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Neglected Global Diseases Initiative



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THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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NGDI Member News

2012 Prix Galien Research Award goes to NGDI Co-Founder Dr. Robert E.W. Hancock

The NGDI congratulates Dr. Robert Hancock as the recipient of this most prestigious award in the field of Canadian pharmaceutical research and innovation. Referred to as the Nobel Prize of pharmaceutical research, it recognizes the efforts and achievements of pharmaceutical research and development. The Prix Galien Canada is a branch of Innovation Life Canada."

For more information on the award click [here](#).

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NGDI Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal Recipients

The NGDI also congratulates **Drs. Brett Finlay** and **Robert E.W. Hancock** for receiving the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. This new commemorative medal was created to mark the 2012 celebrations of the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II accession to the Throne. Recipients have made significant contributions to Canada.

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NGDI Member Dr. Mark Ansermino Phone Based Pulse Oximeter Software Launched

UBC spin-off company [Lionsgate Technologies Inc.](#) is preparing to launch a software application — developed by two UBC professors — that transforms smartphones, tablets and laptops into mobile medical diagnostic tools capable of real-time vital signs monitoring.

Using standard medical sensors connected directly through the universal audio port of virtually any mobile device, the proprietary interface, called the Vital Signs DSP (Digital Signal Processor), provides precise monitoring of blood oxygen levels, blood pressure and body temperature which are displayed on the mobile device's monitor.

The availability of an accurate, affordable mobile medical diagnostic tool has sweeping applications in the medical/clinical and consumer markets as well as in the developing world, where 64 per cent of mobile phone users are found. [<read more>](#)

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NGDI Director Appointed to Board of Directors, Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research

Dr. Kishor Wasan was recently appointed for a two year term with the [CCGHR](#) which is a not-for-profit organization promoting better and more equitable health worldwide through the production and use of knowledge.

With an orientation toward health research challenges in low and middle-income countries (LMICs) to reduce health disparities, we are a Canada-based global network committed to:

- strengthening capacities of individuals, institutions and systems in Canada and LMICs to produce and use knowledge
- speaking as Canada's voice for global health research
- building effective, equitable and respectful south-north research partnerships
- connecting people, ideas and expertise
- learning from and communicating our work

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NGDI News

Distinguished Lectureship Seminar features Dr. Clive Ondari of WHO, Essential Medicines Branch

Providing evidence-based norms, standards and guidelines for the delivery of health solutions

Presented by Dr. Clive Ondari, Coordinator, Medicine Access and Rational Use (MAR)

November 2, 2012—noon to 1:00 pm, With lunch reception following immediately afterward.

Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, 2405 Wesbrook Mall (entrance on Agronomy) Lecture Hall 1101

Poster available [here](#).

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iCo Therapeutics Oral AmpB Presented at AAPS with Updated Patent Position

iCo Therapeutics Inc. presented its oral Amphotericin B (Amp B) delivery system in five poster presentations at the 2012 AAPS Annual Meeting and Exposition, on October 14 – 18, 2012 at McCormick Place, Chicago Illinois.



The Amp B program also announced a new patent in Singapore, providing additional patent protection. "The Amp B program has been primarily financed with roughly two million dollars in grant money committed to date and is a great source of pride at iCo," said Andrew Rae, President and CEO of iCo Therapeutics. "Our growing IP

position strengthens our belief in the asset and we're very excited to see it get highlighted through five posters at AAPS."

iCo Therapeutics is testing a novel oral delivery method for Amp B, an anti-fungal medication, recognized as the gold standard for the treatment of systemic fungal infection. This formulation was developed in the laboratory of Dr. Kishor M. Wasan, Professor and Associate Dean of Research in the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of British Columbia. Until now, the drug has only been available through intravenous administration and has faced challenges due to toxicity.

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Funding Opportunities

Fulbright Scholar and Research Chairs Program

(Available to Canadian Scholars and senior professionals who want to lecture and/or do research in the United States during the 2011-2012 academic year)

Competition Closes: November 15, 2012

Traditional Awards – for scholars & PDocs (Canadian citizens only) to conduct research and/or teach for one semester or full academic year at a University of research centre of their choice in the U.S. Not available for summer months only. Value: \$25K for 9 months or \$12.5K for one semester + health insurance. Faculty sabbatical, leave of absence or retirement pay may be used concurrently with Fulbright support.

