



2021 Annual Report

May 2022



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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 outstanding science and 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 (96 in our history) going on to receive the Nobel Prize. Commencing in 2023, the Canada Gairdner Wightman Award will go on hiatus and two (2) awards named the “Canada Gairdner Momentum Award” in English and “Prix Canada Gairdner Momentum” in French, will be given.

Mission

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



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The Gairdner Foundation is a beacon to the Canadian scientific community and its international reputation and prestige make the winning of a Canada Gairdner Award a shining achievement in any scientist's career. In addition to its renowned awards, Gairdner has fostered a highly effective series of outreach programming that energizes high school students, undergraduates and graduate students.

With the world's renewed interest in science, Gairdner has been at the forefront leading virtual events that draw on its international network of experts. The suite of programming offered by the Gairdner Foundation celebrates excellence, connects Canadian science leaders and the global scientific community, and, inspires the next generation of scientists.

Building on the success of 2020, Gairdner continued to expand its reach through virtual programming that focused not only on the COVID-19 pandemic but other current issues, pertinent to the Canadian public. The Gairdner Foundation is dedicated to shining light on the important issues facing the scientific community and those who depend on science. Gairdner Science Week remained virtual and showcased Gairdner's convening power as international leaders gathered on multiple topics which drew hundreds of attendees globally. Gairdner's reach continues to grow and inspire.

Looking back on the year, I am proud of the fantastic achievements of the Gairdner Foundation. I am grateful to my dedicated colleagues on the Foundation Board, and, to the management team at Gairdner for their tireless commitment to the Foundation, its laureates, and programming. Above all, I salute the leadership of our President and Scientific Director, Dr. Janet Rossant.

On behalf of the Board and myself, I extend our most sincere appreciation to the Government of Canada, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), and, the Governments of Québec and Alberta for their generous support of the Gairdner Foundation in this year of adversity. As well, I thank each of our sponsors and partners for their enthusiastic generosity and sustained collaboration in supporting the Foundation in quickly organizing digital events of global impact.

As Gairdner continues to expand its efforts as the trusted voice of science I look forward to working with the team to increase the science literacy of Canadians.

With all good wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'HMB'.

Heather Munroe-Blum, OC, OQ, PhD, FRSC
Chair, Gairdner Foundation Board of Directors

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR



The Gairdner Foundation's focus on celebrating research excellence and convening leaders has continued its relevance in this pandemic world. All programming remained virtual in 2021. Gairdner shone as an innovative leader through our Global Perspectives Panels which addressed key issues related to COVID-19 and other timely topics.

The 2021 Canada Gairdner Awards proudly celebrated outstanding research in diabetes, breast cancer and zoonotic diseases. Our laureates were shining examples of excellence in science and their diverse areas of study paved the way for interesting and engaging virtual lectures at universities from coast to coast. Despite not being able to attend events in-person the laureates were highly engaged in Gairdner programming and thoroughly enjoyed Gairdner Science Week events.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Gairdner Foundation team who work tirelessly on all aspects of our programming and continued to innovate and raise awareness of Gairdner's programming in a crowded and often fatigued virtual space. I would also like to extend my thanks to the large network of volunteers whose contributions bolster Gairdner activities across the country.

I would like to thank the members of our adjudication committees whose efforts to ensure the best science is recognized each year is foundational to the Gairdner mission. I would also like to emphasize my appreciation for our Board of Directors whose extraordinary efforts are key to our success. Lastly, I would like to thank our donors, sponsors, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Government of Canada for their support without which our programming would not be possible.

Thank you for taking the time to read our annual report.

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

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

Report on 2021 Objectives

1. Provide high-quality virtual experiences, expand reach of National and Student Outreach Program

Gairdner engaged faculty across the country through virtual programming, connecting laureates from around the globe with local researchers and graduate students alike. Across 17 universities participating in the National Outreach Program, there were over 1,700 attendees. Student networking sessions with laureates were provided in October 2021, giving students an opportunity to hear about the research and career paths of the 2021 Canada Gairdner Award laureates. Over 70 students participated in these networking sessions.

Gairdner continued its partnership with Exploring by the Seat of Your Pants (EBTSOYP) to provide virtual programming for high school students across the country, specifically targeting underrepresented groups. Between the Student Outreach Programs, the student networking sessions and our partnership with EBTSOYP, we reached over 2,700 students.

2. Expand Gairdner Global Perspective Panels series, targeting a public audience with a focus on current issues

Building on the success in 2020, the Gairdner Global Perspectives Panel series featured 4 panels on topics including: international collaboration and Canadian success stories in the time of COVID, Canadian COVID treatment and vaccine development and child health in turbulent times. These events were aimed at the interested lay person, policymakers and scientists.

The Gairdner Global Perspectives Panels will be a key part of our events line-up for years to come. They provide a trusted source of information for the Canadian public and policy makers on issues that matter.

3. Strengthen social media presence across mediums and platforms

Gairdner continues to focus on growing our followers across social media platforms. We saw strong increases across Twitter and Instagram in 2021 thanks to our virtual programming and targeted digital advertising efforts. Gairdner hired a Social Media Intern and a Communications Advisor to focus on a digital media strategy.

4. Foster strategic partnerships that build the Gairdner brand and grow its profile

Gairdner has expanded its list of partners through its virtual programming. The Foundation capitalized on the broader reach of virtual events to secure new partners and provide programming to larger audiences. New partners include Visions of Science, Science Up First, Royal Society of Canada and Lotus STEMM.

5. Continue to increase the number, quality and diversity of nominations

Gairdner worked diligently to secure additional nominations for its 2022 Canada Gairdner Awards. The Foundation has not seen any reduction in nominations, which is a mark of success given the focus of the scientific world on the COVID-19 pandemic and demonstrates the importance with which the scientific community views the Gairdner awards. Gairdner received 77 new nominations and 25 per cent of nominations under final consideration for the 2022 Awards were new.

2021 CANADA GAIRDNER AWARD LAUREATES



In 2021, only four Canada Gairdner International Awards were given due to the way the voting unfolded. The John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award was shared between two awardees.

