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The Gairdner Foundation was created in 1957 by James Arthur Gairdner to recognize and reward the achievements of medical researchers whose work contributes significantly to improving the quality of human life. The history of the Foundation is a story of how a modest Canadian organization toiled for years in near anonymity, carefully choosing to reward scientists it deemed to have made the most important breakthrough discoveries in biomedical science. Its’ awardees were responsible for the discovery of the structure of DNA, the eradication of smallpox, CT scans, MRI machines, the human genome, the cure for ulcers, and the vaccine against HPV.

For the Foundation, recognizing excellence in biomedical science was all that mattered, and gradually word spread that being selected for a Gairdner award was a major honour. Since the first awards were granted in 1959, the Gairdner Awards have become Canada’s foremost international award. The Canada Gairdner International Awards are one of the three most prestigious awards in medical science, along with the Swedish Nobel Prize in Medicine and the American Albert Lasker Medical Research Awards. They hold up the pinnacle of achievement as a mirror to Canadians, and in so doing, play a role in helping Canada achieve its goals of excellence.

The Gairdner was incorporated in December 1957 as a charitable corporation under the laws of the Province of Ontario, Canada. Its funds originally derived from the personal gifts of the Founder and members of his family. This inspired and farsighted decision and the faithful stewardship by those who carried on the activities of the Foundation have ensured that the awards continue to inspire the very best health research and have contributed to strengthening Canada’s scientific research capacity and international reputation.

Our track record of consistently high quality adjudication and selection by the independent adjudication committees, have resulted in global recognition and esteem of the Canada Gairdner Awards.

In addition to encouraging and rewarding individuals who have made contributions in the conquest of disease and the relief of human suffering, the Foundation presents the Canada Gairdner Awards in order to focus public, professional and scientific attention on significant achievements in the field of health sciences. The awards also foster improved communication of ideas among scientists, students and the public.

In 2009, the Gairdner Foundation celebrated its 50th anniversary. Nearly two years in the planning, the Gairdner 50th was the largest gathering of the world’s top scientists ever held in Canada. Sixty Gairdner Laureates and 4,000 enthusiastic lecture attendees gathered for 3 days of lectures, forums, roundtables and Q&A sessions in Toronto.
The Foundation’s primary mission, through both its international awards and its National Program, is to encourage, reward and celebrate the very best biomedical research in the world through its awards, the Canada Gairdner International Awards, the Canada Gairdner Global Health Award, and the Canada Gairdner Wightman Award.

The Foundation plays an important role in scientific life in Canada through its second mission, the annual National Program. This ambitious program makes past and present recipients available to audiences in academic centres across Canada through faculty and graduate student lectures, high school lectures and public forums. It contributes to scientific literacy and increases appreciation of the important role that biomedical research plays in our country.

Our aim is not only to enhance Canada’s stature in the international scientific community, but to facilitate linkages between leading international scientists and Canadian research institutions and to inspire young Canadians to aspire to the highest levels of scientific excellence.

To be Canada’s pre-eminent awards for the most significant international scientific achievements in health research

To be identified internationally with the highest standard of research excellence in the field of health sciences

To provide inspiration to Canadian researchers, including the next generation, to achieve world-class levels of scientific excellence

To promote a science culture in Canada by increasing public awareness of its importance to our modern society
GOALS

The goal of the Foundation is to maintain and expand the profile of the Canada Gairdner Awards program, with a commitment to encouraging excellence and recognizing and rewarding those who achieve such excellence in the field of health sciences.

Biomedical research is fundamentally an international endeavour. The international stature of the awards conveys to the rest of the world that scientific research is both recognized and respected in Canada. The Gairdner Foundation recognizes, encourages and celebrates basic research and in so doing helps to foster a culture of research and innovation.

A unique aspect of the Gairdner Foundation is the National Program, where award recipients contribute a week of their time visiting Universities across Canada. The National Program brings the world’s top scientists to Canada and helps raise the profile of science in our country. This program provides a unique opportunity for Canadian scientists and graduate students to interact with international leaders who represent the best of scientific excellence.
MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

It is my privilege to have become the Chair of the Gairdner Foundation Board of Directors in the fall of 2009. I have the difficult task of following Henry Friesen as the Chair of the Board. Dr. Friesen has iconic stature in Canada and it is well deserved.

