



# 2017 Annual Report

May 2018

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## **ABOUT GAIRDNER**

### **History**

The Gairdner Foundation was established in 1957 to award annual prizes to individual researchers whose discoveries in biomedical science have had major impact on progress in science and on human health. Annually, seven awards are given: five Canada Gairdner International Awards, for excellence in biomedical research, the John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award, for outstanding achievements in Global Health research, and the Canada Gairdner Wightman Award, reserved for a Canadian scientist demonstrating exceptional leadership in Canadian medical science. The Awards are highly regarded as one of the world's most prestigious biomedical prizes with many of our laureates (87 in our history) going on to receive the Nobel Prize.

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### **Mission**

- To **celebrate excellence** in fundamental research that impacts human health through the Canada Gairdner Awards
- To **convene leaders** from the research, academic, public and private sectors through events
- To **inspire the next generation** of students in the excitement and potential of scientific research in a global context through outreach programs

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR



The Gairdner Foundation continues to be a leading Canadian scientific organization with global reach. Our excellent media coverage, participation in our outreach programming and quality of nominations and awardees is a testament to the strength and reputation of the Gairdner brand.

The decision to recognize seven different research areas in 2017 brought a variety to the National and Student Outreach Programs that engaged audiences on university campuses from coast to coast. In addition, Gairdner also took on a new challenge I am particularly proud of, the Canada Gairdner Public Lecture Series bringing a new audience into the Gairdner fold. As our laureates travelled across the country, they cultivated and inspired the next generation of researchers, innovators and leaders with stories of their careers and advice on how to make the most out of a passion for science.

This year was a special year for Gairdner as we awarded two Canadian scientists for their outstanding research. We were proud to promote the strength of scientific research in Canada and celebrate world-renowned work that has local, national and international impact.

The 2017 Canada Gairdner Laureates' Lecture was an inspiring display of scientific research that truly affects the lives of people all around the world. Discussions of child and maternal health, statins and vaccines attracted a large and diverse audience as each of the laureates presented their award-winning research at the University of Toronto. Following the Laureates' Lectures, awardees and their families joined members of the healthcare, academic and corporate sectors in a formal celebration of their achievements at the awards gala, which is always a highlight of the annual Gairdner programming.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the Government of Canada and CIHR, and the Governments of Ontario, Québec and Alberta for their generous support of the Gairdner Foundation.

In 2017, as in every year, I am proud to be the Chair of the Gairdner Foundation's Board of Directors. The dedicated team at Gairdner and the committed volunteers across Canada bring an energy to the Gairdner mission that helps us continue to be Canada's most prestigious prize in biomedicine.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D Lorne Tyrrell". The signature is fluid and cursive.

D. Lorne Tyrrell, OC, AOE, MD/PhD, FRCP, FRSC  
Chair, Gairdner Board of Directors

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR



2017 was a great year for the Gairdner Foundation as we recognized and celebrated outstanding scientists from seven distinct fields of research including vaccinology, child and maternal health, stroke and cardiac disease, somatosensation, NMR and autism spectrum disorders.

As part of our annual outreach programming, the 2017 laureates travelled across the country sharing their stories and research with faculty, trainees and high school students. With such a fantastic array of research to share, the laureates captivated audiences in all provinces. **In fact, in 2017 we had over 10,000 participants in our outreach programming- more than any other year in Gairdner history!**

In addition to our traditional outreach programming, Gairdner launched its inaugural public lecture series that brought together members of the public to hear from world-class scientists. As Gairdner continues to expand its programming each year, particular emphasis has been placed on engaging the public with science that affects their everyday lives. Gairdner wants to reinforce its mission to inspire the next generation of researchers, thinkers and scientific leaders by providing public opportunities to engage with research. Gairdner will build on its first year of public lectures with a further expanded series in 2018.

The annual Awards Gala welcomed more than 500 guests from the research, academic, public and private sectors to the Royal Ontario Museum. Minister of Health, Ginette Petitpas Taylor addressed the audience, emphasizing the Government of Canada's strong support for the Foundation and our impact around the globe.

As we do each year, the Gairdner Foundation hosted international receptions in celebration of our laureates. Gairdner held these events in partnership with the University of Ottawa, University of Toronto and SickKids Hospital, the Texas Children's Hospital, the University of California San Francisco, University of Siena and GSK and the Canadian Embassies in Tokyo and Rio de Janeiro. The receptions were a great success. Gairdner strengthened its international presence and established relationships that will expand our partnership opportunities, nominations and build our brand on the world stage.

Countless volunteers give their time and energy to further the Gairdner mission. I am very grateful to the members of our awards adjudication committees for their tireless efforts to select the world's most deserving scientists as Canada Gairdner Award laureates. I am also grateful for the volunteers at our many university partners who facilitate our National and Student Outreach program on their campuses. I'd also like to express my gratitude to our many sponsors and supporters, our Gairdner staff and Board of Directors who embody the Gairdner mission and whose hard work and dedication is the backbone of everything we do.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "J. Rossant".

Dr. Janet Rossant, CC, PhD, FRS, FRSC  
President and Scientific Director, Gairdner Foundation

## **2017 YEAR IN REVIEW**

### **Report on 2017 Objectives**

- 1. Enhance participation in the National Program & build on success of past Student Outreach activities**
  - In 2017, Gairdner added two more universities to our National Program lecture circuit and to our Student Outreach Program
  - Gairdner extended the opportunity to live webcast programming to all universities
  - Universities added more individualized programming to their Gairdner events, hosting faculty and trainee receptions, mentoring sessions etc.
- 2. Enhance the international profile of the Canada Gairdner Awards**
  - In 2017, Gairdner promoted its John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award Laureate at the annual conference for the Consortium of Universities for Global Health where Dr. Cesar Victora delivered a key note address
  - Gairdner also held receptions in each of the home cities of the laureates
- 3. Continue to increase the number and quality of the nominations**
  - In 2017, Gairdner made a concerted effort to seek nominations from all over the world
  - In 2017 (and continuing in the future) Gairdner placed special emphasis on sourcing competitive nominations of members of groups underrepresented in scientific awards and in the research community at large, including but not limited to women, visible minorities, indigenous persons and individuals with disabilities
  - Gairdner sent calls for nominations to many international research and academic bodies including the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health (USA), The Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region, Asia Pacific Academic Consortium for Public Health, the Latin American Alliance for Global Health, The Association of Schools of Public Health in Africa, The Federation of European Societies for Tropical Medicine and International Health
- 4. Partner in two special high quality symposia in various parts of Canada each year**
  - Gairdner hosted its annual symposia in Alberta and Ontario in partnership with the University of Calgary, University of Alberta and York University
- 5. Engage a broader audience through an enhanced public lecture series**
  - In 2017, Gairdner launched its inaugural Canada Gairdner Public Series which attracted nearly 1,000 attendees
  - The lecture series took place in Toronto and in Montréal where the lecture was delivered in French



“As a Canada Gairdner Award laureate, I’ve had the opportunity to share my passion for science with high school, university, and graduate students through the Foundation’s fantastic outreach program. What a great way to celebrate this exciting moment!”

