

Remarks for Peter Brenders

re: appointment of Dr. Prigent to the Governing Council of the CIHR

- Am here today representing BIOTECanada-a national organization dedicated to the sustainable commercial development of biotechnology in Canada
- We are governed by a volunteer Board of Directors and serve a membership of more than 250 companies, institutions and research organizations all working to build the bio-economy in Canada
- Our 20 member Board is comprised of representatives from all sectors within the biotechnology industry, as well as knowledge and services providers and an academic representative
- Pfizer Canada and CIHR are both represented on our Board.
- We asked to appear here today for one important reason- we fundamentally believe in the mandate of CIHR and support the recent appointment of Dr. Prigent to the Governing Council of CIHR
- This appointment serves as an excellent example of the collaborative nature discovery and development play in the pursuit of improving the overall health of Canadians
- The mandate of CIHR is very clear-it specifically outlines a commitment to improve the health of Canadians and strengthen the health care system here in Canada



- To realize this goal we have to be globally aware, globally connected and globally capable
- Research does not translate into treatments in a vacuum. In fact, very little research ever gets transferred into practice.
- The lifecycle of development has partnerships with academia, research institutions, governments and industry throughout the entire process in order to reach the hands of doctors and their patients
- As other witnesses have indicated to you, other national and provincial research based organizations have pursued this collaborative approach to their governance.
- The simple fact is Canada cannot afford to do anything less.
- I have the privilege in my role in helping to promote the remarkable caliber of scientific research and discovery Canada offers to the world
- Canada has a long earned reputation for excellent science and research capacity throughout the world
- National organizations such as the NRC, Agriculture Canada, and Health Canada, combined with dozens of Canadian academic institutions have helped to foster a world class reputation for scientific excellence.
- We have a lot to be proud of. We have a lot to protect.



- The creation of CIHR in 2000 was lauded as a milestone for Canada. While it certainly was, in fact, we were simply catching up to what other nations had done years and years before.
- The American National Institutes of Health Research was officially created in 1948, in the UK the Wellcome Trust was established in 1936, and in France the National Institute of Health and Medical Research was created in 1964.
- The creation of CIHR served as catalyst for inspiring research, building our network of leadership in human health, and placed Canada into the global agenda of championing better health for its citizens.
- One of our key focuses as an organization is to work to present policy recommendations to help Canada remain a leader in the global race of research and development
- Every day I see examples of how the cycle of discovery and development is changing –the key trend lies in collaboration and partnership.
- Genome Canada struck a partnership on stem cell research for Canada with California. The Michael Smith foundation in British Columbia in October announced the BC Cancer Agency's first ever decoding of the genetic evolution of a breast cancer tumour. Ontario institute of Cancer Research recently announced their success in identifying new colorectal cancer genes. In September, the FRSQ(Fonds de la Reserches Sante en Quebec) announced important research findings concerning the contagion period for H1N1.



- At the University of Calgary researchers in the Faculty of Medicine are part of a seven-city program that is looking at new early detection techniques for lung cancer, Canada's leading cause of cancer death.
- In September University of Toronto researchers create microchip that detects type and severity of cancer
- In October a team of University of British Columbia microbiologists has identified a key defence mechanism used by the immune system against *Listeria* with strong implications for the future development of vaccines.
- Why are these recent achievements relevant to your hearing today? Each and every one of them was achieved by an organization whose leadership within their Board included representation from Canada's private sector.
- Building a modern nation able to care for its citizens in the 21st century means setting an agenda respectful of the environment needed to achieve our goal.
- BIOTECanada has joined a national coalition of 6 other national organizations including the Association of Faculties of Medicine in Canada, Canada's Research Based Pharmaceutical Companies RX&D, the Health Charities Coalition of Canada, Canada's Medical Device Technology Companies MEDEC, Research Canada, An Alliance for Health Discovery and ACAHO, the Association of Canadian Academic Healthcare Organizations



- As a group we wrote to the Prime minister earlier this year calling for policy engagement citing the unprecedented global competition for state-of-the-art research capacity building needed to realize better health for Canadians
- Research alone will never offer the treatments, diagnostics, medical technologies needed to improve our health outcomes.
- Who did we turn to as we built the global response to H1N1? Industry was the primary partner governments around the world sought out in order to develop a vaccine to protect their citizens.
- The vital potential of CIHR will only be realized if they are enabled as per their mandate to pursue leadership with global expertise.
- Dr. Prigent is one of those people.