Dr. Mary-Claire King

Canada Gairdner International Award

"For transforming cancer genetics and oncology with the discovery of inherited susceptibility to breast cancer due to mutation of the BRCA1 gene"

Dr. Daniel J. Drucker

Canada Gairdner International Award

"For research on glucagon-like peptides that has led to major advances in the treatment of Type 2 diabetes, obesity and intestinal disorders"

Dr. Jens Jul Holst

Canada Gairdner International Award

"For research on glucagon-like peptides that has led to major advances in the treatment of Type 2 diabetes, obesity and intestinal disorders"

Dr. Joel Francis Habener

Canada Gairdner International Award

"For research on glucagon-like peptides that has led to major advances in the treatment of Type 2 diabetes, obesity and intestinal disorders"

Dr. Joseph Sriyal Malik Peiris

John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award

"For significantly contributing to understanding the origins and options for control of newly emerging infectious disease outbreaks in Asia, notably zoonotic influenza and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)"

Dr. Yi Guan

John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award

"For significantly contributing to understanding the origins and options for control of newly emerging infectious disease outbreaks in Asia, notably zoonotic influenza and severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS)"

Dr. Elizabeth Eisenhauer

Canada Gairdner Wightman Award

"For investigation of new cancer drugs and delivery approaches, leading change in cancer clinical trials and establishing new standards of cancer treatment that have impacted patients around the world"

GAIRDNER'S 2021 STUDENT OUTREACH PROGRAM

As part of Gairdner's mission to inspire the next generation of researchers, the Foundation hosts outreach programming for high school students at partner universities from coast to coast. With many students across Canada not in school in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Gairdner's Student Outreach Program took many different forms in an effort to engage as many students as possible in online programming. Gairdner continued its successful partnership with Exploring by the Seat of Your Pants to bring virtual programming to students across the country and providing unique mentoring sessions for students and laureates.

In 2021, the Student Outreach Program reached over 2,700 students through ten partner universities, Exploring by the Seat of Your Pants and student networking sessions following the Canada Gairdner Laureate Lectures.

2021 Student Outreach Program			
Date	Location	Speaker	Lecture Title
October 21	Laval University	Dr. Daniel Drucker , 2021 Canada Gairdner International Award laureate	<i>Listening to your gut-a scintillating scientific journey</i>
March 16	Lakehead University	Dr. Janet Rossant , 2015 Canada Gairdner Wightman Award	<i>From embryos to stem cells: a developmental journey</i>
March 23	Laurentian University	Dr. Guy Rouleau , 2020 Canada Gairdner Wightman Award	n/a
October 25	University of British Columbia	Dr. Daniel Drucker	<i>Listening to your gut-a scintillating scientific journey</i>
		Dr. Rodolphe Barrangou , 2016 Canada Gairdner International Award	<i>CRISPR, Gene Editing and Food Science</i>
October 25	University of Manitoba	Dr. Elizabeth Eisenhauer , 2021 Canada Gairdner Wightman Award laureate	<i>The Accidental Oncologist – A tour through a career in cancer research</i>
October 26	McGill, Concordia & Université Montréal	Dr. Daniel Drucker Dr. Mary-Claire King , 2021 Canada Gairdner International Award laureate	<i>Student mentoring sessions</i>
October 25	University of Alberta	Dr. Malik Peiris , 2021 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Award laureate	<i>Student mentoring sessions</i>
		Dr. Roel Nusse , 2021 Canada Gairdner International Award laureate	
October 26	University of Saskatchewan	Dr. Elizabeth Eisenhauer	<i>The Accidental Oncologist – A tour through a career in cancer research</i>
October 29	Queen's University	Dr. Quarraisha Abdool Karim , 2020 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Award laureate	<i>My journey as a scientist</i>
	Gairdner Science Week Mentoring Sessions	All 2020 Canada Gairdner Award laureates	<i>Student mentoring sessions</i>

Exploring by the Seat of Your Pants Outreach Program			
September 16	Virtual program	Dr. Rodolphe Barrangou	<i>CRISPR, Gene Editing and Food Science</i>
Sept 20	Virtual program	Dr. Jeff Weitz, Co-Chair , Gairdner Foundation Medical Review Panel	<i>Adventures in the bloodstream</i>
September 27	Virtual program	Dr. Lewis Kay , 2017 Canada Gairdner International Award laureate	<i>Unlocking the mysteries of life</i>
October 4	Virtual program	Dr. Sheena Josselyn , Member, Gairdner Foundation, Medical Review Panel	<i>Understanding and healing brains</i>
October 5	Virtual program	Dr. David Julius , 2017 Canada Gairdner International Award laureate	<i>How do we sense the world around us?</i>
November 17	Virtual program	Dr. Sheena Josselyn	<i>Understanding and healing brains</i>
November 22	Virtual program	Dr. Meghan Azad , Member, Gairdner Foundation Medical Review Panel	<i>The original superfood: breastfeeding and lifelong health</i>
November 25	Virtual program	Dr. Bertrand Routy , 2021 Gairdner Early Career Investigator Award winner	<i>Exploration de l'écosystème interne</i>
November 30	Virtual program	Dr. Lewis Kay	<i>Unlocking the mysteries of life</i>
Total attendance			2764

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Exploring by the Seat of Your Pants

Exploring by the Seat of Your Pants (EBTSOYP), like the Gairdner Foundation, aims to inspire the next generation of scientists by bringing science into classrooms through virtual speakers and field trips with experts across the globe. The Foundation is working with EBTSOYP to bring Gairdner laureates and their ground-breaking work directly into classrooms across Canada. By live-streaming through YouTube, EBTSOYP is able to allow high school classrooms from a wide variety of regions in Canada and around the world to sign up for virtual events they are interested in.

GAIRDNER'S 2021 NATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAM

Gairdner's National Outreach Program is a dynamic and interactive speaker series that connects current and past Canada Gairdner Award laureates with faculty members and trainees at Canadian universities. The Gairdner Foundation celebrates scientific research from coast to coast and prides itself on giving Canadians access to scientists from around the world. The National Outreach 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. Despite the challenges presented by COVID-19, Gairdner executed a virtual National Program in partnership with universities across Canada.

In 2021, Gairdner's National Program reached over 1,700 people at 17 universities.

2021 National Outreach Program Lectures			
Date	Location	Speaker	Lecture Title
October 1	University of Calgary	Dr. Daniel Drucker	<i>Translating enteroendocrine hormones into therapies for metabolic disease</i>
		Dr. Jens Holst , 2021 Canada Gairdner International Award laureate	<i>Exploration and pharmacological potential of the incretin system in humans</i>
October 21	Laval University	Dr. Daniel Drucker Dr. Elaine Fuchs , 2020 Canada Gairdner International Award laureate	<i>Translating enteroendocrine hormones into therapies for metabolic disease</i>
October 21	York University	Dr. Jens Holst Dr. Patty Garcia , Member, Gairdner Foundation, John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award adjudication committee	<i>Exploration and pharmacological potential of the incretin system in humans</i>
October 22	University of Waterloo	Dr. Vikram Patel , 2019 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award laureate	<i>Acting early: from developmental science to scalable prevention</i>
October 22	University of Lethbridge	Dr. Daniel Drucker	<i>Translating enteroendocrine hormones into therapies for metabolic disease</i>
October 25	University of British Columbia	Dr. Daniel Drucker	<i>Translating enteroendocrine hormones into therapies for metabolic disease</i>
		Dr. Rodolphe Barrangou , 2016 Canada Gairdner International Award	<i>CRISPR, Gene Editing and Food Science</i>
October 25	University of Alberta	Dr. Malik Peiris	<i>From Pasteur to SARS and beyond: A personal journey</i>
		Dr. Roel Nusse	<i>Wnt signaling as a common organizer of growth</i>