*-Dr. David Julius, 2017 Canada Gairdner International Award laureate*

## **2017 CANADA GAIRDNER AWARD LAUREATES**



(2017 Laureates listed below from left to right)

**Dr. Akiro Endo** (Pictured: Dr. Keiji Hasumi, accepting the Award on Dr. Endo's behalf)

**Canada Gairdner International Award**

*"For the first discovery and development of statins, inhibitors of cholesterol biosynthesis that have transformed the prevention and treatment of cardiovascular disease"*

**Dr. Rino Rappuoli**

**Canada Gairdner International Award**

*"For pioneering the genomic approach, known as reverse vaccinology, used to develop a vaccine against meningococcus B which has saved many lives worldwide"*

**Dr. Cesar Victora**

**John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award**

*"For outstanding contributions to maternal and child health and nutrition in low and middle income countries, with particular focus on the impact of exclusive breastfeeding on infant mortality and on the long-term impact of early-life nutrition"*

**Dr. Huda Zoghbi**

**Canada Gairdner International Award**

*"For the discovery of the genetic basis of Rett syndrome and its implications for autism spectrum disorder"*

**Dr. Lewis E. Kay**

**Canada Gairdner International Award**

*"For the development of modern NMR spectroscopy for studies of biomolecular structure dynamics and function, including applications to molecular machines and rare protein conformations"*

**Dr. Antoine M. Hakim**

**Canada Gairdner Wightman Award**

*"For outstanding research into strokes and their consequences and championing stroke prevention and treatment in Canada and beyond"*

**Dr. David Julius**

**Canada Gairdner International Award**

*"For determining the molecular basis of somatosensation- how we sense heat, cold and pain."*

### **GAIRDNER'S 2017 STUDENT OUTREACH PROGRAM**

As part of Gairdner's mission to inspire the next generation of researchers, the Gairdner Foundation hosts outreach programming for high school students at partner universities from coast to coast. The lectures, which focus on each laureate's personal journey in research, serve to ignite a passion for science that we hope translates into increased enrolment in science programs at the post-secondary level. The lectures also give students the opportunity to interact with laureates and learn more about their career and accomplishments. Many laureates cite the Student Outreach Program as their favourite part of receiving the Canada Gairdner Award, and student response is uniformly enthusiastic.

**In 2017, the Student Outreach Program reached over 3,000 students from 111 high schools at 18 partner universities**

<b>2017 Student Outreach Program</b>			
<b>Date (2017)</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Lecture Title</b>
March 9	Lakehead University	<b>Dr. Adrian Owen</b> , CERC in Cognition and Neuroimaging, Western University; Member Canada Gairdner Award Medical Review Panel	<i>The Search for Consciousness: Detecting Awareness in the Vegetative State</i>
September 25	Université de Sherbrooke	<b>Dr. Jack Szostak</b> , Professor of Genetics at Harvard Medical School, Cambridge, Mass.	<i>Advances in Nonenzymatic Template-Directed Primer Extension</i>
October 19-20	University of Lethbridge	<b>Dr. Lewis Kay</b> , 2017 Canada Gairdner International Laureate, University of Toronto	<i>Watching Proteins Dance Using Biophysics</i>
October 20	Université Laval	<b>Dr. Antoine Hakim</b> , 2017 Canada Gairdner Wightman Laureate, University of Ottawa	<i>Préservez Votre Vitalité Mentale: Les AVCs et la Démence sont évitables</i>
October 23	University of British Columbia	<b>Dr. Huda Zoghbi</b> , 2017 Canada Gairdner International Laureate, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas	<i>A Career in Balance</i>
		<b>Dr. Rodolphe Barrangou</b> , 2016 Canada Gairdner International Laureate, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC	<i>The many hats scientists wear</i>
October 23	University of Alberta	<b>Dr. Lewis Kay</b>	<i>Watching Proteins Dance Using Biophysics</i>
		<b>Dr. David Julius</b> , 2017 Canada Gairdner International Laureate, University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, CA	<i>How spices helped us understand pain sensation (...and why science matters)"</i>
October 23	University of Winnipeg	<b>Dr. Lynne Maquat</b> , 2015 Canada Gairdner International Laureate, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY	<i>On being a scientist: Making a difference in the world</i>
October 23	Western University	<b>Dr. Rino Rappuoli</b> , 2017 Canada Gairdner International Laureate, Chief Scientist and Head External R&D, GSK Vaccines, Siena, Italy	<i>Doing Science, Saving Lives</i>
October 24	Université de Montréal	<b>Dr. David Julius</b>	<i>How spices helped us understand pain sensation (...and why science matters)"</i>
October 24	Carleton University	<b>Dr. Cesar Victora</b> , 2017 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Laureate, Emeritus Professor, Federal University of Pelotas, Pelotas, Brazil	<i>Why do research in epidemiology?</i>



October 24	University of Calgary	<b>Dr. Lewis Kay</b> <b>Dr. Huda Zoghbi</b>	<i>Watching Proteins Dance Using Biophysics</i>  <i>A Career in Balance</i>
October 24	University of Waterloo	<b>Dr. Rino Rappuoli</b>	<i>Doing Science, Saving Lives</i>
October 24	University of Saskatchewan	<b>Dr. Lynne Maquat</b>	<i>On being a scientist: Making a difference in the world</i>
October 25	York University	<b>Dr. David Julius</b>  <b>Lea Harrington</b> , Université de Montréal, Institute of Research in Immunology and Cancer (IRIC), Montréal, QC	<i>How spices helped us understand pain sensation (...and why science matters)</i>  <i>Chromatin and stem cell cell fate are impacted globally by short telomeres</i>
October 27	University of Toronto	<b>Dr. Huda Zoghbi</b>  <b>Dr. Cesar Victora</b>	<i>A Career in Balance</i>  <i>Why do research in epidemiology?</i>
November 1-2	University of New Brunswick	<b>Dr. Janet Rossant</b> , 2015 Canada Gairdner Wightman Laureate and President The Gairdner Foundation	<i>The Winding Road To Becoming A Stem Cell Biologist</i>
November 14	McGill University	<b>Dr. Lewis Kay</b>	<i>Watching Proteins Dance Using Biophysics</i>
November 15-16	Memorial University	<b>Dr. Lewis Kay</b>	<i>Watching Proteins Dance Using Biophysics</i>



**Student Impact: Miranda Li**

*"It can be hard to figure out how to become the accomplished scientists and researchers you read about. The gap between what you are doing and where they are can seem so big and figuring out the connection is difficult. Gairdner shows students that scientists are people, with great stories and advice who are willing to help students follow their passions"*

### **GAIRDNER'S 2017 NATIONAL PROGRAM**

Gairdner's National Program is a dynamic and interactive speaker series that brings current and past Canada Gairdner Award laureates to Canada to speak to faculty members and trainees about their research. The Gairdner Foundation celebrates biomedical science research from coast to coast and prides itself on giving Canadians access to scientists from around the world. The National Program has a profound impact on Canadian science culture and innovation. It is the only program of its kind in the world of major awards.

**In 2017, Gairdner's National Program reached 3,400 people at 19 universities**

<b>National Program Lectures</b>			
<b>Date (2017)</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Speaker</b>	<b>Lecture Title</b>
March 9	Lakehead University	<b>Dr. Adrian Owen</b> , CERC in Cognition and Neuroimaging, Western University; Member Canada Gairdner Award Medical Review Panel	<i>The Search for Consciousness: Detecting Awareness in the Vegetative State</i>
September 25	Université de Sherbrooke	<b>Dr. Jack Szostak</b> , Professor of Genetics at Harvard Medical School, Cambridge, Mass.	<i>Advances in Nonenzymatic Template-Directed Primer Extension</i>
October 19-20	University of Lethbridge	<b>Dr. Lewis Kay</b> , 2017 Canada Gairdner International Laureate, University of Toronto	<i>NMR Why Bother? Studies of the p97 Molecular Machine Provide an Answer</i>
October 20	Université Laval	<b>Dr. Antoine Hakim</b> , 2017 Canada Gairdner Wightman Laureate, University of Ottawa	<i>Préservez Votre Vitalité Mentale: Les AVCs et la Démence sont évitables</i>
October 23	University of British Columbia	<b>Dr. Huda Zoghbi</b> , 2017 Canada Gairdner International Laureate, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas	<i>Protein Levels and Neuropsychiatric Disorders: Insights and Opportunities</i>
		<b>Dr. Rodolphe Barrangou</b> , 2016 Canada Gairdner International Laureate, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC	<i>CRISPR-Cas systems: from adaptive immunity to genome editing machines"</i>
October 23	University of Alberta	<b>Dr. Lewis Kay</b>	<i>NMR Why Bother? Studies of the p97 Molecular Machine Provide an Answer</i>
		<b>Dr. David Julius</b> , 2017 Canada Gairdner International Laureate, University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, CA	<i>Natural products as probes of the pain pathway: from physiology to atomic structure</i>
October 23	University of Manitoba	<b>Dr. Lynne Maquat</b> , 2015 Canada Gairdner International Laureate, University of Rochester, Rochester, NY	<i>Nonsense-mediated mRNA decay and human disease: Genome guardian and executor</i>
October 23	Western University	<b>Dr. Rino Rappuoli</b> , 2017 Canada Gairdner International Laureate, Chief Scientist and Head External R&D, GSK Vaccines, Siena, Italy	<i>Reverse Vaccinology</i>
October 24	Université de Montréal	<b>Dr. David Julius</b>	<i>Natural products as probes of the pain pathway: from physiology to atomic structure</i>