What a wonderful year 2009 was for the Gairdner Foundation – a year-long celebration of the 50th anniversary that brought Gairdner to a new level. The tremendous support from the federal government of $20 million in 2008 enabled the Foundation to increase the major prizes to $100,000 each – more in keeping with international prizes of this stature. The tremendous support from our many sponsors led by the Government of Ontario permitted the Gairdner Foundation to have a celebration of science that has never been equaled in Canada and rivals the best celebrations of scientific achievement worldwide.

Between March and November, seven major Gairdner symposia were held in the Canadian cities of Vancouver, Edmonton, Toronto (2), Ottawa, Montreal, Sherbrooke, and Halifax. There were Gairdner lectures in 19 academic centres in Canada culminating in an outstanding 3-day celebration of science in Toronto highlighted by the awards dinner at the Royal Ontario Museum. Over 60 Gairdner laureates including 21 Nobel laureates provided a wonderful variety of lectures attracting over 5,000 people.

It is remarkable that the small full-time staff of the Gairdner Foundation under the leadership of John Dirks can sponsor and coordinate such a wonderful event. Many volunteers, scientists who serve on the Medical Review Panel and the Medical Advisory Board, and many university personnel across the country make the celebrations possible. Key to the success is the warmth and respect shown to Gairdner awardees that welcomes them into the “Gairdner family”. Their willingness to assist with the Gairdner Foundation events is critically important to our success.

Our Board congratulates all those involved in the success of the 50th anniversary celebration and we feel strongly that we need to build on the momentum of the 50th celebration.

D. Lorne Tyrrell, OC, AOE, MD, PhD, FRCPC, FRSC
Chair, The Gairdner Foundation
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR

The Gairdner Foundation’s primary mission, through both its international awards and its National Program, is to encourage, reward and celebrate the very best biomedical research in the world through its awards; the Canada Gairdner International Awards, the Canada Gairdner Global Health Award, and the Canada Gairdner Wightman Award.

The Foundation plays an important role in scientific life in Canada through its mission of raising the profile of science through the annual National Program. This ambitious program makes past and present recipients available to audiences in academic centres across Canada through faculty and graduate student lectures, high school lectures and public forums. It contributes to scientific literacy and increases appreciation of the important role that biomedical research plays in our country.

As part of our 50th Anniversary, the awards were renamed the Canada Gairdner Awards, in recognition of a major contribution to our endowment from the Government of Canada. It enabled us to increase the value of the prizes to $100,000 each and to introduce a new award, the Canada Gairdner Global Health Award. The new award is an international prize in global health, a field of growing importance not only in the developing world, but here in Canada and around the globe.

The 50th anniversary, which took place between March 11 and November 4, 2009, was two years in the planning. During this time, our program included seven thematic symposia across the country, three days of scientific events in Toronto, and faculty and student lectures at a total of 19 academic centres. With an estimated total audience of 14,000, it was by far the largest celebration of scientific research ever held in this country.

The Gairdner Foundation is a partnering organization and we are grateful to the volunteer scientists and universities across Canada for their ongoing and enthusiastic participation in our programs. We are particularly indebted to the scientists from Canada and abroad whose dedication to selecting awardees solely on the basis of excellence is the very cornerstone of our reputation as one of the world’s leading awards.

We wish to thank our 2009 sponsors, without whom the National Program, Student Outreach and Awards dinner, would not have been possible.

In closing, I would like to express my deep appreciation to our recently retired Chair, Dr. Henry Friesen, whose vision and leadership guided the Foundation into a whole new era. I warmly welcome our new Chair, Dr. Lorne Tyrrell, from the University of Alberta, a proven leader whose dedication to scientific excellence will serve the Foundation well as it begins its second half century.