Visiting Research Chairs – for scholars and experienced professionals to research/develop collaborations/guest lecture at select American universities and research centres, normally for one semester. See website for range of opportunities. Value: ~\$25K for one semester + health insurance + Fulbright enrichment opportunities. A few chairs are open, but most are targeted, including: Canadian or North American Studies, Canada-US Relations/Transborder Studies, Innovation, Military Social Work, Policy Studies, Public Diplomacy, Quebec Studies, Science (Energy, Environment, Health Medicine), War & Peace.

Fulbright Canada runs a wide range of programs that support exceptional Canadian students and scholars who wish to study, do research, or lecture in the United States. Below is a brief outline of the programs that Fulbright Canada offers, along with the closing dates for each competition.

Fulbright Student Program (Available to Canadian graduate students who want to study and/or do research in the United States for nine months during the 2011-2012 academic year)

Competition Closes: November 15, 2012

Fulbright Scholar and Chairs Program (Available to Canadian Scholars and senior professionals who want to lecture and/or do research in the United States during the 2011-2012 academic year)

Competition Closes: November 15, 2012

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ISTPCanada and CIHR announce Canada-China Joint Initiative

Pre-announcement of upcoming call for proposals on Human Vaccine Research and Development

Background: The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the International Science and Technology Partnerships Canada (ISTPCanada) in partnership with the Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) of the People's Republic of China are in the process of establishing a joint funding opportunity to fund industrial-academia collaborative research and development (R&D) in the area of vaccines against infectious diseases in humans. The focus of this initiative will be on the translation of innovations with high potential for downstream commercialization that will bring economic and social benefits to Canada and China.

Research Areas: The scope of this initiative will encompass basic and clinical health research which may also include health services research and population health research in the field of vaccines against infectious diseases in humans. Although not exclusive, applications in the following area will be encouraged:

- Approaches and optimized techniques used for polysaccharide protein conjugate vaccines
- Studies of novel vaccine adjuvants and delivery systems

- Mucosal immunology and mechanistic studies for vaccine development
- Influenza and existing and emerging viruses
- Bioprocessing and production

Who is Eligible? This funding opportunity will support vaccine R&D projects involving Canadian researchers from both academia and industry in collaboration with Chinese academic and industry partners.

ACT NOW! With the official Call for Proposals expected to be launched in early 2013, *it's time to get ready.*

- Register for the 'ISTPCanada INFORMER' on www.istpcanada.ca for updates on the upcoming Call for Proposals.

Email Stacy Chew at stacychew@istpcanada.ca if you are interested in this funding opportunity and/or in participating in related match-making activities.

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2012 Nehru Humanitarian Award Invites Submissions

The Centre for India and South Asia Research (CISAR) at The University of British Columbia, invites submissions for the 2012 Prem Goel Memorial Award. The annual award of \$1000 is given to the UBC graduate student judged to have the most promising research program related to South Asia.

All students pursuing an MA or PhD at UBC-Vancouver are eligible for this award.

Please submit a statement of no more than 1000 words on the questions, objectives, methods and significance of your South Asia related graduate research work. You may write about a research and writing project that is already underway or a project that you propose to conduct. Be sure to include a statement on how you intend to use the funds. One additional page is allowed for references, notes, and citations.

The submissions will be judged by an interdisciplinary panel of UBC faculty and will be assessed on clarity, rigor, and originality. Please be sure to avoid jargon that may be unintelligible to an interdisciplinary panel of readers.

Submissions are due no later than 12pm on **Tuesday, November 6, 2012** and should be sent to IAR student assistant Brianna Botchway at briebotch@gmail.com.

The winner of the 2012 award will be announced by November 12, 2012.


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Grand Challenges Canada – Stars in Global Health Round 4 Video Voting Open

Watch innovators explain their **Bold Ideas with Big Impact** for solving the world's most persistent health challenges.

Over 400 videos from 42 countries were submitted as part of the application process for Round 4 of the **Stars in Global Health** program. All videos are two minutes or less and they can be sorted by country, health priorities and health platforms of interest.

Click [HERE](#) to watch the videos. To rate a video, click the “Like” button  [Log in to like this video](#)

Videos are available now until November 22, 2012. The videos are an element in engaging the public and increasing awareness of the challenges facing global health today. View and share your favourite video

submissions and help increase public awareness and involvement in global health challenges. You can share your favourite videos on **Twitter**, **Facebook** and **LinkedIn**.