October 24	University of Ottawa	<b>Dr. Cesar Victora</b> , 2017 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Laureate, Emeritus Professor, Federal University of Pelotas, Pelotas, Brazil  <b>Dr. Antoine Hakim,</b>	<i>Think locally, act globally - how research carried out in Pelotas contributed to global policies</i>  <i>A New Era: Stroke is More Treatable, Dementia is More Preventable</i>
October 24	University of Calgary	<b>Dr. Lewis Kay</b>  <b>Dr. Huda Zoghbi</b>	<i>NMR Why Bother? Studies of the p97 Molecular Machine Provide an Answer</i>  <i>Protein Levels and Neuropsychiatric Disorders: Insights and Opportunities</i>
October 24	University of Waterloo	<b>Dr. Rino Rappuoli</b>	<i>Reverse Vaccinology</i>
October 24	University of Saskatchewan	<b>Dr. Lynne Maquat</b>	<i>Nonsense-mediated mRNA decay and human disease: Genome guardian and executor</i>
October 25	McMaster University	<b>Dr. Rino Rappuoli</b>	<i>Reverse Vaccinology</i>
October 25	University of Guelph	<b>Dr. Frank Plummer</b> , 2016 Canada Gairdner Wightman Laureate, University of Manitoba	<i>The Untold Story of The National Microbiology Laboratory</i>
October 25	York University	<b>Dr. David Julius</b>  <b>Lea Harrington</b> , Université de Montréal, Institute of Research in Immunology and Cancer (IRIC), Montréal, QC	<i>Natural products as probes of the pain pathway: from physiology to atomic structure</i>  <i>Chromatin and stem cell cell fate are impacted globally by short telomeres</i>
November 1-2	University of New Brunswick	<b>Dr. Janet Rossant</b> , 2015 Canada Gairdner Wightman Laureate, President & Scientific Director, The Gairdner Foundation	<i>Making the Blastocyst-from cells to genes to stem cells</i>
November 14	McGill	<b>Dr. Lewis Kay</b>	<i>NMR Why Bother? Studies of the p97 Molecular Machine Provide an Answer</i>
November 15-16	Memorial University	<b>Dr. Lewis Kay</b>	<i>NMR Why Bother? Studies of the p97 Molecular Machine Provide an Answer</i>

**Laureate Impact: Dr. Rodolphe Barrangou, 2016 Canada Gairdner International Award laureate**

*"It is a unique opportunity for the speakers to reach out to Canadian students across provinces and get a personal feel for the breadth and depth of Canadian research and education. Engaging with students was extremely rewarding- a reminder of why I chose a research career in the first place!"*

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**2017 Canada Gairdner Laureate Symposium- Thursday October 26, 2017  
MacLeod Auditorium, University of Toronto**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Speaker(s)</b>	<b>Session/presentation title</b>
9:00– 9:10 a.m.	<b>Janet Rossant</b> , President & Scientific Director, The Gairdner Foundation, Toronto	<i>Welcome Remarks</i>
9:05– 9:10 a.m.	<b>Brenda Andrews</b> , Ph.D. University Professor, C.C., FRSC, Charles H. Best Chair of Medical Research University of Institutions, University of Toronto	<i>Chair's Remarks</i>
9:10 - 9:40 a.m.	<b>Lewis Kay</b> , Professor, Departments of Molecular Genetics, Biochemistry and Chemistry, University of Toronto; Senior Scientist, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Ontario	<i>Wrestling with Heisenberg to Capture the Beautiful Dance of Protein Molecules in Health and Disease</i>
9:40– 10:10 a.m.	<b>Rino Rappuoli</b> , Chief Scientist and Head External R&D at GSK Vaccines, Siena, Italy	<i>Reverse Vaccinology</i>
10:30– 11:00 a.m.	<b>David Julius</b> , Professor & Chair, Department of Physiology; Morris Herzstein Chair in Molecular Biology and Medicine, UCSF, San Francisco, California	<i>Natural Products as Probes of the Pain Pathway: From Physiology to Atomic Structure</i>
11:00 – 11:30 a.m.	<b>Akira Endo</b> , President, Biopharm Research Laboratories; Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, Tokyo, Japan	<i>Discovery and development of statins (Lecture by Dr. Keiji Hasumi)</i>
1:00 – 1:05 p.m.	<b>Lea Harrington</b> , Ph.D. Principal Investigator, IRIC Professor, Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Université de Montréal	<i>Chair Remarks</i>
1:05 – 1:35 p.m.	<b>Huda Zoghbi</b> , Professor, Baylor College of Medicine; Investigator, Howard Hughes Medical Institute; Director, Jan and Dan Duncan Neurological Research Institute at Texas Children's Hospital, Houston, Texas	<i>The Story of Rett Syndrome and the insight it provides into Neuropsychiatric Disorders</i>
1:35– 2:05 p.m.	<b>Antoine Hakim</b> , Emeritus Professor, Neurology, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario	<i>It Took A Village, but Stroke is Now More Treatable</i>
2:05– 2:35 p.m.	<b>Cesar Victora</b> , Emeritus Professor, Federal University of Pelotas, Pelotas, Brazil	<i>Think locally, act globally - how research carried out in Pelotas contributed to global policies</i>
2:35– 2:45 p.m.	<b>Janet Rossant</b>	<i>Concluding Remarks</i>

2017 Gairdner Symposium <i>New Frontiers in Targeted Therapies for Human Health</i> – Friday, October 27, 2017 MacLeod Auditorium, University of Toronto		
Time	Speaker	Titles
9:00 – 9:10 a.m.	<b>Janet Rossant</b> , President & Scientific Director, The Gairdner Foundation, Toronto, Ontario	<i>Opening Session – Welcome Remarks</i>
9:10– 9:15 a.m.	<b>Dr. Mansour Husain</b> , Director, Toronto General Hospital Research Institute, Executive Director, Ted Rogers Centre for Heart Research, Toronto	<i>Chairs Remarks</i>
9:15 – 9:45 a.m.	<b>Emma Allen-Vercoe</b> , PhD, Professor, University of Guelph; CSO, NuBiyota LLC	<i>Bugs as drugs: modifying the human gut microbiome with ‘microbial ecosystem therapeutics’</i>
9:45 – 10:10 a.m.	<b>Michael A. Laflamme</b> , MD, PhD Senior Scientist, University Health Network	<i>Heart regeneration with pluripotent stem cells</i>
10:35 – 11:05 a.m.	<b>Hans Clevers</b> , MD, PhD, Professor of Molecular Genetics, Hubrecht Institute, Director Research, Princess Maxima Center for Pediatric Oncology	<i>Stem cell-grown organoids as models for human disease</i>
11:05– 11:35 a.m.	<b>Helen H. Hobbs</b> , Investigator, HHMI Director, McDermott Center for Human Growth and Development University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center	<i>Simple genetics for a complex disease: getting to the heart of the matter</i>
11:50– 11:55 p.m.	<b>Bradley G. Wouters</b> , Senior Scientist, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre: Executive Vice President, Science and Research, University Health Network	<i>Chair Remarks</i>
11:55– 12:25 p.m.	<b>Prof. Adrian R. Krainer</b> , PhD, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory	<i>Nusinersen (Spinraza™): The First FDA Approved Treatment for SMA</i>
12:25– 12:55 p.m.	<b>Michel Sadelain</b> , MD, PhD, Director, Center for Cell Engineering, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center	<i>Therapeutic T cell engineering: CD19 CAR therapy and beyond</i>
12:55– 1:00 p.m.	<b>Janet Rossant</b>	<i>Closing Remarks</i>
<b>Total attendance (Thursday, Friday symposia)</b>		<b>1,026</b>
<b>Total webcast subscribers (Thursday, Friday symposia)</b>		<b>1,012</b>