October 25	McMaster University	Dr. Jens Holst	<i>Exploration and pharmacological potential of the incretin system in humans</i>
October 25	University of Manitoba	Dr. Elizabeth Eisenhauer , 2021 Canada Gairdner Wightman Award laureate	<i>Improving Cancer Outcomes, but Miles to Go Before We Sleep</i>
October 26	McGill, Concordia & Université Montréal	Dr. Daniel Drucker Dr. Mary-Claire King , 2021 Canada Gairdner International Award laureate	<i>Translating enteroendocrine hormones into therapies for metabolic disease</i> <i>Genomic Analysis of Inherited Breast and Ovarian Cancer</i>
October 29	Queen's University	Dr. Quarraisha Abdool Karim , 2020 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Award laureate	<i>My journey as a scientist</i>
October 29	Western University	Dr. Jens Holst	<i>Exploration and pharmacological potential of the incretin system in humans</i>
October 29	Ryerson University	Dr. Daniel Drucker	<i>Translating enteroendocrine hormones into therapies for metabolic disease</i>
October 29	University of Ottawa	Dr. Elaine Fuchs	<i>Skin Stem Cells Facing Stress: Survival of the Fittest</i>
March 11	Lakehead University	Dr. Alan Lopez , 2018 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award	<i>n/a</i>
Total attendance			1744

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

The program in Montreal combined McGill University, Concordia University and the University of Montreal. The two laureates, Dr. Drucker and Dr. King spoke to faculty members and also participated in small virtual meetings with faculty members and postdocs which allowed local faculty to ask questions of the laureates. They appreciated the opportunity to network with these leading researchers.

2021 GAIRDNER LAUREATE LECTURES

In 2021, the Gairdner Foundation hosted the Laureate Lectures virtual. Laureates had the opportunity to share their award-winning research with registrants and viewers from over 20 countries. Gairdner launched the Early Career Investigator competition which asked investigators to submit videos about their research which had to align with the laureate's field of research. Five individuals were selected to participate in the laureate lectures and give a virtual presentation. Each received the Inaugural Gairdner Early Career Investigator Award for their participation.

2021 Canada Gairdner Laureate Lectures: Thursday, October 28		
Time	Speaker	Lecture Title
9:00 a.m.	Janet Rossant , President & Scientific Director, The Gairdner Foundation	<i>Opening Remarks</i>
9:05 a.m.	Dr. Yi Guan , 2021 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Award laureate	<i>The emerging pathways of viral infectious diseases in humans</i>
9:35 a.m.	Dr. Malik Peiris , 2021 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Award laureate	<i>From Pasteur to SARS and beyond: A personal journey</i>
10:05 a.m.	Dr. Sarah Elton , 2021 Gairdner Early Career Investigator Award winner	<i>Relational Health: What role does on-human nature play in determining health?</i>
10:20 a.m.	Dr. Jens Juul Holst , 2021 Canada Gairdner International Award laureate	<i>Exploration and pharmacological potential of the incretin system in humans</i>
10:50 a.m.	Dr. Daniel Drucker , 2021 Canada Gairdner International Award laureate	<i>Transformative metabolic medicines from the gut</i>
11:20 a.m.	Dr. Joel Habener , 2021 Canada Gairdner International Award laureate	<i>Glucagon-like Peptide-1</i>
11:50 a.m.	Dr. Van Lu , 2021 Gairdner Early Career Investigator Award winner	<i>2021 Gairdner Laureate Lectures</i>
12:05 p.m.	Dr. Elizabeth Eisenhauer , 2021 Canada Gairdner Wightman Award laureate	<i>Personal Reflections on 35 Years of Cancer Clinical Trials</i>
12:35 p.m.	Dr. Bertrand Routy , 2021 Gairdner Early Career Investigator Award winner	<i>Gut microbiome in cancer immunotherapy</i>

12:50 p.m.	Dr. Mary-Claire King , 2021 Canada Gairdner International Award laureate	<i>Genomic Analysis of Inherited Breast and Ovarian Cancer</i>
1:20 p.m.	Dr. Hermann Nabbi , 2021 Gairdner Early Career Investigator Award winner Dr. Tobias Karakach , 2021 Gairdner Early Career Investigator Award winner	<i>BRCA mutation status, a transformative discovery for millions of women and men: what steps to travel the “last mile”?</i> <i>In the quest for precision medicine in oncology</i>
1:35 p.m.	Dr. Janet Rossant	Concluding remarks

ADDITIONAL PROGRAMMING ACROSS CANADA

GAIRDNER SCIENCE WEEK 2021 EVENTS

Gairdner hosted a special week of virtual events at the end of October. Gairdner Science Week featured Global Perspectives Panels, symposia, student mentoring and a new program, an “in conversation” series with laureates. Almost 1,200 people registered for the event with 911 registrants attending, representing a 76% retention rate from registration to attendance-much higher than industry average. Attendees from more than 15 countries including Japan, South Africa, the United Kingdom, Brazil, Hong Kong, India and Germany viewed programming on the main stage, visited sponsor booths and gave Gairdner Science Week an average rating of 9.3/10. The events are now posted on Gairdner’s YouTube channel and continue to draw more viewers.

2021 Gairdner Global Health Symposium/Global Perspectives Panel One Health, One World: From Antibiotics to Zoonoses

October 27, 2021

Speakers and panelists:

Malik Peiris & Yi Guan, 2021 Canada Gairdner Global Health Award laureates

Samira Mubareka, MD, Assistant Professor, Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, University of Toronto, Scientist, Sunnybrook Health Science Centre, Toronto, ON, Canada;

Linfa Wang, Professor, Emerging Infectious Diseases at Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore;

Dame Sally Davies, UK Special Envoy on Antimicrobial Resistance; Former Chief Medical Adviser to the UK government 2011-2019, London, UK;

Amadou Sall, Director, Institut Pasteur de Dakar, Chairman of the Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network, Director of the WHO collaborating center for Arboviruses and viral hemorrhagic fevers, Dakar, Senegal;

Peter Doherty, Gairdner & Nobel Laureate, Immunologist & Microbiologist, Melbourne, Australia.

2021 Gairdner Science Week Symposium From Gene to Genomics & Epigenomics: The Future of Cancer Precision Medicine

October 27, 2021

Speakers and panelists:

Mary-Claire King and Elizabeth Eisenhauer, 2021 Canada Gairdner International Award laureates

Aviv Regev, Executive Vice President, Genentech Research and Early Development;

Charles Swanton, Senior Group Leader, Francis Crick Institute;

Daniel De Carvalho, Associate Professor, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre;

Lillian Su, Senior Medical Oncologist, Princess Margaret Cancer Centre;

Nada Jabado, Professor, McGill University; Samuel Aparicio, Nan & Lorraine Robertson Chair in Breast Cancer Research;

Victor Ling, Founding President and Scientific Director, The Terry Fox Research Institute, Gairdner Laureate;

Jim Woodgett, Principal Investigator, Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute;

Janet Rossant, President & Scientific Director, Gairdner Foundation.