John H. Dirks, C.M., M.D., F.R.C.P.C., F.R.S.C.
President and Scientific Director
The Gairdner Foundation
There were seven outstanding recipients of the Canada Gairdner International Awards, the Canada Gairdner Wightman Award and the inaugural Canada Gairdner Global Health Award in 2009.

2009 Gairdner International Award Recipients

Richard Losick
Professor, Microbial Development and Gene Regulation, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA
for the discovery of mechanisms that define cell polarity and asymmetric cell division, processes key in cell differentiation and in the generation of cell diversity

Kazutoshi Mori
Professor, Department of Biophysics, Graduate School of Science, Kyoto University, Japan
for the dissection and elucidation of a key pathway in the unfolded protein response which regulates protein folding in the cell

Lucy Shapiro
Director, Beckman Center for Molecular and Genetic Medicine & Professor, Developmental Biology, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, CA, USA
for the discovery of mechanisms that define cell polarity and asymmetric cell division, processes key in cell differentiation and in the generation of cell diversity

Peter Walter
Professor, Department of Biochemistry, University of California, San Francisco, Investigator of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, CA, USA
for the dissection and elucidation of a key pathway in the unfolded protein response which regulates protein folding in the cell

Shinya Yamanaka
Professor, Department of Stem Cell Biology, Institute for Frontier Medical Sciences, Kyoto University, Japan
for his demonstration that the key transcription factors which specify pluripotency may become reprogrammed somatic cells to pluripotent stem cells

David Sackett – Gairdner Wightman Award recipient
Professor Emeritus, Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics, McMaster University, Hamilton, ON, CA
for his leadership in the fields of clinical epidemiology and evidence-based medicine, which have had major impacts internationally in applied clinical research and in the practice of medicine

Nubia Muñoz – Canada Gairdner Global Health Award recipient
Visiting Scientist, Catalan Institute of Oncology, Barcelona, Spain and Emeritus Professor, National Cancer Institute, Bogota, Colombia
for her epidemiological studies that defined the essential role of the human papilloma virus in the etiology of cervical cancer on a global level which led to the development of successful prophylactic vaccines
The Gairdner Foundation’s 50th Anniversary constituted a major celebration of science across Canada, presenting the work of 150 leading scientists from Canada and abroad. Every event was well subscribed, and presented to capacity audiences.

The year began in March with the first of seven cross-country symposia held in Vancouver on the personalized genome and concluded in November with a symposium on brain research that was co-presented by Gairdner and the Montreal Neurological Institute. From March to November, Gairdner co-presented a series of special symposia featuring past Gairdner awardees and prominent Canadian scientists. Each symposium drew capacity or close to capacity audiences.

**Vancouver**
*Science & the Future of Medicine (March 11); Chair, Michael Hayden, University of British Columbia, held as part of Research Week at UBC*  
Attendance - 1,000

**York**
*Commercialization & Entrepreneurship in Biomedical Health Research (May 14); Chair, Ron Pearlman, York University, held as part of York University 50th Anniversary celebrations*  
Attendance - 300

**Edmonton**
*Cancer Prevention Biology and Treatment (May 21-22); Co-Chairs, Lorne Tyrrell and Cyril Kay, University of Alberta and Cy Frank, University of Calgary in partnership with the Alberta Cancer Board*  
Attendance - 1,000

**Ottawa**
*Genes and the Heart and The Brain & the Mind: (June 3); Chairs, Dean Jacques Bradwjen, Ottawa University and Bob Roberts, CEO, OHRI, University of Ottawa*  
Attendance – 450

**Sherbrooke**
*RNA Symposium (Sept 20-23); Chair, Benoît Chabot; in conjunction with 10th anniversary of the RIBOClub, Université de Sherbrooke*  
Attendance - 225

**Halifax**
*Genetics and the Future of Medicine: Opportunities for Atlantic Canada (Oct 2); Chair, Jonathan Kronick, Dalhousie University*  
Attendance – 250

**Montreal**
*Pathways to Discovery in Neuroscience (Nov 2-3); Chair, Dave Colman; in partnership with Montreal Neurological Institute as part of its 75th Anniversary*  
Attendance - 450
National Program
The annual National Program expanded to 19 universities with the addition of the University of Prince Edward Island and Carleton University, both for the first time.
The Foundation had a much greater presence in Quebec than in prior years. For the first time, McGill and Université de Montréal held separate events. Events were also held at Université Laval and Université de Sherbrooke. We were pleased to be able to present Dr. Nubia Muñoz’s (2009) lectures in French.
The program in Atlantic Canada included a lecture by Dr. Tak Mak (1989) - “Cancer Metabolism: Back to the Future” at Memorial University of Newfoundland.

