

ANNOUNCEMENT

The 2011 Henry G. Friesen International Prize in Health Research is awarded to

Dr. Victor J. Dzau



Victor J. Dzau was born in China, grew up in Hong Kong, and graduated from McGill University with a BSc and a MDCM. He is one of the most influential physicians, translational scientists, and leaders in medicine worldwide. Currently the Chancellor for Health Affairs and James B. Duke Professor of Medicine at Duke University and the President and CEO of Duke University Health System, Dr. Dzau was previously the Hersey Professor of Theory and Practice of Medicine and Chairman of Medicine at Harvard Medical School's Brigham and Women's Hospital and the Chairman of Department of Medicine at Stanford University.

His groundbreaking research paved the way for contemporary understanding of renin-angiotensin pathobiology and the development of drugs that inhibit this system -- therapeutic agents that have saved numerous lives. His laboratory was among the first to purify and clone renin, and he was first to clone the angiotensin receptor type 2 and elucidate its functions. His work was paradigm-changing and culminated in translational and therapeutic studies including his pioneering the use of an ACE inhibitor for treatment of heart failure. Dr. Dzau continues to run an innovative and very productive research lab, and he has received numerous honors for his renin-angiotensin work.

As a national and international leader in health care, Dr. Dzau focuses on academic health centers' responsibility to reduce health disparities at home and globally, building on his vision as Chair of Medicine at Harvard, where he created a Division of Global Health Equity. At Duke he established the Duke Global Health Institute to create an interdisciplinary collaboration among medicine, engineering, law, economics, business, policy, and environmental sciences together addressing health care problems in under-served and under-resourced countries.

Dr. Dzau has written extensively on cardiovascular medicine and the delivery of health care on local, national and international levels. He has published over 400 research papers and 6 books, and has delivered over 90 major lectureships.

He serves on the Council of the Institute of Medicine of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, has chaired the NIH Cardiovascular Disease Advisory Committee as well as the Council of Atherosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology of the American Heart Association, and has served on the Advisory Council to the Director of NIH. He is and has been an active leader and citizen in the scientific community and is actively involved in select corporate and other boards. Moreover, he is regular participant in the annual World Economic Forum, and now serves as a governor and global agenda councilor due in part to his vision for the importance of public-private partnerships to transform health and health care.

Dr. Dzau is proud of his Canadian beginnings and he has given much time to serve Canada, including as a member of the Advisory Board for Canadian Institute of Health Research (CIHR), the Scientific Board of the University Hospital Network of Toronto, the International Review Board, Ontario Research and Development Fund and most recently serving on the International Review Panel of CIHR.