2021 GAIRDNER SYMPOSIA

Québec Symposium: “100e anniversaire de la découverte de l’insuline”

February 11-12, 2021

Attendance: 270

A symposium highlighting Canadian scientific advancements insulin in celebration of the 100th anniversary of its discovery.

Featured speakers: Gary Lewis, University of Toronto, Steve Kahn, University of Washington, Anna Gloy, Stanford University, Louis Geoffroy, University of Montreal, Montreal, Jean-François Yale, McGill University, Mélanie Henderson, University of Montreal, Banerjee Rajarshi, Oxford University, Marie-Ève Piché, Laval University, Ian Neeland, UH Cleveland Medical Center.

Ontario Symposium: Alzheimer’s, Why haven’t we solved it yet?

March 30-31, 2021

Attendance: 1,000

This two-day event focused on making current dementia research accessible for both researchers and the public. We need our communities to be better informed about this disorder and ultimately to act as ambassadors for dementia research.

Featured speakers: Janet Rossant, Bradley Wouters (remarks); Dr. Barry Greenberg, Johns Hopkins University; Dr. Malu G. Tansey, University of Florida; Dr. Vladimir Hachinski, Western University; Dr. Laura Baker, Wake Forest School of Medicine; Dr. Kenneth Rockwood, Dalhousie University; Dr. Sylvie Belleville, Université de Montréal; Dr. Lisa Barnes, Rush University Medical Centre; Dr. Ronald Weaver, University Health Network

Alberta Symposium & Public Forum: Zooming in on COVID-19 and Other Viral Diseases

June 22-24, 2021

Attendance: 1,726

This symposium featured lectures on vaccines, antivirals and pandemic preparedness. The public lecture specifically looked at how misinformation about COVID is having a tremendously adverse impact on public discourse, trust, beliefs and behaviours.

Featured speakers: Michael Houghton, University of Alberta; Galit Alter, Harvard Medical School; Tim Caulfield, University of Alberta; Isaac Bogoch, Toronto General Hospital Research Institute; Lynora Saxinger, University of Alberta; Theresa Tam, Public Health Agency of Canada; D. Lorne Tyrrell, Member of the National COVID-19 Vaccine Task Force

Alberta Symposium: Chronic Inflammation Symposium II: Inflammation, Resolution & Treatment

October 8, 2021

Attendance: 224

A symposium featuring international experts and local scientists discussing the wide-ranging impact of inflammation on chronic disease.

Featured speakers: Florent Ginhoux, Hans Clevers, Jeff Biernaskie, Fiona Powrie, Kathy McCoy, Marie-Claire Arrieta, Miriam Merad, Ruslan Medzhitov, Justin Deniset, Ramnik Xavier.

Gairdner-Neuro Symposium: Open Science in Action

November 24, 2021

Attendance: 61

Gairdner collaborated with the Montréal Neurological Institute on a virtual symposium focused on Open Science. The symposium included a Gairdner panel of global health experts, including past Gairdner laureates, talking about how global health and open science intersect.

Featured speakers: Peter Hotez, Baylor College of Medicine and Janet Hemingway, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine

2021 CANADA GAIRDNER PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES & GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES PANELS – PRESENTED BY TELUS HEALTH

Science in the Time of COVID: International Collaboration and Canadian Success Stories

January 13, 2021

Attendance: 167

Janet Rossant spoke to members of the British Columbia life sciences community about the intersection between Gairdner and COVID-19.

Featuring: Janet Rossant, Gairdner Foundation President & Scientific Director and 2015 Canada Gairdner Wightman Award laureate

Gairdner Global Perspectives Panel: Canadian COVID Treatment & Vaccine Development

February 9, 2021

Attendance: 462

The first panel of the year featured leaders from three of Canada's most innovative biotech and biopharmaceutical companies discussing vaccine and treatment developments for COVID-19.

Panelists: Thomas D. Madden, President and Chief Executive Officer, Acuitas Therapeutics Inc., Véronique Lecault, Co-founder, Director and Chief Operating Officer, AbCellera Inc., Brian Ward, Medical Officer, Medicago Inc.

Gairdner Global Perspectives Panel: Vaccination - Moving Forward with Confidence

March 30, 2021

Attendance: 125

This panel featured speakers from around the world. The COVID-19 vaccine rollout is the largest immunization campaign in human history, and speakers from around the world spoke about how do we learn from the past, engage in the present and prepare for the future.

Panelists: Heidi Larson, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine; Rino Rappuoli, GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) Vaccine, Gairdner Laureate; Shanell Hall, Founder, The Yellow House; Nicaise Ndembu, University of Maryland in Baltimore. Moderated by Ivan Semeniuk, The Globe and Mail

Child Health in Turbulent Times

September 13, 2021

Attendance: 79

In partnership with IDRC, a virtual panel discussing how recent political, social, environmental and health upheavals have affected child health in LMIC communities.

Panelists: Cesar Victora Emeritus Professor, Federal University of Pelotas, Brazil, John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Laureate, Rima Habib, Department of Environmental Health, American University of Beirut, Beirut, Lebanon; Amina Abubakar Director, Institute for Human Development, The Aga Khan University, Nairobi, Kenya; Walter Flores Centro de Estudios para la Equidad y Gobernanza en los Sistemas de Salud, Guatemala City, Guatemala

Coeurs des sciences/Gairdner Public Lecture

November 18, 2021

Attendance: 131

A hybrid in-person and virtual event featuring Guy Rouleau in discussion about Open Science principles.

ADDITIONAL PARTNERSHIPS & SYMPOSIA

Consortium of Universities for Global Health (CUGH) Conference

March 13, 2021

Attendance: 113

The CUGH is an annual conference where our global health laureates give a keynote lecture. This year Drs. Abdool Karim gave a joint presentation to CUGH members from around the world.

Insulin 100 – Gairdner Symposium on the Future of Diabetes Treatment

April 15, 2021

Attendance: 300

In honour of the research of Dr. Drucker and Dr. Holst, Gairdner partnered with the University of Toronto's symposium celebrating the 100th anniversary of the discovery of insulin. Gairdner hosted a panel with Dr. Daniel Drucker, Dr. Jens Holst, Dr. Diane Mathis and Dr. Tim Kieffer.

Parliamentary Health Research Caucus Virtual Panel: Celebrating Our Gairdner's

April 15, 2021

Attendance: 50

In partnership with Research Canada, Gairdner laureates Dr. Eisenhower and Dr. King shared their research with Parliamentarians and Dr. Rossant gave an overview of the Gairdner Foundation. Attendance: Guests included Parliamentary Health Research Caucus Senate Representative, Senator Judith Seidman, Canada Gairdner Award Laureates, Gairdner Foundation President and Scientific Director, Dr. Janet Rossant, Research Canada's Chair, Dr. Rose Goldstein, and President and CEO, Ms. Deborah Gordon-El-Bihbey.