The National Program continues to attract large audiences in the West. Dr. David Sackett, spoke to a capacity crowd in Winnipeg on “The Tribulations of Not Performing Randomized Trials.” His lecture in Saskatoon was equally well received. At the University of British Columbia, Drs. Barry Marshall (1996) and Lucy Shapiro (2009) spoke. Their lectures were also videocast to the University of Victoria and the University of Northern British Columbia. This program was repeated at the University of Calgary, again to a capacity audience. In Edmonton, the Gairdner lectures featured Drs. David Sackett (2009), Peter Walter (2009) and Randy Scheckman (1996), who spoke to an audience of 400.

It was truly inspirational to see the award winners in person, some of the greatest intellectual minds of the world, and hear what they had to say about their experiences with science. It … has increased my motivation to pursue graduate studies in the field of medical and biological research.

- Lisa Weingarten, student
The year culminated in Toronto. Nearly two years in the planning, the 3-day Toronto Gairdner program was the largest gathering of the world’s top scientists ever held in Canada. Sixty Gairdner Laureates and an estimated 5,000 listeners gathered for three days of lectures, forums, roundtables and Q&A sessions.

The ambitious program included 50 different scientists speaking at a variety of sessions. The Wednesday and Thursday Symposia, all of which were standing room only, included:

- **Stem Cells Disease Mechanisms and Future Therapies** - Drs. Shinya Yamanaka (2009), Gordon Keller, Andras Nagy, Mario Capecchi (Gairdner 1993/Nobel 2007) Phillip Sharp (Gairdner 1986/Nobel 1993), Samuel Weiss (2008) and Oliver Smithies (Gairdner 1990 and 1993/Nobel 2007)


Thursday also featured an Industry Breakfast on Unclogging the Pipeline: Rejuvenating Drug Discovery. Completely ‘sold out’ in advance, it proved to be one of the most exciting of the events, with the moderator, Dr. Cal Stiller, and three panelists, Drs. David Baltimore (Gairdner 1974/Nobel 1975), Corey Goodman (1997) and Phillip Sharp (Gairdner 1986/Nobel 1993)

The Friday Laureates Forums covered some of the most exciting fields in biomedical research:
• Attack and Repulsions: Infections and the Immune System, moderated by Dr. David Baltimore (Gairdner 1974/Nobel 1975), featuring Drs. Ralph Steinman (2003), Emil Unanue (2000) and Rolf Zinkernagel (Gairdner 1986/Nobel 1996). The session concluded with a Q&A session with the audience of 850 people

• The Metabolic Syndrome: Food and Fuel for Thought, moderated by Dr. Joseph Goldstein (Gairdner 1981/Nobel 1985) featured Dr. Ron Evans (2006), Michael Brown (Gairdner 1981/Nobel 1985), Jeff Friedman (2005) and Tony Pawson (1994) presented to an audience of 1,000

• Cancer: Can New Insights into Biology Yield Better Results?, moderated by Michael Bishop (2007), featuring Drs. Harald zur Hausen (Gairdner 2008/Nobel 2008), Elizabeth Blackburn (Gairdner 1998/Nobel 2009), Bob Weinberg (1992), Dennis Slamon (2007) and Barry Marshall (Gairdner 1996/Nobel 2005). This session attracted the largest audience of the week, as 1,300 filled the hall to listen and ask questions

