 and both gave remarks from the podium to honour Dr. Bernstein.

**Dr. Aubie Angel, President**



2017 Friesen Prize Award Presentation to **Dr. Alan Bernstein**

*"Renowned Cancer Biologist, Mentor, Institution Builder and Public Advocate for Fundamental Science as the Cornerstone of Innovation."*

L to R: **Dr. Janet Rossant**, 2016 Friesen Prizewinner; **Dr. Alan Bernstein**, 2017 Friesen Prizewinner; **Dr. Reza Moridi**, Minister of Research & Innovation, Gov't of Ontario; **Dr. Aubie Angel**, President, FCIHR. October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 – Rideau Club, Ottawa

**Dr. Janet Rossant**, 2016 Friesen Prizewinner, embarked on a Western Canadian Tour with Institutional visits to the University of Manitoba (January 22-24, 2017), University of British Columbia (May 9-11, 2017), University of Calgary (May 16-17, 2017) and University of Alberta (May 18-19, 2017), Edmonton. Dr. Rossant expounded on the principal theme of *"Stem Cell and Genome Editing: Ethical Challenges in Human Health"*. Additionally, she engaged local scientists, trainees and early career researchers with insights on the breadth of career opportunities in the sciences in Canada. FCIHR

acknowledges with thanks the support of Dean Brian Postl, Dean Dermot Kelleher, Dean Jon Meddings and Dean Richard Fedorak, respectively, for their continuing endorsement of the Friesen Prize Program. Dr. Rossant fulfilled her responsibilities by providing a manuscript of her lecture, which was published in Book #5 of the Friesen Prize Lectures – see page 3.



2017 Leaders' Breakfast – Minister Kirsty Duncan spoke glowingly of Dr. Bernstein's achievements and sound advice.

### 2017 Henry G. Friesen International Prize Program

**Dr. Alan Bernstein**, President, CIFAR, was awarded the 2017 Friesen Prize. A full program was celebrated in Ottawa on October 31<sup>st</sup>-November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017. His Friesen Lecture entitled, *"Health Research in an Age of Borderless Science: How can Canada Best Contribute?"*, was delivered at the University of Ottawa to a packed audience. Thanks are due to **Dr. Sylvain Charbonneau**, Interim VP Research, U Ottawa, for his welcoming remarks and commitment to the continuing productive relationship with the Friesen Prize Program. U Ottawa has been a Major Sponsor of the Friesen Prize and we are grateful for the resources and spaces provided for our events.

Dr. Alan Bernstein was welcomed at the 2017 Leaders' Breakfast in the Parliamentary Dining Room with special guests, including **Dr. Henry Friesen**, **Minister Kirsty Duncan** and **Senator Kelvin K. Ogilvie**.



L to R: **Mr. Peter Love**, President, RCIS; **Mr. Paul Davidson**, President, Universities Canada; **Dr. Reinhart Reithmeier**, FCIHR, chat about the future of graduate training in Canada.

### NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE AND FORUM

Dr. Bernstein and Dr. Friesen participated in two additional FCIHR sponsored events – a national Roundtable on *"The Future of Graduate Education in Canada: New Directions"*, which was Co-Chaired by **Mr. Paul Davidson** (President, Universities Canada) and **Dr. Ruth Slack** (Interim Vice Dean, Research, U Ottawa). **Dr. Reinhart Reithmeier** gave the Keynote entitled, *"10,000 PhDs Project: Implications for Graduate Education"*. Other participants included: **Dr. Brenda Brouwer**, **Dr. Ed Kroeger**, **Professor Martha Crago**, **Dr. Anne Martin-Matthews**, **Dr. Jim Woodgett** and **Dr. Mario Pinto**. The Proceedings are being transcribed for publication.

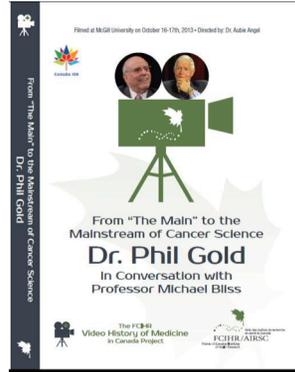
On Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017 in Ottawa, FCIHR also organized and sponsored the Opening Forum at CSPC2017 entitled, *"Artificial Intelligence and Discovery Science: Playing to Canada's Strengths"*. **The Honourable Reza Moridi** gave a welcoming address. The event was Co-Chaired by **Mr. André Picard** and **Dr. Eric Meslin**. **Dr. Alan Bernstein** gave the Keynote address entitled, *"Canada's Lead in AI Research: Lessons for Discovery and Innovation"*. Other participants included **Dr. Brenda Andrews**, **Dr. Doina Precup**, **Dr. Rémi Quirion**, **Dr. Linda Rabeneck** and **Dr. Peter Zandstra**. Discussants in attendance included **Dr. Rod McInnes**, **Dr. Duncan Stewart**, **Dr. Vivek Goel**, **Dr. Thierry Mesana** and **Dr. Henry Friesen**. The audiorecording of the FCIHR Forum can be accessed via [sciencepolicy.ca](http://sciencepolicy.ca).