Podcast Series

Date: Episodes recorded throughout 2021/2022 - Launching September 2022

Podcast series featuring a unique encounter with a patient, a researcher and a speech artist, around a physical or psychological pathology. This is being organized by LEM and Neurosciences Sherbrooke. In total there will be ten podcast-type audio episodes of about 15 minutes each and they will be made available free to the public in September 2022.

RCIScience Event with Dr. Julius and Dr. Rossant

May 6, 2021

Attendance: 110

Pain researcher Dr. David Julius shared a brief look at current and future research goals and challenges that seek to identify molecules, genes and neural circuits underlying pain sensation - both protective and chronic - as an essential step towards achieving better pain control. A Q&A moderated by Dr Rossant followed.

Synergie face à la COVID-19 in partnership with Colloque du Réseau québécois de Recherche sur les Médicaments

June 9-11, 2021

Attendance: 140

Virtual symposium taking stock of the development, evaluation and monitoring of different treatments in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Speakers: Sylvie Bouchard, Directrice de la Direction de l'évaluation des médicaments et des technologies à des fins de remboursement, Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux, David St-Pierre, Département des sciences de l'activité physique, Faculté des sciences, Université du Québec à Montréal, Ève Dubé, Département d'Anthropologie, Université Laval; Centre de recherche du CHU de Québec-Université Laval et Institut national de la santé publique du Québec, Léo Bouthillier, Directeur de la Direction des médicaments biologiques et radiopharmaceutiques, Santé Canada

Canadian Student Health Research Forum (CSHRF) with the University of Manitoba

June 16 and 17, 2021

Attendance: 280

The CSHRF is an annual event that showcases and recognizes Canada's top 5% of PhD trainees in the health sciences. This year the following laureates and committee members gave lectures: Huda Zoghbi, Elaine Fuchs, Vikram Patel and Meghan Azad.

Sherbrooke Science Popularization Day (JVSS)

Date: September 25 and November 2021

Attendance: 400

On September 25 an outdoor session was held at Parc Jacques-Cartier where 15 research students shared their projects. On November 15 another session was held indoors in Sherbrooke where 15 research students also shared their work along with three other prominent researchers. These events were organized by Neurosciences Sherbrooke, BistroBrain, Technoscience Estrie, Musée de la nature et des sciences de Sherbrooke.

One-Health Connect 2021

September 23, 2021

Attendance: 162

Panel of presenters from academia and industry focusing on One Health concepts, connecting graduate students and early career researchers.

Featured speakers: Sharon Deem, Director, Saint Louis Zoo Institute for Conservation Medicine, Kamini Walia, Senior Scientist, Epidemiology and Communicable Diseases Division of Indian Council of Medical Research, Doreen Robinson, Head of Biodiversity and Land Management, UN Environment Programme, Deborah Thomson, Founder and President, One Health Lessons.

PAINtalks Conference

November 5, 2021

Attendance: 900

The Quebec Pain Research Network and the Quebec Student Network of Researchers on Pain organized a hybrid conference in Sherbrooke that was also live webcast with simultaneous translation in English and French. Twelve speakers have presentations on pain, sharing their innovative ideas and research.

GAIRDNER THANKS ITS 2021 SUPPORTERS

The Gairdner Foundation is grateful for the generous support of its partners without whom our programming would not be possible.

Gairdner thanks its supporters

GOLD	
SILVER	
BRONZE	
PARTNERS	

THE YEAR AHEAD: OBJECTIVES FOR 2022

The Gairdner Foundation is committed to continuously reviewing and improving its programming to ensure we are always providing engaging, meaningful programs for our audiences and the Canadian public at large.

Performance Goals for 2022

1. Complete and publish Gairdner's 2022 strategic plan.

Gairdner has developed a strategic plan from 2022-2026 with consultation from its Board of Directors. This will be published in 2022.

2. Engage an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion consultant/company to review Gairdner's awards and programming and develop plan to increase accessibility of resources and identify areas of improvement in Gairdner practices and policies.

Gairdner has hired WATSON to conduct a formal review of Gairdner's EDI practices and to develop a plan/framework for areas of improvement to be completed in summer 2022.

3. Develop an online resource hub to provide reliable, informative content for Canadians on topics of immediate relevance such as the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Gairdner has updated its website to include a resource hub of timely content and is in the process of a website refresh that will focus on providing engaging, scientific content.

4. Build a network of Early Career Investigators to foster the development of Canadian talent and support Gairdner programming.

The introduction of the Canada Gairdner Early Career Investigator Award competition in 2021 has helped Gairdner start to build its network of early career investigators and this will be a focus in 2022. Gairdner has developed a relationship with the Association of Canadian Early Career Health Researchers.

5. Introduce the new Canada Gairdner Momentum Award for mid-career scientists.

The Canada Gairdner Momentum Award is being announced in April 2022 and the first nominations will be received in October 2022 and the first award will be presented in 2023.

6. Re-introduce in-person programming post-pandemic with virtual options to engage a broad audience nationally and internationally.

The Fall of 2022 will be the start of Gairdner's hybrid programming with both in-person and virtual offerings. Gairdner will evaluate the success of both options and determine the best approach for moving forward to have the most impact.

7. Increase social media presence using influencers, science communicators and content creators on multiple platforms.

Gairdner is developing a social media strategy that includes a SWOT analysis of our current social channels and the strategic goals for increasing our presence.

8. Re-introduce in-person international receptions and engage new international partners.

Gairdner is cognisant of pandemic travel rules and restrictions and will evaluate the ability to conduct in-person international events when possible.

GOVERNANCE

The Gairdner Foundation is governed by a 15-member Board of Directors. The Board is comprised of individuals with expertise from the academic, private and public sectors. Directors are nominated and appointed for a maximum term of 3 years, renewable 2 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. In 2021, the Board met four times.

Board of Directors

Heather Munroe-Blum

Board Chair
Director & Chair, CPP Investment Board
Montreal, QC

Michael Horgan

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

Elizabeth Cannon

President Emerita & Professor, University of
Calgary
Calgary, AB

George Cooper

Former Counsel, McInnes Cooper
Former Member of Parliament, NS
Halifax, NS

Dr. Victor Dzau

President, US National Academy of Medicine
North Carolina, US

Darren Entwistle

President & CEO, TELUS
Vancouver, BC

A.J. Gairdner

Director, Institutional Equity Trading, Scotiabank
Toronto, ON

Frank Gairdner

CEO, Carbon Marine
Schomberg, ON

Mark Lievonon

Former President, Sanofi Pasteur Limited
Stouffville, ON

John Montalbano

Principal, Tower Beach Capital Ltd
Vancouver, BC

Stefanie Mortimer (effective May 2021)

Senior Director, Guardant Health
Morgan Hill, California

Gail O'Brien (effective November 2021)

Chair, Children First Canada; Director SickKids
Foundation
Calgary, AB

John Risley

President, Clearwater Seafoods Inc.
Chairman and CEO, CFFI Ventures Inc.
Chester, NS