## **ADDITIONAL GAIRDNER PROGRAMMING ACROSS CANADA**

### **Inaugural Canada Gairdner Public Lecture Series**

Gairdner hosted its inaugural public lecture series with three events featuring current and past Canada Gairdner Award laureates

**Dr. Antoine Hakim, 2017 Canada Gairdner Wightman Award Laureate**

**“Ne laissez pas s’éteindre votre cerveau”**

October 19, 2018

Coeur des sciences, Université du Québec à Montréal. Montréal

**Attendance: 350 (sold out audience)**

**Dr. Eric Kandel, 1987 Canada Gairdner International Award Laureate/2000 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine Laureate**

**“We are what we remember: Memory and age-related memory loss”**

November 19, 2017

Toronto Reference Library, Toronto

**Attendance: 400 (sold out audience)**

**Dr. David Julius, 2017 Canada Gairdner International Award Laureate**

Moderated by: Christine Birak, CBC National News Health & Science Reporter

**“Peppers, Peppermints and Pit Vipers: How can spices and snakes help us unlock the mysteries of chronic pain?”**

December 4, 2017

Ontario Science Centre, Toronto

**Attendance: 200**

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### **2017 Canada Gairdner Awards Gala**

The Canada Gairdner Awards Gala took place on Oct 26 at the Royal Ontario Museum. The Honourable Minister Ginette Petitpas Taylor addressed the audience and brought greetings on behalf of the Prime Minister and the Government of Canada.

**Attendance: 500+ representatives of government, academia and industry attended.**

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### **CRISPR Unplugged: The Editing Business**

**Dr. Rodolphe Barrangou, 2016 Canada Gairdner International Award Laureate, Associate Professor of Food Science and the Todd R. Klaenhammer Distinguished Scholar in Probiotics Research at North Carolina State University.**

CIBC Live Lounge, MaRS, Toronto

October 25, 2017

The Gairdner Foundation and MaRS hosted a unique conversation about the collision of science and business with leading CRISPR expert, Dr. Rodolphe Barrangou. Audience members learned more about the past, present and future of CRISPR technology and how Dr. Barrangou used his entrepreneurial talents to build and empower businesses during the CRISPR Craze.

**Attendance: 80**

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### **Launch of the New Gairdner Foundation Website**

In 2017, Gairdner launched a new website that promotes user-friendly interactions and enhances our public image. Gairdner also ramped its social media presence and is now sending a quarterly newsletter to stakeholders.

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## **Canada Gairdner Symposium & Public Lecture – University of Alberta: “Molecular Mechanisms of Neurodegeneration and Neuroinflammation”**

October 12-13, 2017

Hosted by the University of Alberta in partnership with Alberta Innovates, Alberta Prion Institute and the Alzheimer Society, the symposium covered RNA-dependent mechanisms of neurodegeneration and protein trafficking, misfolded proteins, proteostatic mechanisms autophagy, and mechanisms in an array of neuroinflammatory disorders.

Speakers: Arthur Horwich (Yale University), Richard Morimoto (Northwestern University), David Rubinsztein (Cambridge University), David Westaway and Jack Jhamandas (University of Alberta), Paul Taylor (St. Jude's Research Hospital), Phillip Barker and Lynn Raymond (University of British Columbia), Jean-Pierre Julien (Université Laval), Hilmar Bading (Heidelberg), Stuart Lipton (The Scripps Institute), Jeffrey Rothstein (Johns Hopkins), Lorraine Kalia (University of Toronto), Bruce Trapp (Cleveland Clinic), Alexandre Pratt (University of Montreal), and V. Wee Yong (University of Calgary).

**Attendance: 175**

### **Public Lecture- “Hope and Innovation: changing the future for patients with brain disease”**

October 11, 2017

In partnership with University Hospital Foundation and the University of Alberta Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, the public lecture engaged Albertans in a discussion on neuroscience and the future of brain disease research.

Speakers: Jack Jhamandas (University of Alberta), Richard Morimoto (Northwestern University) and Roger Marple (Alzheimer Society Hope Advocate).

**Attendance: 160**

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## **Canada Gairdner Symposium - University of Calgary: “Precision Medicine in Chronic Inflammatory Diseases”**

November 9-10, 2017

This two day symposium featured world-renowned academic and industrial experts in precision medicine and microbiome research. The focus was on precision medicine and the role of the microbiome in host immune cell development and function during health and disease including during infections, inflammation, and chronic disease. Integrated within this symposium, were presentations and a panel discussion from microbiome industry representatives.

Speakers: Lee Hood (Institute for Systems Biology, Seattle), Martin Blaser (NYU School of Medicine), Kevin Maloy (Oxford), Paul Kubes (University of Calgary), Gwen Randolph (Washington University in St. Louis) and Henrique Veiga-Fernandes (Champalimaud Research, Portugal)

After the presentations, the official opening of the Western Canadian Microbiome Centre (WCMC) took place in the HRIC atrium followed by a public lecture by Dr. Kathy McCoy, director of the germ free facility in the WCMC: “The Power of the Human Microbiome”.

**Attendance: 420**

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## **Partnership Announcement: Gairdner Foundation & Government of Québec**

The Gairdner Foundation signed a new three-year \$300,000 (\$100,000/year) partnership agreement with Fonds de recherche du Québec- Santé and the Government of Québec in May, 2017. The agreement supports Québec-based National, Student Outreach and public lecture programs and represents Gairdner's third partnership with a provincial government.

## GAIRDNER THANKS ITS 2017 SUPPORTERS

The Gairdner Foundation thanks its supporters for making our coast-to-coast programming possible.



GSK Canada  
Harry & Evelyn Rosen  
Burroughs Wellcome Fund  
Merck Canada Inc.

OICR  
Sanofi Pasteur  
University Health Network

Western University  
Mitchell and Kathryn Baran  
Family Foundation



## **THE YEAR AHEAD: OBJECTIVES FOR 2018**

The Canada Gairdner Awards have a long, successful record of accomplishment and Gairdner's National and Student Outreach programs are mature and stable. In 2018 and beyond, Gairdner will focus on increasing the reach of our programs and bringing extraordinary science to new demographics including the general public and groups that are underrepresented in the scientific arena. In addition, Gairdner will continue to work with its university partners to evaluate our lecture programs and use the feedback to improve our offerings to ensure they are relevant, focused and meaningful.

### **Performance Goals for 2018**

- 1. Increase the reach of the National and Student Outreach Program**
  - In 2018, Gairdner will seek to bring more attendees into its lectures by hosting regional lectures and providing webcast lectures to remote and rural communities.
- 2. Evaluate our the National and Student Outreach Program**
  - In 2018, Gairdner will engage in an evaluation of its National and Student Outreach programs to assess their effectiveness and to use best practices from some university partners to bolster other programs.
- 3. Provide additional public-specific programming and materials**
  - Gairdner will build off its success in 2017 to provide enhanced programming for the public including webcasted lectures, public lectures and accessible content on social media.
- 4. Increase brand recognition through enhanced social media presence**
  - Gairdner will continue to build its social following on Twitter and Facebook. It will also engage in a video partnership with Research2Reality that will produce high quality, engaging content for followers.
- 5. Secure strategic partnerships that support Gairdner's programming and goals and raise its public profile**
  - Gairdner will expand its partnerships to include additional scientific organizations in Canada to promote and execute Gairdner events. Gairdner will partner with The Canadian Student Health Research Forum, science centres, Coeurs des sciences and others to promote world-class science across Canada.
- 6. Continue to increase the number, quality and diversity of nominations**
  - Gairdner will proactively seek nominations from around the globe to increase the diversity of our nominations. Gairdner will engage in strategic partnerships to encourage nominations, will promote the nominations process at all its international receptions and continue to engage in outreach to increase the volume of nominations it receives in 2018.
- 7. Partner in a special symposium focusing on diversity in science**
  - In an effort to promote science to under-represented groups, Gairdner will host a 'diversity in science' symposium to showcase the work of scientists from a variety of backgrounds.