All videos are two minutes or less. Anyone can watch the videos; however, you must register and be logged-in to pick your favourite videos and comment. Please note that an individual user can rate each video once only. For more information, please visit applications.grandchallenges.ca

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Workshop Opportunities

Mitacs STEP workshops at UBC Robson Square offered to Graduate Students

The following **free** courses are offered between Nov 19 and 23rd:

1. Foundations of Project Management II
2. Proactive and Practical Communications & Teamwork
3. Practice Your Presentation Skills II
4. Basics of Intellectual Property
5. Build Your Scientific and Technical Writing Skills

Register now to avoid disappointment – for more information [click here](#).

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Institute for Strategic Funding Development (ISFD)

A 3-day Strategic Grant Development Workshop is offered at UBC on December 10 – 12, 2012 from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm.

Participants completing the workshop will receive the following: a Certificate of Completion accredited by CFRE, grant funding CD, bonus fundraising CD, expert grant training instruction from industry leaders.

For more information or to register, please visit www.isfdonline.com/schedule or call (877) 414-8991.

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Upcoming Talk

Faculty of Medicine, Department Seminar Series

Patents and Politics - How the HIV crisis changed pharmaceutical intellectual property policies

Speaker: **Ellen F.M. 't Hoen, LL.M.** University of Amsterdam

Location: **IRC Lecture Theatre 5, 2194 Health Sciences Mall**

Date: **November 6, 2012**

Time: **11:00 am.**

Ellen 't Hoen is a lawyer and an independent consultant in medicines policy and law, with expertise in intellectual property and access to medicines. She established the Medicines Patent Pool to accelerate the availability of low cost HIV treatments in developing countries through patent licensing, and was its executive

Director until June 2012. Ellen 't Hoen is a member of the World Health Organizations Expert Advisory Panel on Drug Policies and Management, and a research fellow at the IS HIV/AIDS Academy of the University of Amsterdam. She is the author of the book: "The Global Politics of Pharmaceutical Monopoly Power. Drug patents, access, innovation and the application of the WTO Doha Declaration on TRIPS and Public Health," published in 2009. She also co-founded DES Action the Netherlands and has won several awards for her work on DES (Diethylstilbestrol).

Download the poster [here](#).
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Reports of Interest

[The Geopolitics of Neglected Tropical Diseases - PLOS Collections ...](#)

To commemorate the Fifth Anniversary of the launch of *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases*, we are releasing a collection focusing on geographic perspectives on the global burden of the neglected tropical diseases. In the following statement, *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases* Editor-in-Chief Peter Hotez describes the collection:

"Among the unique aspects of the NTDs is their intimate link with poverty and their marked geographic and regional variation. Since the very beginning of *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases*, together with colleagues I have written and submitted a series of papers that try to summarize the major NTDs endemic to a particular geographic region and the key published data for those conditions, with an emphasis on their distribution, prevalence, and disease burden. Many of these papers were written with colleagues from the actual region. The first papers along a geographic theme began in 2008 with the Latin American and Caribbean region, in addition to closer looks at Brazil, the Caribbean region, and the United States of America. In 2009 we summarized sub-Saharan Africa and the nations of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference; in 2010 nuclear weapons states, the "Post-American" world, and the Canadian Arctic; in 2011 South Asia, Central Asia and NTDs in the Catholic world; in 2012, the Middle East and North Africa, and also Nigeria. Next year we anticipate publishing a summary of Oceania. We hope this collection of papers will be useful for those interested in a particular part. We also hope the collection will inspire people to think about our global diversity of people and their NTDs."

www.ploscollections.org/geopoliticsofntds
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[Special Report: Fighting Neglect | Doctors Without Borders](#)

[Download Report](#) [4.65 MB]

"Fighting Neglect" charts Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF)'s 25 years of experience in diagnosing and treating [Chagas disease](#), [sleeping sickness](#), and [Kala Azar](#) in Latin America, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, and the Caucasus.

It examines past, present, and future management of the diseases and shows that treatment is possible even with existing diagnostic tools and medicines. However, additional research and development toward new and more effective diagnostics and treatments are desperately needed to address the overwhelming neglect of people whose



needs are not met by pharmaceutical companies.

It will take increased political will among international donors and national governments where these diseases are endemic to improve access to quality lifesaving treatment.

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