Constance Sugiyama

President, ConMark Strategy Inc.
Toronto, ON

Phillip Sharp (effective May 2021)

Institute Professor at MIT
Massachusetts, USA

Standing Committees of the Board of Directors		
Standing Committee	Members	Number of meetings/year
Audit Committee	Mark Lievonen, Chair Elizabeth Cannon A.J. Gairdner Michael Horgan Stefanie Mortimer (effective May 2021)	2-3
Investment Committee	George Cooper, Chair Victor Dzau Connie Sugiyama Frank Gairdner Mark Lievonen John Montalbano (effective May 2021)	4
Governance and Nominating Committee	Elizabeth Cannon, Chair A.J. Gairdner Phillip Sharp (effective May 2021) George Cooper (effective November 2021)	2
Fundraising Committee	John Risley, Chair Gail O'Brien (effective November 2021) Heather Munroe-Blum Frank Gairdner	4

2020/2021 Gairdner Foundation Committees (For selection of 2021 Laureates)

Medical Review Panel

Lea Harrington (Co-Chair)

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

Jeffrey Weitz (Co-Chair)

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

Sonia Anand

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

Megan Azad

Associate Professor, Pediatrics and Child
Health, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB

Ben Blencowe

Professor, Department of Molecular Genetics,
University of Toronto, Toronto, ON

Colin Crist

Associate Professor, Department of Human
Genetics, McGill University, Montréal, QC

May Faraj

Professor, Department of Nutrition, Université
de Montréal, Montréal, QC

Anne-Claude Gingras

Senior Investigator, Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum
Research Institute, Toronto, ON

Shashi Gujar

Associate Professor, Departments of
Pathology, Biology, and Microbiology &
Immunology, Dalhousie University, Halifax,
NS

Mansour Haeryfar

Professor, Department of Microbiology &
Immunology, Western University, London, ON

Gillian Hawker

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

Xi Huang

Scientist, Arthur & Sonia Labatt Brain Tumour
Research Centre, The Hospital for Sick
Children, Toronto, ON

Nada Jabado

Professor, Department of Pediatrics, McGill
University, Montreal, QC

Nina Jones

Professor, Molecular and Cellular Biology,
University of Guelph, Guelph, ON

Stephen Jones

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

Sheena Josselyn

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

Lisa Kalynchuk

Vice-President Research, University of
Victoria, Victoria, BC

Megan Levings

Professor, Faculty of Medicine, Department of
Surgery, University of British Columbia,
Vancouver, BC

Paola Marcato

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

Helen McNeill

Professor, Department of Developmental
Biology, Washington University in St. Louis,
St. Louis, MO, USA

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

Guillaume Paré

Director, Genetic & Molecular Epidemiology Laboratory, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON

Rulan Parekh

Clinician Scientist & Professor of Medicine and Paediatrics, University of Toronto, The Hospital for Sick Children & University Health Network, Toronto, ON

Elizabeth Patton

Professor & MRC Programme Leader Scientist, MRC Institute of Genetics & Molecular Medicine, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

Lynne-Marie Postovit

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

Sheila Singh

Pediatric Neurosurgeon, McMaster Children's Hospital; PI, Stem Cell & Cancer Research Institute, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON

Gerry Wright

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

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

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

Doreen Cantrell

Wellcome Trust Principal Research Fellow, School of Life Sciences, University of Dundee, Dundee, UK

Pascale Cossart

Distinguished Professor, Institut Pasteur, Paris, France

Anne Ephrussi

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

Susan Gasser

Director, Friedrich Miescher Institute, Basel, Switzerland

Phil Hieter

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

Jan Hoeijmakers

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

Fabienne Mackay

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

James Nelson

Rudy J and Daphne Donohue Munzer Professor emeritus; Professor emeritus, Department of Biology, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, USA

Karen Nelson

President, J. Craig Venter Institute, La Jolla, CA

Stephen O’Rahilly

Director, MRC Metabolic Diseases Unit, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK

Yi Rao

Founding Director, McGovern Institute for Brain Research, Peking University, Beijing, China

Peter Ratcliffe

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

Shimon Sakaguchi

Distinguished Professor, WPI Immunology Frontier Research Center, Osaka University, Osaka, Japan

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

Jim Woodgett

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

Wightman Award Advisory Committee

Janet Rossant, Chair

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

Brian Postl

Dean, Rady Faculty of Health Sciences &
Vice-Provost (Health Sciences), University of
Manitoba, Winnipeg, MB

Marie-Josée Hébert

Vice-Rector of Research, Discovery, Creation
and Innovation, Université de Montréal,
Montréal, QC

John Hepburn

Vice President Research, CIFAR, Toronto,
ON; Vancouver, BC

Susan Quaggin

Director, Feinberg Cardiovascular & Renal
Research Institute; Chief of Nephrology &
Hypertension, Department of Medicine,
Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, USA

Molly Shoichet

Professor, Chemical Engineering & Applied
Chemistry, Chemistry and Biomaterials, and
Biomedical Engineering, University of
Toronto, Toronto, ON

Brad Wouters

Executive VP Science and Research,
University Health Network, Toronto, ON

L. Trevor Young

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

Global Health Award Advisory Committee

Janet Rossant (Chair)

President & Scientific Director, Gairdner Foundation, Toronto, ON

Margaret Bentley

Carla Smith Chamblee Distinguished Professor, Gillings School of Global Public Health, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC

Christian Bréchet

President, Global Virus Network (GVN), Tampa, FL, USA

Patricia Garcia

Professor, School of Public Health, Cayetano Heredia University, Lima, Peru

Rose Leke

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

Alan Lopez

Ad Hoc Member, Laureate Professor, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia

Peter Piot

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

Daniel Roth

Clinician-Scientist & Associate Professor, Division of Paediatric Medicine, Department of Paediatrics, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, ON

Steffanie Strathdee

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

Cesar Victora

Emeritus Professor of Epidemiology, Federal University of Pelotas, Pelotas, BR

2021 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's financial statements which appears at the end of this report.

In 2008, the Federal Government, through CIHR, provided a \$20 million endowment fund (the "Fund"), formalized through a funding Agreement. The income from the Fund has been used to support and enhance the Awards and the Foundation's activities.

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.

In 2021 the Foundation also received funding from the Government of Canada, through CIHR, and the Québec Government, as well as a variety of sponsors and donors.

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 early 2016. The IPS was reviewed and updated in 2021, however the asset allocation targets remained unchanged. This remains a very conservative portfolio. The portfolio held 28% cash/fixed income, 55.2% equities and 16.8% alternatives at December 31, 2021 and is in compliance with the Investment Policy Statement.

The investment portfolio increased from \$34.4 million at the end of 2020 to \$38.4 million at the end of 2021. Returns for 2021 were \$4 million representing 13.8% net of fees versus the benchmark of 10.5% before fees for a similar weighted portfolio. The annualised rate of return since inception is 6.1% net of fees, compared to the benchmark of 6.7% gross of fees.

