



**Canadian Paediatric Society  
86<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
The Westin Ottawa**

**Great honours for great work: 2009 CPS award winners**

**Alan Ross Award: Dr. Victor Blanchette**

The Canadian Paediatric Society's most prestigious honour, the Alan Ross Award, goes to Dr. Victor Blanchette in acknowledgement of his outstanding contributions to the care of children and youth. For more than four decades, Dr. Blanchette has been a committed clinician, educator, researcher and advocate in the field of paediatric haematology and oncology.

An outstanding educator and mentor, trainees in paediatric haematology and oncology come from all over Canada—and the world—to learn from him. Many of the hematostasis and thrombosis centres in Canada are directed by Dr. Blanchette's former students.

He takes his clinical specialty far beyond the classroom, office and lab. His advocacy has led to posts as Chair of the Council of Canadian Paediatric Haematology/Oncology Directors Group and a board membership with the Pediatric Oncology Group of Ontario. He also played an instrumental role in the designation of paediatric haematology/oncology as a subspecialty by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and has developed and led patient support groups for children suffering from blood disorders and their families.

Dr. Blanchette's research has had a major impact on how clinicians treat haemophilia in paediatric patients and has conducted numerous studies dealing with the condition: prophylaxis, inhibitor management, pharmacokinetics of factor concentrates, quality of life, cost effectiveness, and disease complications and outcomes. He united experts in the field of prophylaxis to create the International Prophylaxis Study Group whose goal is to acquire and share new findings about prophylaxis in haemophilia.

Dr. Blanchette is chief of the Division of Haematology/Oncology at the Hospital for Sick Children and professor of paediatrics at the University of Toronto. He is also a senior

associate scientist in the Hospital for Sick Children's Research Institute and a clinician investigator in the Department of Paediatrics.

*The Alan Ross Award will be presented during the Opening Ceremonies of the CPS Annual Conference, Tuesday, June 23, 3:30 to 5:00 p.m.*

### **CPS Research Award: Dr. Constantin Polychronakos**

Dr. Constantin Polychronakos receives the 2009 CPS Research Award for his work on the genetics of diabetes.

Dr. Polychronakos' work focuses on the field of common complex diseases. His major discoveries have come from two areas of investigation: First, the exploration of the human genome to uncover DNA variant sites indicating a person's risk for disease, and second, using these variants to find out how they alter the body's biology. Dr. Polychronakos' findings will heighten understanding of common diseases and improve treatments.

For his research, Dr. Polychronakos assembled the second-largest sample size in the world—just under 5,000 DNA samples from Canadian families recruited in the 1990s. The resulting paper, *A genome-wide association study identifies novel risk loci for type 2 diabetes*, appeared in the journal *Nature* in 2007.

Dr. Polychronakos is an associate professor in the Department of Pediatrics and associate member of Experimental Medicine and Department of Human Genetics at McGill University. He is also a founding member of the Type 1 Diabetes Genetics Consortium.

*The CPS Research Award honours the best in Canadian child and youth health research. It will be presented at the President's Luncheon on Saturday, June 27, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.*

### **Michel Weber Education Award: Dr. Wade Watson**

Dr. Wade Watson is the first to receive the Michel Weber Education Award. Established in 2008, the award recognizes a CPS member who has had a significant impact in medical and/or inter-professional education.

Teaching has been central to Dr. Watson's career. In addition to teaching medical students, residents and colleagues, Dr. Watson is also highly regarded for his work on asthma education programs in Winnipeg and Halifax. His list of public lectures, media appearances and seminars is exhaustive.

Dr. Watson is a professor of paediatrics at Dalhousie University where he is also the head of the Division of Allergy. He earned a Master of Education from the University of Manitoba in 2005.

*The Michel Weber Education Award will be presented at the President's Luncheon on Saturday, June 27, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.*

### **Geoffrey C. Robinson Award: Dr. Clyde Hertzman**

Dr. Clyde Hertzman receives the Geoffrey C. Robinson Award for his outstanding research contributions in population health.

Dr. Hertzman leads the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) at the University of British Columbia, an internationally-renowned research network that integrates behavioural and social sciences with biomedical sciences. The program studies lifespan development with a focus on early childhood. The World Health Organization (WHO) designated HELP the Global Knowledge Hub on Early Childhood Development during the International Commission on the Social Determinants of Health from 2005 to 2007.

Dr. Hertzman has authored hundreds of journal articles, book chapters, discussion papers, commission reports and other publications. He is a Canada Research Chair in Population Health and Human Development and a professor in the School of Population and Public Health at UBC.

*The Geoffrey C. Robinson Award recognizes outstanding contributions to child and youth health through recent research in the field of population health or health services research. It will be presented at the President's Luncheon on Saturday, June 27, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.*

### **Distinguished Neonatologist Award: Dr. Molly Seshia**

The Distinguished Neonatologist Award goes to Dr. Molly Seshia—a physician whose academic mentorship and over two decades commitment to the health and well being of newborns has earned an international reputation.

Dr. Seshia recently stepped down from 25 years as section head of neonatology in the Department of Pediatrics and Child Health at the University of Manitoba. Under Dr. Seshia's leadership, the department matured into a program recognized worldwide for its cooperative teamwork as well for excellence in teaching, research and clinical expertise.

Dr. Seshia is now leading the effort for an integrated neonatal service at a new women's hospital in Winnipeg.

*The Distinguished Neonatologist Award recognizes sustained contributions to the field of neonatology. It will be presented at the 2009 Distinguished Neonatologist Award Dinner on Tuesday, June 23, at 6:30 pm.*

### **Noni MacDonald Award: Dr. Robert Harrison**

This year's Noni Macdonald Award goes to Dr. Robert Harrison for his article, *Noise-induced hearing loss in children: A 'less than silent' environmental danger*, which appeared in the May-June 2008 issue of *Paediatrics & Child Health*.

The increasing popularity of sound amplification for children's entertainment purposes has caused increased hearing loss in the paediatric population. Dr. Harrison's piece demonstrates that damage to hearing in children and youth can have a profound impact on the rest of their lives.

Dr. Harrison is professor and director of research in the Department of Otolaryngology and is cross-appointed in the Department of Physiology at the University of Toronto. He is also a senior scientist in neuroscience and mental health at the Hospital for Sick Children as well as scientific director of The Hearing Foundation of Canada.

The Noni MacDonald Award highlights an exemplary contribution by an author whose article has positively affected paediatric medicine—whether through raising awareness about an issue, presenting new scientific research or inspiring change.

*The Noni MacDonald Award will be presented at the CPS Annual General Meeting on Friday, June 26, from 9:45 to 11:45 a.m.*