



Congratulations / Félicitations

***Dr. Bhagirath Singh, University of Western Ontario
The John D Reynolds Award Recipient***

*Director, Centre for Human Immunology, Professor,
Department of Microbiology & Immunology, Scientist,
Robarts Research Institute, University of Western
Ontario*

After post-doctoral training at Liverpool University in England, Dr. Bhagirath Singh joined the Department of Immunology at the University of Alberta, Edmonton in 1973 and became full Professor in 1986. In 1992 he was recruited as Professor and Chair of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology and co-director of the Immunology group at the Robarts Research Institute at the University of Western Ontario (UWO), London, Ontario. From 2001-2009 he served as the founding Scientific Director of the CIHR Institute of Infection and Immunity (CIHR-III). His laboratory has done seminal work in the immunology of peptides. Well before the crystal structure of MHC molecules was elucidated his laboratory identified that peptides of 9-12 amino acids were required for priming and triggering of humoral and helper T cell-mediated immune responses. His laboratory first described that immunomodulation induced by microbial adjuvants such as CFA or BCG prevented autoimmune type 1 diabetes and its recurrence and regulatory CD4 T cells played an important role in this process. This work had a major impact in our understanding of the role of microbial agents and in the formulation of the *Hygiene hypothesis* for protective immunity. He has published over 200 articles in peer-reviewed journals.

As the Scientific Director of CIHR-III, Dr. Singh has been involved in many public health and policy issues in the area of infection and immunity in Canada and abroad. He engaged the research community, patients-supported health charities, professional organizations and public and private sector partners in dealing with health research issues. He was responsible for providing a rapid research response to SARS threat in 2003 by creating Canadian SARS Research Consortium. This established a research framework for rapidly responding to emerging infectious disease outbreaks. He championed vaccine and immunotherapy research using systems biology approaches. Since 2006 he coordinated the pandemic influenza research through the formation of CIHR Pandemic Preparedness Strategic Research Initiative. This well prepared the research community to deal with the current H1N1 pandemic. In addition, he reorganized HIV/AIDS research for CIHR through the creation of CIHR HIV/AIDS Research Advisory Committee. Recently, he mobilized the Canadian Microbiome Initiative and serves on the International Microbiome Consortium to allow Canadian health researchers to be part of global effort to help understand the diversity of microbes in human health and disease.

Dr. Singh has served on numerous national and international peer review committees and scientific advisory boards including CSI Council. He is recipient of many honours including, the Banting and Best Memorial Lectureship of the International Diabetes Federation, Bernhard Cinander Award Lectureship of the Canadian Society for Immunology and Dean of Medicine's Award of Excellence at UWO. He received Scholar and Scientist awards of the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research and is an elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada and the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. Dr. Singh is currently Director of Centre for Human Immunology, Professor in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology and Scientist at the Robarts Research Institute at UWO.