There continues to be uncertainty as to potential future market disruptions due to the COVID-19 outbreak and other economic variables. The investment committee will continue to closely monitor the situation and adjust accordingly. However, the Foundation expects to be able to maintain its core operations associated with the Canada Gairdner Awards intact.

Results of Operations

Revenue for the year totaled \$3.2 million, comprised of \$0.7 million from non-government sources (22% compared to 29% in 2020), \$1.4 million from government sources (44% compared to 54% in 2020), and \$1.1 million from investment income (34% compared to 17% in 2020).

Revenue increased by \$0.8 million over 2020 as a result of an increase in investment income of \$0.7 million and an increase in contributions and sponsorships, and government funding of \$0.1 million.

Expenditures for the year totaled \$2.1 million and remained consistent over 2020. Award costs decreased by \$0.1 million, event expenses increased by \$0.14 million, advisory board costs decreased by \$0.11 million and marketing and administrative costs increased by \$0.07 million.

Compliance

The Foundation is compliant with all the terms of the funding agreement.

An independent evaluation was performed in 2017. Key stakeholders consistently viewed the Gairdner Awards as being a “Canadian success story”. The next Independent evaluation will take place during fiscal 2022.

An independent compliance audit was performed in 2017. The results showed that the Foundation is compliant with all the terms of the funding agreement. The next independent compliance audit will take place at the request of CIHR.

GAIRDNER FOUNDATION STAFF AS OF DECEMBER 2021

Dr. Janet Rossant, President & Scientific Director

Sommer Wedlock, Vice President & Director, Communications

Catherine Rogers, Chief Financial Officer

Paige O’Beirne, Director of Partnerships

Sarah Devonshire, Senior Project Manager

Jocelyn Togerez, Social Media and Content Creator Intern

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, 2021 compensation for senior officers was:

Dr. Janet Rossant , President & Scientific Director	\$ 200,000
Sommer Wedlock , Vice President & Director of Communications	\$ 183,800

The Gairdner Foundation

Financial statements

December 31, 2021

Independent auditor's report

To the Members of
The Gairdner Foundation

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of **The Gairdner Foundation** [the "Foundation"], which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2021, and the statement of operations, statement of changes in net assets and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Foundation as at December 31, 2021, and its results of operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Foundation in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Canada, and we have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Responsibilities of management and those charged with governance for the financial statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted 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.

In preparing the financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Foundation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Foundation's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.



As part of an audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit 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 Foundation's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Foundation to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure, and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Ernst & Young LLP

Toronto, Canada
May 24, 2022

Chartered Professional Accountants
Licensed Public Accountants

The Gairdner Foundation

Statement of financial position

As at December 31

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Assets		
Current		
Cash	256,400	210,076
Accounts receivable	56,762	45,988
Prepaid expenses	23,928	29,053
Total current assets	337,090	285,117
Investments, fair value <i>[note 3]</i>	38,431,888	34,415,333
Capital assets, net <i>[note 4]</i>	751	3,075
	38,769,729	34,703,525
Liabilities and net assets		
Current		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	172,932	200,360
Deferred contributions <i>[note 5]</i>	290,964	345,145
Total current liabilities	463,896	545,505
Federal government funding <i>[note 6]</i>	26,569,741	23,845,855
Alberta government funding <i>[note 7]</i>	2,590,891	2,330,479
Total liabilities	29,624,528	26,721,839
Commitments <i>[note 9]</i>		
Net assets		
Unrestricted	500,000	500,000
Internally restricted <i>[note 8]</i>	8,645,201	7,481,686
Total net assets	9,145,201	7,981,686
	38,769,729	34,703,525

See accompanying notes

On behalf of the Board:

Director

Director

The Gairdner Foundation

Statement of operations

Year ended December 31

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Revenue		
Investment income <i>[note 3]</i>		
Interest and dividends	44,928	89,310
Realized gain on investments	364,903	98,484
Net increase in unrealized gain on investments	730,619	207,867
	1,140,450	395,661
Federal government grant funding <i>[note 6]</i>	683,296	872,951
Alberta government grant funding <i>[note 7]</i>	72,576	41,347
Other government grants <i>[note 5]</i>	637,514	432,547
Other contributions and sponsorships <i>[note 5]</i>	712,853	681,658
	3,246,689	2,424,164
Expenses		
Awards	600,000	700,000
National events	340,544	199,864
Advisory boards	30,571	149,079
Marketing and communications	169,170	133,453
Administrative	942,889	907,041
	2,083,174	2,089,437
Excess of revenue over expenses for the year	1,163,515	334,727

See accompanying notes

The Gairdner Foundation

Statement of changes in net assets

Year ended December 31

	2021		
	Unrestricted	Internally restricted	Total
	\$	\$	\$
	<i>[note 8]</i>		
Balance, beginning of year	500,000	7,481,686	7,981,686
Excess of revenue over expenses for the year	1,163,515	—	1,163,515
Interfund transfer <i>[note 8]</i>	(1,163,515)	1,163,515	—
Balance, end of year	500,000	8,645,201	9,145,201

	2020		
	Unrestricted	Internally restricted	Total
	\$	\$	\$
	<i>[note 8]</i>		
Balance, beginning of year	500,000	7,146,959	7,646,959
Excess of revenue over expenses for the year	334,727	—	334,727
Interfund transfer <i>[note 8]</i>	(334,727)	334,727	—
Balance, end of year	500,000	7,481,686	7,981,686

See accompanying notes

The Gairdner Foundation

Statement of cash flows

Year ended December 31

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Operating activities		
Excess of revenue over expenses for the year	1,163,515	334,727
Add (deduct) items not involving cash		
Amortization of capital assets	2,324	4,054
Investment income	(1,140,450)	(395,661)
Government funding recognized as revenue	(755,872)	(914,298)
	(730,483)	(971,178)
Changes in non-cash working capital balances related to operations		
Accounts receivable	(10,774)	(891)
Prepaid expenses	5,125	52,828
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	(27,428)	(114,694)
Deferred contributions	(54,181)	188,286
Cash used in operating activities	(817,741)	(845,649)
Investing activities		
Net withdrawal from investments held by third parties	864,065	806,456
Cash provided by investing activities	864,065	806,456
Net increase (decrease) in cash during the year	46,324	(39,193)
Cash, beginning of year	210,076	249,269
Cash, end of year	256,400	210,076

See accompanying notes

The Gairdner Foundation

Notes to financial statements

December 31, 2021

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) 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* "Accounting Standards for Not-for-Profit Organizations", 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 receivable, 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.

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.

The Gairdner Foundation

Notes to financial statements

December 31, 2021

Rates and methods of amortization are as follows:

Office equipment	5 years straight-line
Computer equipment	3 years straight-line
Leasehold improvements	Term of lease straight-line

Capital assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of an asset may not contribute to the Foundation's ability to provide goods and services. Any impairment results in a write-down of the asset and an expense in the statement of operations. An impairment loss is not reversed if the fair value of the related asset subsequently increases.

