



# THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE GAIRDNER FOUNDATION

Enhancing Health Outcomes in the  
Developing World

**gairdner**  
LES PRIX CANADA GAIRDNER AWARDS



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The Gairdner Foundation was established in 1957 and is dedicated to recognizing major research contributions to the treatment of disease and alleviation of human suffering. Through the annual prestigious Canada Gairdner Awards, the Gairdner Foundation has raised the profile of Canada as a nation that fosters innovation and scientific excellence. Since 1959, **more than 418 international scientists have received the Canada Gairdner Award and 102 have gone on to win the Nobel Prize.** The Canada Gairdner Awards are recognized internationally as being among the most prestigious in the world, based on our reputation for rigorous review and early recognition of breakthroughs in science.

While our accomplishments to date are impressive, there is no margin for stasis in our constantly changing environment. In response to this, **the Gairdner Foundation has launched a fundraising campaign to raise \$25 million to implement new programs and activities that promote a culture of, and investment in, science excellence and innovation in Canada.** It will augment our already prestigious awards, improve the wellbeing of those facing health inequalities worldwide and enhance our cutting-edge programming with our goal of increasing science literacy. It will increase Canada's ability to retain the brightest talent and inspire young minds to pursue a career in science. It will allow the Gairdner Foundation to respond quickly to new and innovative opportunities and challenges.





# ENHANCING HEALTH OUTCOMES IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

The Covid-19 pandemic served as a harrowing reminder of our shared vulnerability. It demonstrated unequivocally that the health of the individual is inextricably linked to the greater global health network. Diseases know no boundaries, and as such, our efforts to combat them must also transcend borders, cultures and socio-economic divides. The pandemic highlighted that indifference towards the health and wellbeing of communities, both in Canada and around the world can have cascading effects, underscoring the essence of health equity.

This cascading effect can be profound. One small action or effort can often create the energy for change, reminding us that our actions, or inactions, can have far-reaching consequences. By championing global health equity, the Gairdner Foundation can not only uplift the most vulnerable and marginalized among us, but also strengthen our global community around future health-related challenges. We will work to ensure that health equity is not just an ideal, but a reality for all. We will accomplish this through a \$10 million (Endowed) Global Health Program that includes:





# HOW WILL WE ACCOMPLISH THIS?

## **1 Enhancing the Value of the John Dirks Canada Gairdner Global Health Award**

Since 2009, the Gairdner Foundation has recognized research and researchers that profoundly impact global health and health inequity through the Canada Gairdner Global Health Award. During this time, the award has grown significantly to become one of the world's most prestigious awards recognizing excellence in global health research. To date, 19 of the world's leading researchers who have used rational, scientifically-based research to improve the wellbeing of those facing health inequalities worldwide have received the award. The Canada Gairdner Global Health Award not only recognizes significant scientific discoveries, but also applied scientific approaches to successful implementation, evaluation and policy interventions. Among these researchers include a Nobel Prize winner, a leader in international pandemic response, an icon of world class research performed in the Global South, and champions for women in science and women affected by HIV/AIDS.

To truly recognize the impact of these and other scientists, our goal is to increase the value of the Canada Gairdner Global Health Award from \$100,000 annually to \$250,000 annually, in line with the increase in value of the Canada Gairdner International Awards.



# MEET OUR CANADA **GAIRDNER** GLOBAL HEALTH AWARD WINNERS



## **Dr. Satoshi Omura, 2014**

Dr. Satoshi Omura from Japan was recognized for his discovery of a microbe that produced a potent anti-parasitic chemical, which in a collaboration with Dr William Campbell, led to the production of ivermectin. This has been used to treat millions for river blindness and other tropical diseases around the world. Dr. Omura and Dr. Campbell shared part of the Nobel Prize in Medicine and Physiology in 2015 for their discovery.



## **Dr. Anthony Fauci, 2016**

Dr. Anthony Fauci was awarded the Canada Gairdner Global Health Award in 2016 for his extensive efforts to understand and treat infectious diseases, most notably HIV. Dr. Fauci's most important accomplishment was his role as the principal architect of the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), which saved the lives of millions of HIV-infected individuals throughout the developing world. He went on to promote safe, evidence-based prevention and treatment options for COVID-19.



## **Dr. Cesar Victora, 2017**

Dr. Cesar Victora followed a birth cohort of mothers and babies in Southern Brazil over many years. His studies produced clear evidence of the long-lasting health benefits of exclusive breast feeding for the first months of life. These findings are now the WHO recommendation for all mothers worldwide.



## **Drs. Quarraisha & Salim Abdool-Karim, 2020**

Drs. Quarraisha and Salim Abdool-Karim received their award for their efforts in reducing the burden of HIV in Sub-Saharan Africa. They also led the COVID response efforts in South Africa and were awarded the Lasker-Bloomberg Public Service Award in 2024 for their efforts. Quarraisha Abdool-Karim is recognized internationally as an active leader in the promotion of women in science and of women affected by the HIV/AIDS epidemic.



## **2 Establishing Global Early Career Investigator and Global Implementation Champion Prizes**

Early career researchers have the energy, enthusiasm, and the new and unencumbered ideas that lead to different ways of seeing and thinking about problems. Unfortunately, working in lower and middle-income countries can be very challenging in terms of mentorship and support. Our goal is to help build flexible research capacity and reward emerging excellence on the ground where it matters.

The Gairdner Global Early Career Investigator Prize will recognize outstanding young faculty members from around the world who are working in the region, the field, or the network of the recipient of the Canada Gairdner Global Health Award each year. Through a rigorous adjudication process that involves Gairdner laureates, a global health researcher early in their career will be invited to attend Gairdner Science Week to network with other researchers, participate in Gairdner events and receive a financial award of \$25,000.

The work of exceptional researchers does not often reach its full potential until implementation makes it a reality. The Global Implementation Champion Prize will recognize an individual working in the region, the field, or the network of the recipient of the annual Canada Gairdner Global Health Award, who is translating the work of the recipient into measurable impact at the population level. Through a rigorous adjudication process involving Gairdner laureates, each year an implementation champion will be invited to attend Gairdner Science Week to network with other researchers and implementors, participate in Gairdner events and receive a financial reward of \$40,000.



### 3 HOSTING AN ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL GLOBAL HEALTH SYMPOSIUM

In keeping with our mission to celebrate, inform and inspire scientific excellence around the globe, the Gairdner Foundation will host an annual Global Health Symposium. This major event will celebrate the recipient of the Canada Gairdner Global Health Award in a location relevant to their work. The audience for the symposium will include scientific experts, implementation and research team members, organizational representatives and policy-makers involved in the recognized research. They will be joined by international leaders to discuss global health issues and public health challenges and explore effective solutions within the context of local culture, environment, public health and medical resources.

In a world where the challenges we face are increasingly complex and interconnected, the pursuit of outstanding scientific achievement has never been more crucial. It is through innovation and the relentless pursuit of knowledge that we can address the greatest challenges of our age and shape a better future for all.





# YOUR SUPPORT IS CRITICAL TO OUR MISSION

By supporting the Campaign for the Gairdner Foundation, you are championing scientific excellence and contributing to the advancement of global health and well-being. Together, we can enhance scientific literacy and awareness, inspire the next generation of scientists, and support innovative initiatives that accelerate the pace of discovery.

Please join us in our quest to drive scientific excellence around the globe.

Donate now at  
<https://www.gairdner.org/donate>

Or contact David White  
at [david@gairdner.org](mailto:david@gairdner.org)  
for more information

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