



Foundation on Antivirals

MEETING THE CHALLENGE

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

It is estimated that viral infections kill some five million people worldwide each year. But even these numbers pale in comparison to the devastation which could be caused by a major viral pandemic. A study published in "The Atlantic Monthly" in October 2009, estimated that such a pandemic could claim more victims than the Plague and AIDS combined.

In response, the International Consortium on Antivirals, (ICAV) presents a unique and innovative concept of international scientific collaboration based on the model developed by leading Canadian researchers in response to the SARS epidemic.

The first stage in the development of antiviral therapies - the discovery of promising molecules - is to a large extent, if not entirely, supported by subsidies provided by the countries of ICAV's 250 affiliated scientists. However, when these discoveries reach the clinical or pre-clinical testing stage, there is often no government or corporate funding available to fund this crucial element in the development process.

FAV's mission is to fill that funding gap. Its goal is to contribute to the development of at least one new antiviral therapy every five years.

The planning for FAV commenced in late 2007 and took the best part of a year and a half to progress from inspiration to reality.

Thanks to the generous participation of the Government of Québec and Montréal International, the International Secretariat of FAV was established in Montreal exactly one year ago. The Foundation was awarded charitable not-for-profit status by the Government of Canada in May 2009.

As the founding Chairman of FAV, I was delighted to welcome His Excellency Jacques Chirac, former President of France, and the Right Honourable Jean Chrétien, former Prime Minister of Canada, who agreed to become the Foundation's Honorary Patrons.

We are privileged that Mssrs. Laurent Beaudoin, Jon Dellandrea, Donald Johnston and Guy Saint-Pierre have agreed to become Governors of the Foundation.

And, I am sincerely grateful to the members of our Board of Directors, whose association and involvement contribute to the prestige and influence of the Foundation internationally.

During its first year, FAV focused its fund raising campaign on international Canadian-based corporations. I take this opportunity to thank the members of our Board, our Governors and our volunteers for their invaluable support, and to urge them to intensify their efforts so that we may reach our objectives in a timely fashion.

Next fall, we plan to extend our activities to the United States, Europe, the Middle East and the Asia/Pacific region.

Donations received will be attributed by the Board on the advice of the Scientific Committee of the Foundation based on recommendations made by ICAV.

Regular progress reports will be circulated to the members of the Board and shared with our donors.

Again, I would like to express my gratitude to those who have lent their support to FAV over the past year. Without exception, they have demonstrated the noble qualities of altruism, generosity and devotion to a great humanitarian cause.



Pierre J. Jeannot, O.C., C.Q.  
Chairman of the Board

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The theme of our first Annual Report 'MEETING THE CHALLENGE' captures the essence of our mission and the challenge of fundraising in a difficult economic climate.

Launching a major international foundation in 2009 presented a particularly tough challenge at a point in time when economies the world over were just beginning to show signs of recovery from the worst recession in eighty years. Like everyone else, major donors have been left badly shaken, and disinclined to make large financial commitments, preferring to stay their hand until the economic recovery takes hold.

As we set to work last June, our first order of business was to develop a straightforward information package to explain clearly and concisely FAV's mission and its innovative financing concept, which counts on the generosity of corporations and foundations to help develop a new generation of antivirals. Also, we felt it necessary to explain clearly the relationship between FAV and the International Consortium on Anti-Virals (ICAV).

Therefore, much of the summer of 2009 was taken up with the preparation of comprehensible bilingual materials. We also took the time to finalize our strategic fundraising plan in readiness for the launch of our national campaign in late September.

Over the past few months, we have presented the Foundation to many Canadian-based multinationals. I am pleased to report that, in the first month of its new fiscal year, FAV received major pledges that will allow it to reach the fundraising objectives set down for its first year of operations. It should be noted that neither the pertinence nor the existence of the Foundation are in question. However, it is imperative that we secure rapidly additional funding from different sources if we are to ensure the ongoing operations of the International Secretariat. In this regard, we are currently exploring a number of possible avenues.

In line with our strategic action plan, we will extend fundraising activities beyond Canada in the fall. Also, we are studying new, innovative sources of financing that we look forward to unveiling in late 2010.

On behalf of the Foundation, I wish to thank the Government of Québec and Montréal International for their generous financial backing that allowed us to establish FAV's International Secretariat in Montreal. We look forward to their continuing support and commitment.