The final event of the week was the public lecture to an audience of 750 on The Personalized Genome: Do I Want to Know? Michael Hayden acted as moderator and NBC news correspondent Charles Sabine told his personal story about carrying the gene for Huntington’s disease. Drs. Sydney Brenner and George Church also participated in the lively discussion.
1. Maintain the Highest Standards Selecting Recipients of the Awards
   - Carol Greider (Gairdner 1998) and Elizabeth Blackburn (Gairdner 1998) received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2009
   - Tom Steitz (Gairdner 2007) received the 2009 Nobel Prize in Chemistry
   - Total of 76 Gairdner Laureates have subsequently been awarded a Nobel Prize
   - Additions to the MAB include Dr. Ralph Steinman (Gairdner 2003), Rockefeller University; Dr. Richard Rachubinski, University of Alberta and Dr. Suzanne Cory, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, Australia

2. Inspire Canadian Scientists to Seek Excellence
   - Profile Canada as a place where science is recognized and respected through the internationally acclaimed Canada Gairdner Awards
   - Annual awards dinner, held at the Royal Ontario Museum attended by 540 people. Keynote speakers were Professor David Naylor, President, University of Toronto and the Honourable John Milloy, Minister of Research and Innovation, Government of Ontario
   - Largest gathering of leading scientists ever held in Canada on October 28-30, as over 60 past awardees, including 21 Nobel Laureates gathered in Toronto for three days of talks, lectures, and media interviews to a total estimated audience of 5,000
   - Industry Breakfast featuring scientists known for transforming their work into successful commercial enterprises, attracted a diverse audience

3. Foster Collaboration between Canadian and International Scientists
   - Continue to bring scientists from abroad to meet with scientists in Canada through lectures, small group discussions, grand rounds, and social interactions
   - Seven symposia were held across the country between March and November, each featuring past Gairdner awardees and top Canadian scientists
   - Rockefeller University purchased a table for the Dinner, the first non-Canadian university to attend the awards dinner
   - An estimated 14,000 people attended Gairdner lectures and symposia in 2009, including senior scientists, postgraduate and graduate students, medical students, high school students and the public

4. Enhance and encourage a culture of science in Canada
   - Student Outreach Program expanded from 11 to 15 universities with participation almost doubling from 2,000 to 4,000 high school students attending
   - National Program expanded from 17 to 19 Universities across Canada.
   - Toronto events, including Minds that Matter Symposium, Industry Breakfast, Global Health Symposium, and the Nobel/Gairdner Forums attracted over 5,000 people
   - A total of 72 talks were given by Gairdner awardees across Canada during 2009. Leading Canadian and International scientists also took part in the various events between March and November
   - Many events were webcast and posted on the University of Toronto website, the Gairdner website and iTunes (through the MaRS portal)
   - Public lectures held in Vancouver, Edmonton and Toronto attracted over 1,400 people
   - Thanks to a sponsor, Edelman PR was hired for the first time. Media coverage was the highest ever achieved, with a multitude of newspaper and internet stories. Statistics indicate we achieved over 20 million media ‘hits’ during Gairdner week.
As we begin our second half century, the Foundation remains committed to excellence and foresight that have resulted in our reputation as a leading international prize. In the past decade, science and technology in general, and the life sciences in particular, have been identified as a critical basis for competitive success in the global economy. The Gairdner Foundation has embarked on several initiatives to bring an innovation agenda to the forefront. The Canada Gairdner Global Health Award has been well received, both here and abroad, as an innovative and much needed encouragement to those working in the field.

The National and Student Outreach Programs have become important events in university calendars across Canada. The opportunity for Canadian scientists, trainees and students to hear and interact with the superstars of medical science in communities across Canada acts as a catalyst to increase the ranks of Canadian scientists in the very top ranks.

