
Introduction to the Visions for Multiple Sclerosis Research Symposium

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Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a highly disabling neurological disease, with multiple clinical phenotypes usually affecting people in the prime of life. MS is endemic in the Canadian Prairies with among the highest the prevalence rates in the



Figure 1: Mr. Doug Horner, Alberta's Minister of Advanced Education; Mr. Neil Pierce, Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada; Dr. Christopher Power, Organizing Committee.

world. At the same time, there has been substantial progress in the knowledge and treatment of MS over the past two to three decades. The molecular basis of MS has been increasingly elucidated using a broad range of technological tools coupled with epidemiological studies providing new avenues for the management of MS.

In Alberta, we have been fortunate to have a pioneer in the science of MS and care of patients, Dr. Kenneth G. Warren. Dr.

Warren came to Alberta in 1978 and has since built a team of investigators and care providers at the University of Alberta dedicated to the understanding and treatment of MS. Thus, it was timely to hold a symposium to highlight the research of several of the best MS scientists in the world in recognition of Dr. Warren's commitment and accomplishments to MS over the past 30 years.

We would like to express our gratitude to Mr. Doug Horner (Minister of Advanced Education and Technology), Drs. Tom Marrie (Dean of Medicine and Dentistry) and Lorne Babiuk (Vice President of Research) for their opening remarks to the Symposium, as well as our speakers, each of whom has very



Figure 2: Dr. Christopher Power and Dr. Kenneth Warren.



Figure 3: Dr. Kenneth Warren, Dr. Jack Antel, Dan Warren, and Ingrid Catz.

kindly provided an overview of their presentations at the Symposium in this supplement. We also wish to thank our sponsors for their contributions to the Symposium including the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and the Department of Medicine at the University of Alberta, the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Canada, Alberta Health Services and the Canada Research Chair in Neurological Infection and Immunity.

In addition, we are indebted to those individuals who assisted with the Symposium including Courtney Heffernan, Ingrid Catz

and the members of the BrainPowerLab. Finally, we are immensely grateful for the tremendous efforts in organizing the Symposium on the part of Leah DeBlock.

We hope the accompanying articles will stand as a tribute to the endeavors of Dr. Warren while also providing inspiration for future insights into the understanding and treatment of multiple sclerosis.

The Organizing Committee: Christopher Power, Gregg Blevins, Penelope Smyth, Fabrizio Giuliani



Figure 4: Dr. Christopher Power, Leah DeBlock, Dr. Lawrence Steinman, Dr. Jack Antel, Dr. Freda Miller, Dr. Kenneth Warren, Dr. Wayne Moore, Dr. Fabrizio Giuliani, and Dr. Peter Stys.