### FRIENDS OF CIHR LECTURE AT 2017 CSCI-CITAC ANNUAL MEETING IN TORONTO – November 21, 2017

FCIHR has a longstanding partnership with the Canadian Society for Clinical Investigation (CSCI) and sponsors an annual Lecture. **Dr. Alex MacKenzie** addressed the annual scientific gathering of CSCI-CITAC and CIP. This Young Investigators' Forum is organized to inform and promote clinical scientists in training and MD/PhD students. Dr. MacKenzie spoke on, *"Treating Rare Diseases in the Era of Next Generation DNA Sequencing: After the Deluge"*. Alex was congratulated and presented with a framed certificate by **Dr. Aubie Angel** and **Dr. Alan Underhill** (President, CSCI).



**Dr. Alex MacKenzie** and the Certificate for his FCIHR Lecture at CSCI 2017.



**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS  
2018 FRIESEN PRIZE**

**DEADLINE: January 12, 2018**

Nominations for the 2018 Friesen International Prize are welcome. Members are encouraged to submit nominations. Forms and terms: <http://www.fcibr.ca/prize/about/nomination>



**PUBLICATIONS**

Book #5 of the Friesen Lectures series was published, featuring manuscripts by **Sir Paul Nurse** (2015) and **Dr. Janet Rossant** (2016). Copies are available at cost.

**FCIHR VIDEO HISTORY OF MEDICINE IN CANADA PROJECT**

A 3-DVD set was produced featuring **Dr. Phil Gold** being interviewed by the late Prof. Michael Bliss. Thanks to **Miss Shelby Ricker**. We have posted 81 video clips on YouTube featuring many of our distinguished Canadian scientists and educators. As well, we have commemorated the passing of **Prof. Michael Bliss** with a Tribute video of excerpts from a number of his projects: <https://youtu.be/XUDGDZrEGik>



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 Massey College  
 CBC Radio One "Ideas"  
 Canadian Science Policy Conference (CSPC 2017)



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**FCIHR Spotlight – An Annual Report of Activities**  
 Produced and Published by: FCIHR  
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 Design and Production: Miss Cristina S. Castellvi,  
 Administrative Assistant, FCIHR

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Dr. Michael Bliss (1941-2017)**

We are saddened by the death of Dr. Michael Bliss. He chronicled the life histories of medical giants and contributed in a major way as the principal interviewer in the FCIHR Video History of Medicine in Canada Project.

**Dr. Mark Wainberg (1945-2017)**

We note the tragic passing of a dear colleague and advocate for Science in Canada and specifically for his work in HIV-AIDS research.

# Star Watching at FCIHR Events Ottawa – October 31<sup>st</sup>-November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017



Photographer: © Patrick Doyle



**Dr. Aubie Angel**



**Dr. Mona Nemer &  
Miss Cristina S. Castellvi**



**L to R: Dr. Martha Crago, Dr. Henry Friesen, Dr. Martin Osmond,  
Dr. Alan Bernstein, Dr. Aubie Angel & Dr. Alex MacKenzie**



**Dr. Alan Bernstein, Dr. Linda Rabeneck &  
Dr. Vivek Goel**



**Dr. Vivek Goel, Mr. Paul Davidson &  
Minister Reza Moridi**



**Miss Cristina S. Castellvi &  
Minister Kirsty Duncan**



**Dr. Thierry Mesana, Dr. Aubie Angel &  
Dr. Rod McInnes**



**Dr. Martha Crago & Dr. Rod McInnes**



**Dr. Naveed Aziz, Senator Kelvin K. Ogilvie,  
Dr. Cindy Bell, Dr. Eric Meslin**



**Four friends and The Prime Minister.**



**Dr. Henry Friesen,  
Dr. Sylvain Charbonneau,  
Dr. Alan Bernstein,  
Dr. Mona Nemer,  
Mr. Allan Rock,  
Dr. Aubie Angel**

