

Awards & Appointments

Falk Appointed Managing Director



Will Falk has been appointed Accenture's Health & Life Sciences managing director for Canada. Falk is a recognized leader in the health and life sciences industry, with over 15 years of experience in the field. He has advised leading academic medical centres and health systems across North America on their clinical, teaching and research operations. He has been a leader in the application of information technology to

healthcare (eHealth) for more than a decade. He is well known to key policy makers within government and to healthcare executives across the country as an innovative thinker. Falk holds a bachelor of science degree from University of Toronto's Trinity College and a master's degree in public and private management from Yale University's School of Management; during the 2002–2003 academic year, he was a visiting research fellow at Yale's School of Management.

Perron Reappointed to CCSA

Michel Perron has been reappointed as chief executive officer (CEO) of the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA) for a five-year term. Since his appointment as CEO of CCSA in 1999, Perron has been successful in strengthening CCSA. In addition, by working with various levels of government and the not-for-profit and private sectors, Perron was instrumental in the development of the National Framework for Action to Reduce the Harm Caused by Alcohol, Illicit Drugs and Substances, as well as the National Alcohol Policy for Canada. Perron is the vice-chair of the United Nations Vienna Non-Government Organization Committee on Narcotic Drugs, as well as past president and founding member of the Canadian Executive Council on Addictions.

Miller to Chair Rx&D

Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D) recently announced the appointment of Ronnie Miller, president and CEO of Hoffmann-La Roche Limited (Roche Canada) as chairman of the association's board of directors. Miller is a member of the Rx&D Executive Committee and Board of Directors. Until becoming board chairman, he served on several industry committees including Public Affairs, Stakeholder Relations and, more recently, Rx&D Federal Affairs/FPT Relations Standing Committee (as chair). Miller has over 28 years of extensive and varied experience in the pharmaceutical industry. He began his career in the United Kingdom as a sales representative and held a series of progressive positions including sales management, product management, business unit director and national sales manager.

New Managing Partner at Ray & Berndtson



James H. Stonehouse has been named a managing partner at executive search firm Ray & Berndtson. Stonehouse has built the leading healthcare practice in Canada and co-leads the Toronto public sector practice. The national leadership team at Ray & Berndtson Canada is composed of managing partners from each of the firm's offices across Canada.

New President for St. Paul's Hospital Foundation



Stephen Shapiro is the new president and CEO of St. Paul's Hospital Foundation. Shapiro was most recently associate vice-president, Global Development and Principal Gifts in the Office of the Vice-President, External Relations, at the University of Alberta. Shapiro's fundraising career includes 20 years of experience in government, healthcare, arts and culture, community and recreation and the university sectors. From 2000

to 2006, he served as director of Development, Leadership Gifts and President's Circle at the University of British Columbia under the leadership of former president Martha C. Piper.

Inaugural Director Appointed for Innovative New Institute at St. Paul's Hospital



The fight to detect, prevent and care for heart and lung diseases has taken a significant leap forward with the appointment of internationally renowned heart and lung researcher Dr. Bruce McManus as the inaugural director of the Providence Heart + Lung Institute at St. Paul's Hospital. Launched in June 2007, the Providence Heart + Lung Institute at St. Paul's Hospital merges and integrates all of Providence's

heart and lung research, education and care programs under one umbrella. It is the only institute of its kind in Canada.

VON Canada Foundation Appoints New Board Chair

Ambrose Hearn is the new chair of the Victorian Order of Nurses (VON) Canada Foundation. Founded in 2000, VON Canada Foundation raises funds to support the work of VON across Canada. Hearn has had a distinguished career in healthcare administration in Canada, over a period of more than 25 years. He brings a wealth of experience to his new role. His most recent position was president and CEO of VON Canada from 1999 to 2003. Prior to that time, he served as president and CEO of the Ottawa Civic Hospital, a major teaching hospital in the nation's capital. He previously held the position of CEO of the Canadian Council of Health Services Accreditation, the national organization that sets standards for and accredits healthcare organizations. Hearn was also deputy minister of health for the Province of Newfoundland and Labrador.