## GOVERNANCE

The Gairdner Foundation is governed by a 16 member Board of Directors. The Board is comprised of individuals who bring their expertise from the academic, private and public sectors. Board members are nominated and appointed for a maximum term of 3 years, renewable 3 times. Directors are not compensated for their regular board and committee duties.

The Board is responsible for overseeing the management of the organization, and through its committees, conducts detailed examinations of issues and opportunities. The Directors provide strategic insight and leadership, as well as effective governance for the Foundation and work diligently to maintain and extend the capacity of the Foundation to achieve its goals.

The Board meets a minimum of twice each year. Directors of the Board take their role seriously and to the best of their ability, strive to be active participants in all Board and Committee meetings. During 2017, the Board met four times.

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### 2017 Board of Directors

**Dr. D. Lorne Tyrrell**

Board Chair  
Director, Li Ka Shing Institute of Virology  
Edmonton, AB

**Dr. Victor Dzau**

President, Institute of Medicine,  
National Academy of Sciences  
North Carolina

**Brandt C. Louie**

Chairman and CEO, H.Y. Louie Co. Limited  
Chair, London Drugs Limited  
Vancouver, BC

**Ann McCaig**

Chancellor Emeritus, University of Calgary  
Calgary, AB

**Bren Gairdner**

Director  
Calgary, AB

**John Risley**

President, Clearwater Fine Foods Inc.  
Chester, NS

**Melissa Todd**

Director  
Waterloo, ON

**Connie Sugiyama**

President, ConMark Strategy Inc.  
Toronto, ON

**Heather Munroe-Blum**

Board Vice-Chair  
Principal Emeritus, McGill University  
Montreal, QC

**Dr. Calvin Stiller**

Emeritus Professor, Western University,  
Board Chair OICR  
London, ON

**Darren Entwistle**

President & CEO, TELUS  
Vancouver, BC

**Eric Newell**

Chancellor Emeritus, University of Alberta  
Edmonton, AB

**Mark Lievonon**

Director  
Toronto, ON

**Michael Horgan**

Senior Advisor, Bennett Jones LLP  
Former Deputy Minister, Finance  
Ottawa, ON

**John Upton**

Director  
Vancouver, BC

**George Cooper**

Counsel, McInnes Cooper  
Former Member of Parliament  
Halifax, NS

Standing Committees of the Board of Directors		
Standing Committee	Members	Number of meetings/year
Committee of Directors	Lorne Tyrrell, Chair Cal Stiller Heather Munroe-Blum Bren Gairdner	As required
Audit Committee	Eric Newell, Chair John Upton Michael Horgan Melissa Todd	2-3
Investment Committee	Brandt Louie, Chair Cal Stiller Eric Newell Bren Gairdner	4
Governance and Nominating Committee	Michael Horgan, Chair Heather Munroe-Blum John Upton	1 (minimum)
Fundraising Committee	John Risley, Chair Darren Entwistle Heather Munroe-Blum Ann McCaig	4

## 2017 Gairdner Foundation Committees (For selection of 2017 laureates)

### Medical Review Panel

#### Lea Harrington

Professor, Department of Medicine, Université de Montréal; Visiting Professor, Wellcome Trust, University of Edinburgh; Montréal, QC

#### Jeffrey Weitz

Executive Director, Thrombosis & Atherosclerosis Research Institute, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON

#### Sonia Anand

Professor, Department of Medicine, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON

#### David Andrews

Director, Biological Sciences, Sunnybrook Research Institute, Toronto, ON

#### Barbara Ballermann

Professor & Chair, Department of Medicine, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB

#### Steffany Bennett

Professor, Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, ON

#### Benjamin Blencowe

Director, Donnelly Sequencing Centre, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON

#### Jacques Côté

Professor, Dept. of Molecular Biology, Medical Biochemistry & Pathology, Université Laval, Québec City, QC

#### Daniel Durocher

Senior Investigator, Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute, Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, ON

#### Anne-Claude Gingras

Senior Investigator  
Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute  
Toronto, ON

#### John R. Gordon

Co-chair, Immunology Research Group, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, SK

#### Gillian Hawker

Sir John and Lady Eaton Professor & Chair, Department of Medicine, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON

#### Geoff Hicks

Director, Regenerative Medicine, Manitoba Institute of Cell Biology, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB

#### Stephen Jones

Associate Director & Head, Bioinformatics, Genome Sciences Centre, British Columbia Cancer Research Centre, Vancouver, BC

**Pauline Johnson**

Department of Microbiology & Immunology,  
University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC

**Nada Jabado**

Professor, Department of Pediatrics  
McGill University  
Montreal, QC

**Sheena Josselyn**

Senior Scientist, Neurosciences & Mental Health  
Hospital for Sick Children  
Toronto, ON

**Gary Kobinger**

Director, Centre de recherche en infectiologie,  
Université Laval, Québec City, QC

**Dale Laird**

Professor & Canada Research Chair in Gap  
Junctions and Disease, Schulich School of Medicine,  
University of Western Ontario, London, ON

**Paola Marcato**

Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology,  
Dalhousie University, Halifax, NS

**Tim Murphy**

Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of  
British Columbia, Vancouver, BC

**Brad Nelson**

Director and Distinguished Scientist, Deeley  
Research Centre, BC Cancer Research Centre  
Vancouver, BC

**Adrian Owen**

Canada Excellence Research Chair in Cognitive  
Neuroscience and Imaging, The Brain and Mind  
Institute, Western University, London, ON

**Lynne-Marie Postovit**

Co-Director, Basic Research, Cancer Research  
Institute of Northern Alberta, University of Alberta,  
Edmonton, AB

**Michel Tremblay**

Professor, Department of Biochemistry, McGill  
University, Montréal, QC

**Raymund J. Wellinger**

Head, Department of Microbiology & Infectious  
Diseases, Faculty of Medicine, Université de  
Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke, QC

**Gerry Wright**

Professor, Biochemistry and Biomedical Sciences  
Director, Michael G. DeGroote Institute for Infectious  
Disease Research, McMaster University  
Hamilton, ON

**Terry-Lynn Young**

Associate Professor, Faculty of Medicine Genetics,  
Memorial University, St. John's, NL

**Gerald Zamponi**

Professor, Cumming School of Medicine, University  
of Calgary, Calgary, AB

**Peter Zandstra**

Professor, Donnelly Centre for Cellular &  
Biomolecular Research, University of Toronto,  
Toronto, ON

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**Medical Advisory Board****Janet Rossant, Chair**

President and Scientific Director, Gairdner  
Foundation, Toronto, ON

**Lea Harrington, Co-Chair, MRP**

Professor, Department of Medicine, Université de  
Montréal; Visiting Professor, Wellcome Trust,  
University of Edinburgh; Montréal, QC

**Jeffrey Weitz, Co-Chair, MRP**

Executive Director, Thrombosis & Atherosclerosis  
Research Institute, McMaster University, Hamilton,  
ON

**Adrian Bird**

Buchanan Chair of Genetics, University of  
Edinburgh, Director, Wellcome Trust Centre for Cell  
Biology, Edinburgh, UK

**Michel Bouvier**

Professor, Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine,  
Principal investigator, Institute for Research in  
Immunology and Cancer, Université de Montréal  
Montreal, QC

**Pascale Cossart**

Distinguished Professor, Institut Pasteur, Paris,  
France

**Anne Ephrussi**

Head, Developmental Biology Unit, European  
Molecular Biology Laboratory  
Heidelberg, Germany

**Jeffrey Friedman**

Marilyn M. Simpson Professor, Laboratory of  
Molecular Genetics, Rockefeller University, New  
York, NY

**Susan Gasser**

Director, Friedrich Miescher Institute, Basel,  
Switzerland

**Philip Hieter**

Director, Michael Smith Laboratories, University of  
British Columbia, Vancouver, BC

