

News Release

St. Boniface Hospital research director receives Research Canada Leadership Award

(November 23, 2016)

Dr. Grant Pierce, executive director of research, St-Boniface Hospital and professor, department of physiology, University of Manitoba, has been awarded Research Canada's 2016 Leadership Award, which recognizes "excellence in Canadian Health Advocacy among both individuals and institutions dedicated to advancing health research and health innovation in Canada". The award was presented on November 22, 2016 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre in Toronto, Canada, in conjunction with the Prix Galien and Health Research Foundation Research Awards Gala.

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.

"St. Boniface Hospital is very proud of Dr. Grant Pierce," says Dr. Bruce Roe, President and CEO, St. Boniface Hospital. "By awarding him the 2016 Leadership award, Research Canada is recognizing Dr. Grant Pierce's efforts to advance health research and innovations and his strong commitment to translating the knowledge gained through research into health benefits for the people of our community."

"I congratulate Dr. Pierce on this recognition of his outstanding leadership in the field of cardiovascular research, both in Canada and internationally," said Dr. Digvir Jayas, Vice-President (Research and International) and Distinguished Professor at the University of Manitoba. "He is considered one of the top cardiovascular scientists in the world and, as such, a global research leader."

About Dr. Grant Pierce

Dr Pierce completed postdoctoral training at the University of California, Los Angeles before returning to Canada where he is Executive Director of Research at St Boniface Hospital and a Professor of Physiology and Pathophysiology at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. He has published over 200 peer reviewed research manuscripts and 7 textbooks on metabolism, nutrition and cardiovascular health. He has been cited over 8000 times with a Google Scholar H index of 53. He just completed a 13 year term as the Editor of the Canadian Journal of Physiology and Pharmacology. He recently received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for service to Canada and is an elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada, the highest distinction for a scientist in Canada.

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Other honourees of the HRF's Medal of Honour, Prix Galien Canada awards and Research Canada's Leadership Awards include:

Dr. Cheryl Rockman-Greenberg, awarded the HRF Medal of Honour. Dr. Rockman-Greenberg recognized the importance of molecular medicine in the 1980's and was the driving force behind the opening of the first laboratory in Manitoba for the diagnosis of genetic disease with DNA testing. She identified the molecular source of some of Canada's most devastating inherited diseases, including those most prevalent in the Aboriginal, Mennonite and Hutterite communities, and in partnership, developed and implemented strategies for early detection and in many cases effective treatments not available previously.

The BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS (BC-CfE), awarded the Research Canada Leadership Award for Health Research Advocacy, for its work which has been pivotal in the fight against HIV and AIDS in British Columbia, Canada and internationally. For more than two decades, the advances discovered at the BC-CfE have informed policy, service delivery, harm reduction approaches and quality of care.

Dr. Philip Halloran, awarded the Prix Galien Research Award, recognized for his continuing research which has examined multiple areas associated with organ transplantation including the identification of gene regulation in graft rejection, the description of antibody-mediated rejection as well as the impact of immunosuppressive drug treatment.

The Prix Galien Innovative Product Award is given to Gilead Sciences Canada for Harvoni (ledipasvir and sofosbuvir) and to Takeda Canada Inc. for Entyvio (vedolizumab). This award recognizes Harvoni as it is a drug combination that has made Hepatitis C the first curable chronic viral infection and recognizes Entyvio because of its unique mechanism of action, the need for better treatment for young people with inflammatory bowel disease and the strong Canadian involvement in the discovery, development and approval of this drug.