New Deputy Minister of Health and Community Services in Newfoundland and Labrador

Don Keats has been appointed deputy minister of health and community services for Newfoundland and Labrador. Keats has an extensive background in senior executive leadership in healthcare and the public sector. His career has included roles as CEO of three former provincial health corporations: Central West, General Hospital and Grand Falls and District. Keats has also served as CEO of Queensway-Carleton Hospital in Ontario, assistant deputy minister of the Department of Health and Community Services and assistant deputy minister with the Nova Scotia Department of Health. He holds a master's degree in health services administration from the University of Alberta and a bachelor of commerce degree from Memorial University. Keats's background includes service on the boards of the Newfoundland and Labrador Hospital and Nursing Home Association, the Canadian Health Care Association and the Newfoundland and Labrador Centre for Health Information. His past accomplishments include recognition as one of the top healthcare executives in North America.

OHA Appoints New President and CEO



Tom Closson will become president and CEO of the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) effective January 14, 2008. Closson is one of Canada's most prominent healthcare leaders. He has previously served as president and CEO of three of the nation's leading healthcare organizations: the University Health Network in Toronto, Ontario, the Capital Health Region in Victoria, British Columbia, and Sunnybrook Health Sciences

Centre, also in Toronto. He is a professional engineer, holds a master's degree in business administration and has extensive experience in healthcare management and governance, leadership and facilitation, change management, strategy development and e-health implementation.

Closson will assume his responsibilities after the retirement of current OHA President and CEO Hilary Short, following her 34 years of exemplary service to the organization.

Amgen Appointment

Dr. Clive Ward-Able has been appointed to the position of executive director of scientific affairs for Amgen in Canada. Dr. Ward-Able holds an MB, ChB (MD), from the University of Stellenbosch, South Africa, and a bachelor of pharmacy degree from Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa. Dr. Ward-Able has practised as a pharmacist and in general medicine in South Africa and Newfoundland. He has held numerous positions in sales, marketing and medical and scientific affairs within the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries in Canada, the United Kingdom, Switzerland and the United States. Dr. Ward-Able joins Amgen Canada with the objective of furthering scientific pursuits in biotechnology in Canada for the benefit of patients suffering from grievous illnesses.

Health Informatics Industry Pays Tribute to Steven Huesing

Steven Huesing, who has worked tirelessly as a leader, a pioneer and an ambassador to advance the use of computers and information technology in healthcare for more than 40 years, has been recognized with a special Canadian Health Informatics Award for Lifetime Achievement.

Huesing is president of the Canadian Healthcare Information Technology Trade Association (CHITTA), editor/publisher of *Healthcare Information Management & Communications Canada*, the official journal of CHITTA and Canada's Health Informatics Association, and executive director of the International Medical Informatics Association. At the beginning of his career in the 1960s, computers were still considered avant-garde and risky, even in mainstream industry. A registered industrial and cost accountant (now CMA), Huesing's interest in health informatics flourished while he filled senior administrative roles of chief financial officer and chief information officer with hospitals and government.

Bruno Giros Joins Douglas Institute and McGill as Graham Boeckh Chair in Schizophrenia

One of the world's leading figures in the study and treatment of schizophrenia is joining the Douglas Mental Health University Institute and McGill University as the new Graham Boeckh chair in schizophrenia. Bruno Giros, PhD, who created the Neurobiology and Psychiatry Laboratory at France's Institut national de la santé et de la recherche médicale (INSERM), officially joined Douglas and McGill on November 29 as the second Graham Boeckh chair in schizophrenia. He succeeds Dr. Guy Rouleau, who held the chair from 1998 to 2004.

Giros, who is also McGill's Canada Research chair in neurobiology of mental disorders, has been a pioneer in the molecular characterization, cloning and study of a large number of dopamine and glutamate receptors and transporters. These represent some of the main targets for widely used psychotropic drugs. He is also one of the leading scientists developing the first genetic models in mice that could allow us to link these molecules to integrated brain functions and enable us to model certain types of psychosis.



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Canada's Top Health Researchers Recognized

Canada's top health researchers were recognized in November at the Sixth Annual Canadian Health Research Awards – A Celebration of Excellence. These awards are among the Canadian research community's highest honours. The following individuals and organizations were recognized for their outstanding contributions to improving the health of Canadians:

- Dr. Francis Plummer (chief science advisory and scientific director general, National Microbiology Laboratory, Public Health Agency of Canada) was the recipient of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Michael Smith Prize in Health Research – Canada's Health Researcher of the Year in the category of Biomedical and Clinical Research. This award recognizes innovation, creativity, leadership and dedication to health research. Dr. Plummer is one of the world's leading specialists in HIV/AIDS. His work has also led to low-cost interventions to reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS, tools that have been adopted by UNAIDS and the World Bank.
- Dr. Peter Singer (senior scientist, McLaughlin Rotman Centre, University Health Network, and professor of medicine at the University of Toronto) received the CIHR Michael Smith Prize in Health Research – Canada's Health Researcher of the Year in the category of Health Services and Systems and Population Health Research. Dr. Singer's research is at the nexus of life sciences and the developing world. His core ideas include learning how to move life sciences technologies from "lab to village" and determining how countries can accelerate commercialization of life sciences for health and economic development.
- Dr. Wilbert J. Keon (senator, Senate of Canada) was the 2007 Champion of Health Research. He received the CIHR Distinguished Leadership Award, which recognizes outstanding leadership qualities and support by individuals for health research. Dr. Keon's has pioneered many groundbreaking clinical innovations that are now standard practice; these include surgical reperfusion in acute heart attacks. He has also established broad-based research programs. As a senator, he has participated in numerous major health- and science-related reports, including reports on Canada's healthcare system and on mental health.
- Dr. Michael B. Reed (assistant professor, Faculty of Medicine, McGill University) was the recipient of the Peter Loughheed/CIHR New Investigator Award – Canada's Premier Young Researcher. This award is given to Canada's brightest young health researchers at the beginning of their careers. Dr. Reed's research focuses on better understanding strain variations within the tuberculosis bacterium, studying and characterizing the unique attributes of the Beijing strain lineage that help it adapt to the diverse environmental conditions it encounters within the human host. His research could lead to improved treatments for tuberculosis and an improved way to identify patients most at risk for developing active disease.
- Dr. Thomas Kerr (Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research scholar, research scientist, BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, assistant professor, Department of Medicine, University of British Columbia) was the national recipient of the CIHR Knowledge Translation Award. This award recognizes an exceptional individual or team currently involved in a collaborative health research or development project that aims to advance and expand the understanding of knowledge translation. Dr. Kerr's research evaluating North America's first safe injecting facility, Vancouver's Eastside medical injection site program, has contributed significantly to academic, public and government discussions on the subject of injection drug use and HIV/AIDS.
- Dr. Ron Zernicke (executive director, Alberta Bone and Joint Health Institute) received the CIHR Partnership Award for his work designing one-stop clinics for hip and knee replacements, where patients have access to a multidisciplinary team of healthcare providers. This award recognizes partnerships that bring health research communities together to create innovative approaches to important research challenges. The Alberta Bone and Joint Health Institute worked with the Alberta Orthopaedic Society, three regional health authorities (Calgary, Capital and David Thompson) and Alberta Health and Wellness on a one-year randomized controlled study of the new approach. It was one of the most extensive research efforts in health services delivery ever in North America. The model is now being expanded to all health regions in Alberta, and the knowledge is being shared with healthcare providers across Canada.
- Pamela A. Kolopack (graduate student, University of Toronto) was the recipient of the CIHR Douglas Kinsella Doctoral Award for Research in Bioethics. This award honours the accomplishments of Dr. T. Douglas Kinsella in bioethics and his lifelong promotion of the ethical treatment of humans in research. Kolopack's work will contribute to the development of an improved framework for the analysis of the ethics of proposed public health research initiatives.
- Dr. Filio Billia (clinician-scientist trainee, University Health Network) was awarded the CIHR BIOTEC Canada Schering Plough Canada Fellowship. The award is presented to the highest-ranked postdoctoral fellowship candidate in the fields of immunology, infectious and inflammatory diseases, cardiovascular conditions, allergies and respiratory problems. Working under Dr. Rudiger van Harsdorf of the University Health Network, Dr. Billia is studying why the cardiac muscle cells that make up the heart are unable to replicate, by identifying signalling pathways that are responsible for keeping the cells in this state of arrest. The fellowship will help to support her further research training as a clinician scientist, focusing on new approaches to treating heart failure.
- Mr. Bechara Saab (PhD student, Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute, Mount Sinai Hospital, University of Toronto) received the CIHR Synapse Youth Mentorship Award. This award recognizes the efforts of a graduate student or postdoctoral fellow who has made exceptional efforts to promote health research among Canada's high-school students. Saab is involved with a variety of activities to motivate youth to learn about science, including SciHigh, the youth outreach program of the Samuel Lunenfeld Institute.



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