**Jan Hoeijmakers**

Professor, Molecular Genetics, Erasmus University  
Rotterdam, Rotterdam, Netherlands

**Arthur Horwich**

Professor, Yale School of Medicine, New Haven, CT

**Herbert Jäckle**

Director, Max Planck Institute for Biophysical  
Chemistry, Göttingen, Germany

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Columbia University, New York, NY

**Fabienne MacKay**

Head, School of Biomedical Sciences, University of  
Melbourne, Victoria, Australia

**Patrick Maxwell**

Regius Professor Physic, University of Cambridge,  
Cambridge, UK

**Kazutoshi Mori**

Professor, Department of Biophysics, Graduate  
School of Science, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan

**Jeffrey Ravetch**

Theresa & Eugene Lang Professor, Rockefeller  
University, New York, NY

**Peter Ratcliffe**

Director of Clinical Research, Francis Crick Institute,  
Director, Target Discovery Institute at the University  
of Oxford  
London, UK

**Randy Schekman**

Professor, Department of Molecular & Cell Biology,  
University of California Berkeley, Berkeley, CA

**Michael Salter**

Chief of Research, Hospital for Sick Children  
(SickKids),  
Toronto, ON

**Steven Scott**

GSK Chair in Neuroscience, Centre for Neuroscience  
Studies, Queen's University  
Kingston, ON

**Michael Strong**

Dean, Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry,  
Western University, London, ON

**Jim Woodgett**

Director, Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute,  
Mt. Sinai Hospital, Toronto, ON

**Richard Wozniak**

Professor, Department of Cell Biology, University of  
Alberta, Edmonton, AB

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**Wightman Award Advisory Committee****Janet Rossant, Chair**

President and Scientific Director, The Gairdner  
Foundation, Toronto, ON

**Lorne Babiuk**

Vice President (Research), University of Alberta,  
Edmonton, AB

**Alistair Buchan**

Dean of Medicine & Professor of Stroke Medicine,  
University of Oxford, Oxford, UK

**Stephen Collins**

Associate Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences,  
McMaster University, Hamilton, ON

**David Eidelman**

Vice President (Health Affairs) & Dean, Faculty of  
Medicine, McGill University, Montreal, QC

**Mona Nemer**

Vice-President (Research), University of Ottawa,  
Ottawa, ON

**Rémi Quirion**

Chief Scientist Officer, Fonds de recherche du  
Quebec, Montréal, QC

**Trevor Young**

Dean, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto,  
Toronto, ON,

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## Global Health Award Advisory Committee

### **Alan Bernstein (Chair)**

*President, CIFAR, Toronto, ON*

### **Christian Bréchet**

*President, Global Virus Network (GVN)  
Paris, France*

### **Roger Glass**

*Director, Fogarty International Center, National  
Institutes of Health, Baltimore, MD*

### **Glenda Gray**

*President, South African Medical Research Council,  
Johannesburg, South Africa*

### **Kiyoshi Kurokawa**

*Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy  
Studies, Tokyo, Japan*

### **Rose Leke**

*Emeritus Professor, Immunology and Parasitology,  
Faculty of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences,  
Université de Yaoundé  
Yaoundé, Cameroon*

### **Nubia Munoz**

*Emeritus Professor, National Cancer Institute of  
Colombia  
Lyon, France*

### **Peter Piot**

*Director of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical  
Medicine School, and Professor of Global Health  
London, UK*

### **K. Srinath Reddy**

*President, Public Health Foundation of India, Delhi,  
India*

### **Peter Singer**

*Chief Executive Officer, Grand Challenges Canada  
Toronto, ON*

### **Stephanie Strathdee**

*Associate Dean, Global Health Sciences, Harold  
Simon Professor, Chief, Division of Global Public  
Health, University of California  
San Diego, Calif.*

## **2017 FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS**

The Gairdner Foundation maintains proper financial controls and sound management practices to ensure the best use of its public and private funds. Our external auditors issued an unqualified audit opinion about the Gairdner Foundation financial statements which appear at the end of this report.

In 2008, the Foundation received a \$20 Million grant from the Federal government for the purpose of supporting and enhancing the Gairdner International Awards Program. Proceeds from the grant can be used to fund the Foundations' activities, however only the income from the fund may be used until the funding agreement terminates.

In 2008, the Foundation also received \$2 million from the Alberta government for the purpose of expanding the Gairdner Outreach Program in Alberta.

These funds have been invested together with the original family endowment under the guidance of the Investment Committee, and in accordance with the terms of these agreements and prudent governance. The investment policy adopted by the Board has been designed with the principal objective being preservation of capital over the long-term.

### **Planning and Monitoring Investments**

The Foundation has a duty to ensure responsible stewardship of funds. The Investment Committee oversees the management and investment of the Gairdner Foundation funds in compliance with our funding agreements. The Foundation's funds have been invested with 3 major objectives:

1. Preservation of capital
2. Income to meet the administrative costs and award objectives of the Foundation
3. Growth in the 'capital' value of the Portfolio's assets in real (inflation-adjusted) terms

The investment strategy and policy are reviewed annually and the portfolio is reviewed on a quarterly basis. Based on the Foundation's investment objectives, risk tolerance, income requirements and liquidity needs, the long term target asset allocation of 35% fixed income, 50% equity and 15% alternative strategies was approved by the Board in the early 2016. The portfolio held 35% cash/fixed income, 51% equities and 14% alternatives at December 31, 2017 and is in compliance with the investment policy statement.

Despite a great deal of uncertainty and volatility in the markets in 2017, the investment portfolio increased from \$32.7 million at the end of 2016 to \$34.3 million at the end of 2017. Equity markets were strong across all equity classes and financial markets continued to advance globally. Canadian equities posted a 9% return for the year, global equities returned 17.4% and U.S. markets were up by 13.9%. Fixed income also generated an absolute return of 2.5% for the year.

Returns for 2017 were \$2.3 million representing an ROI of 7.2% net of fees versus the benchmark of 8.5%, before fees for a similar weighted portfolio. ROI since inception has been \$16.0 million, representing an annualized rate of return of 6% net of fees, compared to the benchmark of 6.2% gross of fees. ROI since inception net of fees has been basically equivalent to the benchmark at far lower risk.

### **Results of Operations**

Revenue for the year totaled \$3.5 million, comprised of \$1.1 million from non-governmental sources and gala table sales (31% compared to 29% in 2016), \$1.9 million from government (55% compared to 54% in 2016), and \$0.5 million from investment income (14% compared to 17% in 2016). Every year the Foundation seeks sponsors from both the public and private sector.

Revenue increased by \$0.3 million over 2016 as a result of increased sponsorship income and government grants of \$0.4 million, offset by a reduced investment income of \$0.1 million. Portfolio returns were reduced by historically low interest rates on fixed income investments.

Expenditures were \$2.8 million for the year, an increase of \$0.3 million from 2016, due to an increased number of events, communications and marketing as well as compensation.



## Compliance Audit

In 2017, the Foundation completed the compliance audit as required under the agreement with CIHR. The Audit objective was to demonstrate the Gairdner Foundation's compliance with the terms of the agreement between the Foundation and CIHR dated March 28, 2008. This audit covered 2 fiscal years, 2014 and 2015.

Ernst & Young was engaged to perform and report on Specified Procedures designed to assist CIHR in their assessment of the Foundation's compliance with the Funding Agreement. The Foundation has identified 32 sections of the agreement for compliance testing and verification. Ernst & Young was able to attest to full compliance for 29 sections, with another three sections partially compliant with minor variances and explanations. CIHR commended the Foundation on our positive results and accepted and approved the report.

## Independent Evaluation

In 2017, the Foundation completed the independent evaluation as required under the terms of the agreement with CIHR to evaluate the outcomes and principles in the funding agreement. Questions were designed to evaluate the relevance, effectiveness, actions taken in response to the 2013 evaluation, and the efficiency of the program delivery.