1. Maintain the Highest Standards Selecting Recipients of the International, Wightman and Global Health Awards
   - Shinaya Yamanaka, 2009 Gairdner awardee and Jack Szostak, 2009 Nobel Laureate to join the Medical Advisory Board (MAB) in 2012
   - Phil Marsden, Canada’s leading nephrology clinical scientist, becomes co-chair of the MRP
   - Kiyoshi Kurokawa, former President of the Science Council of Japan, joins the Global Health Advisory Committee

2. Inspire Canadian Scientists to Seek Excellence
   - Through the Canada Gairdner International Awards, profile Canada in the media and in academic centres throughout the world, as a place where the importance of science is recognized
   - Continue to build the public profile of the Gairdner Foundation through advertising and media coverage:
     - Maintain the Globe & Mail as our national media sponsor
     - Videotape major talks for website distribution
     - Increase international exposure through April announcement ads in Science and Nature
     - Encourage coverage of 2010 recipients at their own academic institutions

3. Foster Collaboration between Canadian and International Scientists
   - Increase the National Program to include all provinces
   - Encourage media coverage abroad through press releases and background packages on Announcement Day
   - Anticipated activities for 2010 include:
     - Global Health Forum
     - Innovation Symposium at MaRS for biotech and pharmaceutical leaders
     - Minds That Matter Symposium in Toronto
     - Epigenetics Symposium in Toronto
     - Vaccine Symposium in Saskatchewan as part of the opening of VIDO

4. Enhance and encourage a culture of science in Canada
   - National Program of University Lectures at 18-20 institutions across Canada
   - Student Outreach Programs at 16 academic institutions across Canada
   - Increase media coverage of scientists and the importance of their research
   - Symposium on Capturing Innovation for the Public Good, a thought provoking gathering of North Americans on the cutting edge of translational research
Provincial Partners

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National Sponsor

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Canadian Institutes of Health Research
Institut de recherche en santé du Canada

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Ontario Institute for Cancer Research
GlaxoSmithKline
Roche
University Health Network

McEwen Centre for Regenerative Medicine

Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion
GOVERNMENT SUPPORT
The Gairdner Foundation thanks the following for their financial support: Government of Canada through Canadian Institutes of Health Research; the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Research and Innovation; the Alberta Government through Alberta Health and Wellness.
The Gairdner Foundation is governed by a 14 member Board of Directors, including 2 ex-officio members. The Board is comprised of individuals who bring their expertise from the academic, private and public sectors. Board members are nominated and appointed for an annual term.

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 purpose and goal.

The Board meets a minimum of twice each year. Directors of the Board take their role seriously and to the best of their ability, strive to be active participants in all Board and Committee meetings. During 2009, the Board met 5 times, with attendance or participation by conference call averaging in excess 80%.

In 2009, Dr. Henry Friesen retired from his position as Chair of the Board after serving a term of 4 years.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2009

Dr. D. Lorne Tyrrell  
Board Chair  
Edmonton

Lynne Upton  
Vice-Chair  
Victoria

Dr. John Dirks  
President/Scientific Director  
Toronto

Jacques Bougie  
Corporate Director  
Montreal

Bren Gairdner  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Spruce View, Alberta

Gary Goldberg  
President, Gadango Inc.  
Toronto

Edward Kisling  
President, Victoria Management Strategies Inc.  
Victoria

Kevin Lynch  
Former Clerk of the Privy Council  
Ottawa

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Chairman and CEO, H.Y. Louie Co. Limited  
Chairman of the Board, London Drugs Limited  
Vancouver

Ann McCaig  
Chancellor Emeritus, University of Calgary  
Calgary

Eric Newell  
Chancellor Emeritus and Special Advisor to the Provost, University of Alberta  
Edmonton

Joseph Rotman  
Chairman and CEO, Roy-L Capital Corporation,  
Toronto

Melissa Todd  
Waterloo
The Board has in place a number of standing committees which help the Board discharge its duties.

**Audit Committee**- meet 4 times per year
Jacque Bougie, Chair
Bren Gairdner
Edward Kisling
Eric Newell

**Investment Committee**- meet 4 times per year
Brandt Louie, Chair
Gary Goldberg
Edward Kisling
Eric Newell

**Governance and Nominating Committee**- meet minimum of 1 time per year
Lorne Tyrrell, Chair
Joe Rotman
Lynne Upton

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

In 2008, a funding agreement was executed between CIHR and the Gairdner Foundation outlining the terms of a $20 Million grant received from Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Proceeds from the grant were used to establish an endowment to support and enhance the Awards, and to ensure that the Canada Gairdner International Awards continue to grow in stature on the international stage.