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, 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 statement of financial position 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.

Contributed materials and services

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

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Notes to financial statements

December 31, 2021

3. Investments

Investments consist of the following:

	2021		2020	
	\$	%	\$	%
Cash and cash equivalents	772,490	2.0	1,248,649	3.6
Bonds				
Canadian	7,553,093	19.7	7,765,075	22.6
International	2,376,029	6.2	2,136,021	6.2
Equities				
Canadian	5,632,070	14.7	4,287,041	12.5
US	8,763,108	22.8	6,933,067	20.1
Other international	6,695,083	17.4	6,638,064	19.3
Hedge funds	6,640,015	17.2	5,407,416	15.7
	38,431,888	100.0	34,415,333	100.0

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

As at December 31, 2021, bonds have an average term to maturity of 6.55 years [2020 – 7.03 years] and a weighted average yield of 3.1% [2020 – 3.2%].

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

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Interest and dividends	453,426	613,876
Realized gain on investments	1,561,621	430,217
Net increase in unrealized gain on investments	3,126,721	908,041
Total investment income	5,141,768	1,952,134
Less safekeeping and investment management expenses	(261,148)	(223,737)
Investment income, net of safekeeping and investment management expenses	4,880,620	1,728,397
Deduct investment income related to		
Federal government funding [note 6]	(3,407,182)	(1,216,053)
Alberta government funding [note 7]	(332,988)	(116,683)
Investment income recognized in revenue	1,140,450	395,661

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Notes to financial statements

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4. Capital assets

Capital assets consist of the following:

	2021		
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value
	\$	\$	\$
Computer equipment	23,708	23,299	409
Office equipment	23,357	23,015	342
Leasehold improvements	6,870	6,870	—
	53,935	53,184	751

	2020		
	Cost	Accumulated amortization	Net book value
	\$	\$	\$
Computer equipment	23,708	21,150	2,558
Office equipment	23,357	22,840	517
Leasehold improvements	6,870	6,870	—
	53,935	50,860	3,075

5. Deferred contributions

Deferred contributions represent unspent resources externally restricted for expenses in future years. Changes in the deferred contributions balance are as follows:

	2021	2020
	\$	\$
Balance, beginning of year	345,145	156,859
Amounts received during the year	683,333	733,333
Amounts recognized as revenue during the year	(737,514)	(545,047)
Balance, end of year	290,964	345,145

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Notes to financial statements

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

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Balance, beginning of year	23,845,855	23,502,753
Interest and dividends	134,231	274,491
Realized gain on investments	1,090,174	302,689
Net increase in unrealized gain on investments	2,182,777	638,873
Investment income for the year <i>[note 3]</i>	3,407,182	1,216,053
Amount recognized as revenue	(683,296)	(872,951)
Balance, end of year	26,569,741	23,845,855

As at December 31, 2021, the amount available for spending in future years is \$3,294,489 [2020 – \$2,753,380].

7. 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.

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Notes to financial statements

December 31, 2021

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

	2021 \$	2020 \$
Balance, beginning of year	2,330,479	2,255,143
Interest and dividends	13,119	26,338
Realized gain on investments	106,544	29,044
Net increase unrealized gain on investments	213,325	61,301
Investment income for the year <i>[note 3]</i>	332,988	116,683
Amount recognized as revenue	(72,576)	(41,347)
Balance, end of year	2,590,891	2,330,479

As at December 31, 2021, the amount available for spending in future years is \$268,351 [2020 – \$221,264].

8. 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 2021, the Board of Directors approved an interfund transfer from unrestricted to internally restricted net assets of \$1,163,515 [2020 – \$334,727]. 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.

9. Commitments

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

	\$
2022	81,000
2023	81,000
2024	40,500
	202,500

10. Financial instruments and risk management

The Foundation is exposed to various financial risks through transactions in financial instruments. Most of these risks are related to investments. To manage, monitor and limit the risks related to investments, the Foundation has established an Investment Policy Statement approved by the Board of Directors annually. The Investment Policy Statement determines the target asset mix, requires diversification of investments within categories and sets limits on exposure to individual investments and credit quality. Professional investment advisors and managers invest and manage the investments in accordance with the Investment Policy Statement. The investment strategy and asset mix reflect a total investment return consistent with capital preservation, risk tolerance and the liquidity needs of the Foundation. If the measured risk of the portfolio exceeds the limits set by the policy, actions will be taken to reduce the portfolio's risk.

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Notes to financial statements

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Foreign currency risk

Currency risk is the risk that the fair value of financial instruments or future cash flows associated with these instruments will fluctuate relative to the Canadian dollar due to changes in foreign currency rates. The Foundation is exposed to foreign currency risk with respect to its investments denominated in foreign currencies, including the underlying investments of its pooled funds denominated in foreign currencies. The Foundation mitigates its foreign currency risk exposure by limiting the extent of foreign currency exposure to 3.5% for fixed income securities and 35.0% for equities, respectively, on United States and other foreign equities. The portfolio has a target of 15.0% to alternative investments which may hold foreign securities. Alternative managers typically employ a wide range of investment tools to mitigate risk, including foreign currency hedging where appropriate.

Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value of financial instruments or future cash flows associated with these instruments will fluctuate due to changes in market interest rates. The Foundation is exposed to interest rate risk with respect to its fixed income securities and pooled funds that hold fixed income securities. The Foundation manages its interest rate risk by monitoring the performance of individual investments and by ensuring compliance by the investment manager with the investment policies of the Foundation. The portfolio's fixed income managers have flexibility in their ability to manage the portfolio's duration in response to the prevailing interest rate environment. Based on the duration of the fixed income portfolio as of December 31, 2021, a 1% change in interest rates across the yield curve would have a 7% impact on the value of the fixed income portfolio.

Other price risk

Other price risk is the risk that the fair value or future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market prices [other than those arising from interest rate risk or currency risk]. The Foundation is exposed to other price risk through its investments in equity securities and pooled funds. The Foundation manages this risk through its investment policies by monitoring against its target asset mix and adequately diversifying investments.

Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk one party to a financial instrument will cause a financial loss for the other party by failing to discharge an obligation. The Foundation is exposed to credit risk in connection with its fixed income investments. To manage this credit risk exposure, the Foundation only invests in high quality securities. Fixed limits are established for individual counterparties and these are monitored regularly.

Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Foundation will not be able to meet its financial obligations when they come due. The Foundation's objectives are to have sufficient liquid resources to continue operating despite adverse financial events and to provide it with the flexibility to take advantage of opportunities that will advance its purposes. The Foundation manages liquidity risk of liabilities by preparing an annual budget and monitoring cash flows and actual operating results against the budget. Liquidity risk is reduced by investing in at least 85% investments with monthly liquidity or better. As at December 31, 2021, the Foundation has met its objective of having sufficient liquid resources to meet its current obligations.