The evaluator concluded that from a public policy perspective, the Awards contribute to positioning Canada's support for world-class biomedical research, openness to international research collaborations, and encouraging students and trainees to consider careers in biomedical science. As such, the Canada Gairdner Awards program is aligned to the central tenets of the government's innovation agenda and warrants ongoing public support.

**The findings across each of these areas clearly indicate that the Outcomes and Principles in the Foundation's funding agreement with the federal government are being achieved.**

An action plan was developed to address potential improvements and recommendations made in the report. CIHR accepted and approved the report.



### **GAIRDNER FOUNDATION STAFF as of December 2017**

**Dr. Janet Rossant**, *President & Scientific Director*

**Sommer Wedlock**, *Vice President & Director of Communications*

**Penny Balberman**, *Director of Finance*

**Catherine Rogers**, *Financial Accountant*

**Sarah Devonshire**, *Project Manager & Executive Coordinator*

**Shamira Furman**, *Research Officer*

**Paige O'Beirne**, *Manager, Fund Development & Communications*

Gairdner employs four full-time employees and three part-time employees.

### **COMPENSATION**

#### **Directors**

Directors are not compensated for regular Board and Committee duties. They may, however, be compensated for any reasonable out-of-pocket expenses incurred while performing their duties or attending Foundation meetings.

#### **Senior Officers**

For the fiscal year ending December 31, 2017, compensation for senior officers was:

Dr. Janet Rossant, President and Scientific Director	\$200,000
Sommer Wedlock, Vice President & Director of Communications	\$152,250
Penny Balberman, Director of Finance	\$90,000

Financial statements

**The Gairdner Foundation**

December 31, 2017

## Independent auditors' report

To the Members of  
**The Gairdner Foundation**

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of **The Gairdner Foundation**, which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2017, and the statements of operations, changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

### Management's responsibility for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Auditors' responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditors consider internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

### Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of **The Gairdner Foundation** as at December 31, 2017, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Toronto, Canada  
May 29, 2018

The signature of Ernst & Young LLP is written in a stylized, cursive script.

Chartered Professional Accountants  
Licensed Public Accountants

# The Gairdner Foundation

## Statement of financial position

As at December 31

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Assets</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Cash	180,370	360,869
Accounts receivable	127,469	124,815
Prepaid expenses	47,965	82,465
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>355,804</b>	<b>568,149</b>
Investments <i>[note 3]</i>	34,306,276	32,707,286
Capital assets, net <i>[note 4]</i>	12,441	14,700
	<b>34,674,521</b>	<b>33,290,135</b>
<b>Liabilities and net assets</b>		
<b>Current</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	707,598	801,107
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>707,598</b>	<b>801,107</b>
Federal government funding <i>[note 5]</i>	24,088,957	23,332,817
Alberta government funding <i>[note 6]</i>	2,438,730	2,393,152
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>27,235,285</b>	<b>26,527,076</b>
Commitments <i>[note 8]</i>		
<b>Net assets</b>		
Unrestricted	500,000	500,000
Internally restricted <i>[note 7]</i>	6,939,236	6,263,059
<b>Total net assets</b>	<b>7,439,236</b>	<b>6,763,059</b>
	<b>34,674,521</b>	<b>33,290,135</b>

See accompanying notes

On behalf of the Board:

Director

Director

## The Gairdner Foundation

### Statement of operations

Year ended December 31

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Revenue</b>		
Investment income <i>[note 3]</i>		
Interest and dividends	86,372	100,826
Realized gain on investments	327,767	302,973
Net change in unrealized gain on investments	74,990	135,230
	489,129	539,029
Federal government grant funding <i>[note 5]</i>	931,373	895,912
Alberta government grant funding <i>[note 6]</i>	127,503	130,758
Other government grants	879,975	711,302
Table sales	602,779	640,680
Other contributions and sponsorships	471,023	295,792
	3,501,782	3,213,473
<b>Expenses</b>		
Awards	700,000	700,000
National events	741,838	602,136
Advisory boards	271,653	223,812
Marketing and communications	162,634	121,180
Administrative	949,480	888,535
	2,825,605	2,535,663
<b>Excess of revenue over expenses for the year</b>	676,177	677,810

See accompanying notes

## The Gairdner Foundation

### Statement of changes in net assets

Year ended December 31

	2017		
	Unrestricted	Internally restricted	Total
	\$	\$	\$
	<i>[note 7]</i>		
<b>Balance, beginning of year</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>6,263,059</b>	<b>6,763,059</b>
Excess of revenue over expenses for the year	<b>676,177</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>676,177</b>
Interfund transfer <i>[note 7]</i>	<b>(676,177)</b>	<b>676,177</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Balance, end of year</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>6,939,236</b>	<b>7,439,236</b>

  

	2016		
	Unrestricted	Internally restricted	Total
	\$	\$	\$
	<i>[note 7]</i>		
<b>Balance, beginning of year</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>5,585,249</b>	<b>6,085,249</b>
Excess of revenue over expenses for the year	<b>677,810</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>677,810</b>
Interfund transfer <i>[note 7]</i>	<b>(677,810)</b>	<b>677,810</b>	<b>—</b>
<b>Balance, end of year</b>	<b>500,000</b>	<b>6,263,059</b>	<b>6,763,059</b>

See accompanying notes

## The Gairdner Foundation

### Statement of cash flows

Year ended December 31

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Operating activities</b>		
Excess of revenue over expenses for the year	676,177	677,810
Add (deduct) non-cash items		
Amortization of capital assets	8,618	8,704
Reinvested investment income	(489,129)	(539,029)
Government funding recognized as revenue	(1,058,876)	(1,026,670)
	(863,210)	(879,185)
Changes in non-cash working capital balances related to operations		
Accounts receivable	(2,654)	13,924
Prepaid expenses	34,500	(71,448)
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(93,509)	(66,074)
<b>Cash used in operating activities</b>	<b>(924,873)</b>	<b>(1,002,783)</b>
<b>Investing activities</b>		
Purchase of capital assets	(6,359)	(4,998)
Withdrawals from investments held by third parties	750,733	1,100,721
<b>Cash provided by investing activities</b>	<b>744,374</b>	<b>1,095,723</b>
<b>Net increase (decrease) in cash during the year</b>	<b>(180,499)</b>	<b>92,940</b>
Cash, beginning of year	360,869	267,929
<b>Cash, end of year</b>	<b>180,370</b>	<b>360,869</b>

See accompanying notes

## **The Gairdner Foundation**

### **Notes to financial statements**

December 31, 2017

#### **1. Purpose of the organization**

The Gairdner Foundation [the "Foundation"] provides awards to medical scientists in recognition of outstanding discoveries and contributions to medical science, and as an incentive to those who follow in their footsteps. In addition to encouraging and rewarding individuals, the Foundation presents the Gairdner Awards in order to focus public, professional and scientific attention on significant achievements in the field of health sciences.

The Foundation, was incorporated under the laws of Ontario until October 2, 2013 and is currently incorporated under the *Canada Not-for-profit Corporations Act*. The Foundation is registered as a charitable organization under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada) [the "Act"] and, as such, is exempt from income taxes and is able to issue donation receipts for income tax purposes.

#### **2. Summary of significant accounting policies**

These financial statements are prepared in accordance with Part III of the *CPA Canada Handbook – Accounting*, which sets out generally accepted accounting principles for not-for-profit organizations in Canada and includes the significant accounting policies set out below.

##### **Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash on deposit and short-term investments with maturities of less than 90 days at the date of purchase. Cash and cash equivalents exclude amounts that are managed for returns rather than being held for liquidity.

##### **Financial instruments**

Investments reported at fair value consist of equity instruments that are quoted in an active market as well as investments in pooled funds and any investments in fixed income securities that the Foundation designates upon purchase to be measured at fair value. Transaction costs are recognized in the statement of operations in the period during which they are incurred.

Investments in fixed income securities not designated to be measured at fair value are initially recorded at fair value net of transaction costs and are subsequently measured at amortized cost using the straight-line method, less any provision for impairment.

All transactions are recorded on a trade date basis.

Other financial instruments, including accounts receivables, and accounts payable and accrued liabilities, are initially recorded at their fair value and are subsequently measured at cost, net of any provisions for impairment.