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

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

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

- Preservation of capital;
- Income to meet the administrative costs and award objectives of the Foundation;
- Growth in the ‘capital’ value of the Portfolio’s assets in real (inflation-adjusted) terms.

In reviewing the Foundation’s investment objectives, risk tolerance, income requirements and liquidity needs, a long term target asset allocation of 50% fixed income and 50% equity has been approved. An interim asset allocation of 60% fixed income and 40% equity has been implemented over the short-term with the intent of achieving the target allocation over time.

The investment strategy and policy are reviewed annually and the portfolio is reviewed on a quarterly basis. No issues were identified in the 2009 reviews.

The market value of the investment portfolio increased from $23.5 million at the end of 2008 to $26 million at the end of 2009. Overall, the portfolio yielded a return on investment of 11.8% in fiscal 2009, exceeding the benchmark by more than 1%.

Results of Operations

Income for the year totaled $3.4 million, made up of $1.3 million from the private sector (38%), $1.75 million from three governments (52%), and $.35 million from investment income (10%). Every year the Foundation seeks sponsors from both the public and private sector.

Income from government increased substantially in 2009 due to a full year under the Federal funding agreement, as well as special grants for our 50th Anniversary events. Private sector support also increased in 2009 with special grants for the 50th Anniversary. Income from investments increased by $.47 million, due to improved financial market conditions.

Expenses were $2.5 million for the year, up from $1.5 million in 2008. This increase related to the increase in the amount of the awards from $30,000 each to $100,000, as well as a vastly expanded National Program, and special 50th anniversary symposia held across the country during 2009.
Jack Gauldie, Co-Chair
Department Of Pathology & Molecular Medicine
Director, Center for Gene Therapeutics, McMaster University

Philip Marsden, Co-Chair
Keenan Chair in Medical Research Department of Medicine, Renal Division, University of Toronto

Samuel Aparicio
Nan & Lorraine Robertson Chair UBC/BC Cancer Agency

Stephen Archer
Chief, Section of Cardiology Department of Medicine, University of Chicago

Cheryl Arrowsmith
Ontario Cancer Institute Department of Medical Biophysics & Banting & Best Department of Research, University of Toronto

John Bell
Senior Scientist, Ottawa Health Research Institute

Samuel Benchimol
Department of Biology Canada Research Chair in Biomedical Health, York University

Mickie Bhatia
Stem Cell and Cancer Research Institute, Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine, McMaster University

Eric Brown
Canada Research Chair in Chemical Biology, McMaster University

Benoit Chabot
Canada Research Chair in Functional Genomics, Université de Sherbrooke

Susan Cole
Bracken Chair in Genetics & Molecular Medicine, Canada Research Chair in Cancer Biology, Tier 1, Queen’s University

Stephen Collins
Associate Dean, Research Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University

Jacques Corbeil
Director Quebec Centre for Genomics Canada Research Chair in Medical Genomics, Université Laval

James Cross
Director, Institute of Maternal and Child Health, Faculty of Medicine, University of Calgary

Jacques Drouin
Chair in Molecular Genetics Institute de Recherches Cliniques de Montreal

Volker Gerds
Associate Director (Research), Vaccine and Infectious Disease University of Saskatchewan

Ronald Gill
Scientific Director, Alberta Diabetes Institute Dr. Charles A. Allard Chair in Diabetes Research, University of Alberta

Philip Hieter
Director, Michael Smith Laboratories University of British Columbia

Jack Jhamandas
Associate Dean Research Chair in Alzheimer Research, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry University of Alberta

Jean-Pierre Julien
Canada Research Chair in Mechanisms of Neurodegeneration Université de Laval

Jonathan Lytton
University of Calgary, Health Research Innovation Center

J. (Quim) Madrenas
Canada Research Chair in Immunobiology University of Western Ontario Head of Immunology, Robarts Research Institute

Jean Marshall
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President and Scientific Director  
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