## The Gairdner Foundation

### Notes to financial statements

December 31, 2017

#### Capital assets

Capital assets are recorded at acquisition cost less accumulated amortization. Contributed capital assets are recorded at fair value at the date of contribution. Amortization is recorded in the accounts at rates intended to write off the cost of the assets over their estimated useful lives.

Rates and methods of amortization are as follows:

Asset	Years	Method
Office equipment	5	straight-line
Computer equipment	3	straight-line
Leasehold improvements	Term of lease	straight-line

#### Revenue recognition

The Foundation follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions, which include grants and donations. Grants and bequests are recognized when received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured. Other donations are recorded when received, since pledges are not legally enforceable claims. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue when initially recorded in the accounts. Externally restricted contributions are deferred when initially recorded in the accounts and recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are recognized. Sponsorships and related event revenue are recognized when the event takes place.

Investment income (loss), which consists of interest, dividends, income distributions from pooled funds, and realized and unrealized gains and losses, net of safekeeping and investment management expenses, is recorded as revenue in the statement of operations, except to the extent that it relates to restricted contributions, in which case it is added directly to those balances.

#### Foreign currency translation

Transactions denominated in foreign currencies are translated into Canadian dollars at exchange rates prevailing at the transaction date. Monetary assets and liabilities are translated into Canadian dollars at exchange rates in effect as at the balance sheet date. Non-monetary assets and liabilities are translated at the historical rate. Exchange gains and losses are included in the statement of operations except to the extent that they relate to investments, in which case they are accounted for consistent with investment income (loss).

#### Contributed materials and services

Because of the difficulty in determining fair value, contributed materials and services are not recognized in the financial statements.

## The Gairdner Foundation

### Notes to financial statements

December 31, 2017

#### 3. Investments

Investments consist of the following:

	2017		2016	
	\$	%	\$	%
Cash and cash equivalents	1,445,276	4.2	1,496,286	4.6
Bonds				
Canadian	8,802,000	25.7	9,059,000	27.7
International	1,896,000	5.5	1,286,000	3.9
Equities				
Canadian	6,031,000	17.6	5,656,000	17.3
US	6,223,000	18.1	6,769,000	20.7
Other international	5,006,000	14.6	3,573,000	10.9
Hedge funds	4,903,000	14.3	4,868,000	14.9
	<b>34,306,276</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>32,707,286</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Investments in pooled funds have been included above based on their underlying asset mix.

As at December 31, 2017, bonds have an average term to maturity of 5.1 years [2016 – 4.3 years] and a weighted average yield of 3.37% [2016 – 3.0%].

Investment income recorded in the statement of operations is calculated as follows:

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Interest and dividends	594,714	678,911
Realized gain on investments	1,574,559	1,526,551
Net change in unrealized gain on investments	360,243	681,367
Total investment income	2,529,516	2,886,829
Less safekeeping and investment management expenses	(179,793)	(170,890)
Investment income, net of safekeeping and investment management expenses	2,349,723	2,715,939
Less investment income related to:		
Federal government funding [note 5]	(1,687,513)	(1,971,535)
Alberta government funding [note 6]	(173,081)	(205,375)
<b>Investment income recognized in revenue</b>	<b>489,129</b>	<b>539,029</b>

## The Gairdner Foundation

### Notes to financial statements

December 31, 2017

#### 4. Capital assets

Capital assets consist of the following:

	2017		
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value
	\$	\$	\$
Computer equipment	20,205	14,901	5,304
Office equipment	25,100	20,000	5,100
Leasehold improvements	6,871	4,834	2,037
	<b>52,176</b>	<b>39,735</b>	<b>12,441</b>
	2016		
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value
	\$	\$	\$
Computer equipment	13,072	11,317	1,755
Office equipment	26,877	17,342	9,535
Leasehold improvements	6,870	3,460	3,410
	<b>46,819</b>	<b>32,119</b>	<b>14,700</b>

#### 5. Federal government funding

The Foundation received a \$20,000,000 grant from the federal government in 2008 for the purpose of supporting and enhancing the Gairdner International Awards Program. This grant is to be invested for the duration of the funding agreement and only the income, which includes interest, dividends and realized gains/losses, may be used to support the Foundation's activities until the funding agreement terminates. The Foundation can draw upon the capital to a maximum of \$2,000,000 over the term of the funding agreement, provided it uses best efforts to restore any capital withdrawn.

The funding agreement terminates on March 31, 2028, unless terminated earlier, or renewed in accordance with the funding agreement. Upon termination, the Foundation may use the unspent balance of the original grant as it deems appropriate.

## The Gairdner Foundation

### Notes to financial statements

December 31, 2017

The changes in the Government of Canada funding balance are as follows:

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Balance, beginning of year</b>	<b>23,332,817</b>	22,257,194
Interest and dividends	<b>297,986</b>	368,779
Realized gain on investments	<b>1,130,809</b>	1,108,143
Net change in unrealized gain on investments	<b>258,718</b>	494,613
Investment income for the year <i>[note 3]</i>	<b>1,687,513</b>	1,971,535
Amount recognized as revenue	<b>(931,373)</b>	(895,912)
<b>Balance, end of year</b>	<b>24,088,957</b>	23,332,817

As at December 31, 2017, the amount available for spending in future years is \$2,131,004 [2016 – \$1,633,582].

#### 6. Alberta government funding

The Foundation received \$2,000,000 from the Alberta government in 2008 for the purpose of expanding the Alberta Gairdner Outreach Program. The funds received from the Alberta government are to be invested during the term of the funding agreement, and only the income, which includes interest, dividends and realized gains/losses, may be used to support the Alberta Gairdner Outreach Program. The Foundation can draw upon the capital to a maximum of \$250,000 over the term of the funding agreement, provided it uses best efforts to restore any capital withdrawn.

The grant has an indeterminate term; however, the funding agreement is to be reviewed at least every five years. The Alberta government has the right to terminate the agreement, without cause, upon giving 90 days' notice. Upon termination, the remaining balance of the fund not previously committed for outreach activities must be repaid.

The changes in the Alberta Government funding balance are as follows:

	2017 \$	2016 \$
<b>Balance, beginning of year</b>	<b>2,393,152</b>	2,318,535
Interest and dividends	<b>30,563</b>	38,416
Realized gain on investments	<b>115,982</b>	115,435
Net change in unrealized gain on investments	<b>26,536</b>	51,524
Investment income for the year <i>[note 3]</i>	<b>173,081</b>	205,375
Amount recognized as revenue	<b>(127,503)</b>	(130,758)
<b>Balance, end of year</b>	<b>2,438,730</b>	2,393,152

As at December 31, 2017, the amount available for spending in future years is \$235,011 [2016 – \$215,968].

## The Gairdner Foundation

### Notes to financial statements

December 31, 2017

#### 7. Internally restricted net assets

Internally restricted net assets are funds set aside by the Board of Directors to invest in order to earn income to help fund future operating expenses. In 2017, the Board of Directors approved an interfund transfer from unrestricted to internally restricted net assets of \$676,177 [2016 – \$677,810]. The Board of Directors may approve a transfer from internally restricted net assets, if required, to fund unanticipated deficits from fundraising shortfalls or unanticipated expenditures.

#### 8. Commitments

The Foundation is required to make future minimum annual lease payments for its premises as follows:

	\$
2018	75,000
2019	37,500
	<u>112,500</u>

#### 9. Financial instruments

The Foundation is exposed to various financial risks through transactions in financial instruments.

##### Currency risk

The Foundation is exposed to currency risk with respect to its investments denominated in foreign currencies, because the fair value and future cash flows will fluctuate due to the changes in the relative value of foreign currencies against the Canadian dollar.

##### Interest rate risk

The Foundation is exposed to interest rate risk with respect to its investments in fixed income investments and pooled funds that hold fixed income securities because the fair value will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates.

##### Other price risk

The Foundation is exposed to other price risk through changes in market prices [other than changes arising from interest rate or currency risks] in connection with its investments in equity securities and pooled funds.