In closing, I wish to underline the exceptional contribution of our co-founders, Mr. Pierre J. Jeannot and Dr. Michel Chrétien, and to thank our Honourary Patrons, the Members of our Board, our Governors, and our staff for their unflinching dedication and commitment to the Foundation.



Jocelyn L. Beaudoin, C.M.  
President and CEO

## MESSAGE FROM THE SCIENTIFIC DIRECTOR

In the past year, viral infections have continued to wreak havoc on populations the world over. HIV-AIDS is spreading in most regions of the globe. Dengue fever remains the most widespread viral infection, and it is making inroads into the northern hemisphere. Diarrhea kills as many children as ever. Viral infections remain unpredictable, as was amply demonstrated by the H1N1 pandemic.

With FAV still in its infancy, my responsibilities as Scientific Director cover four main areas:

### RESEARCH DEVELOPMENTS

- a) H1N1: The sudden onslaught of the pandemic forced ICAV to focus much of its research on finding a response to this new virus that closely resembles the one that caused the devastating 1918 Spanish Flu pandemic. Although vaccination became the first line of defense against H1N1, it is not a treatment. We were exceedingly fortunate that in its second wave H1N1 was milder than anticipated. However, it retains the capacity to become much more obnoxious in a third wave.

By that time, ICAV hopes to have ready a novel type of antiviral called tHuMABs (true human monoclonal antibodies) currently being developed by a Canadian team of ICAV-affiliated scientists. These antivirals will represent our first line of treatment for patients in respiratory distress – a complication that is often a secondary effect of the flu.

- b) Dengue: ICAV's most promising drug against dengue – ICAV 002 – is currently being tested in animals. If successful, this will lead to trials in large cohorts of patients.
- c) HIV-AIDS, Hepatitis C, flavivirus: 4 potential drugs have reached the stage of target validation.

### SCIENTIFIC NETWORKING

- a) I was member of the organizing committee of the 8<sup>th</sup> International Symposium of the International Consortium on Anti-virals held in Corsica between October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>, 2009. There were sessions on influenza, HIV-AIDS, dengue, and a special one devoted to Innovative Financing and Innovative Spending.
- b) In February, I took part in the Québec-India Mission led by Premier Jean Charest (accompanied by Ministers Clément Gignac and Pierre Arcand). Through my extensive network of contacts, developed over many years, I was able to facilitate meetings with Indian biotechs.
- c) During my visit to India, I also organized a meeting of 14 Indian scientists from 6 institutions that resulted in the creation of an Indian scientific consortium affiliated to ICAV. They are now planning to hold an international symposium in India in 2011 or 2012.

### INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

- Since 2005, I have maintained regular contact with Dr. Douste-Blazy, former French Minister of Health, and later Minister of Foreign Affairs, and current Special Advisor to the Secretary General of the United Nations on Innovative Finance for Development, with the rank of Under Secretary General. He has been responsible for setting up innovative financing methods and developing a complex pyramid of international NGOs.

The mandate of each constituent is as follows:

- UNITAID: Set up four years ago. The organization's funding comes from a tax on air travel tickets and up-front annual contributions from 23 countries. In partnership with the Clinton Foundation, it has so far provided \$1.4 billion dollars to buy drugs for the treatment AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

- MILLENNIUM FOUNDATION (MF): The foundation was established two years ago. Its mandate is to explore innovative fundraising methods. FAV's Chairman and its Scientific Director took part in the consultation process that led to its creation.
- VOLUNTARY SOLIDARITY CONTRIBUTION (VSC): MF developed this new project whereby, for each internet travel/tourism reservation, customers are invited to make a voluntary contribution of \$2 or more. UNITAID estimates that VSC will raise more than \$1 billion per year. FAV was invited to its official launch at the United Nations in New York in September 2009.
- MASSIVEGOOD: I attended its March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 launch at the United Nations in New York. Among invited speakers were Ban Ki-Moon, Bill Clinton, Princess Cristina of Spain and Philippe Douste-Blazy. The Right Honourable Jean Chrétien, FAV Honourary Patron, was a special guest.
- MEDICINE PATENT POOL FOUNDATION: The organization was established on April 15<sup>th</sup> 2010 with a mandate to negotiate with pharmaceutical companies the intellectual property (IP) on their drugs. MPPF presents an excellent fit with the FAV/ICAV tandem that offers considerable built-in IP expertise.

In partnership with Montréal International, FAV recently presented to UNITAID's Board a formal request that invites MPPF to establish the bulk of its activities in Montreal. Discussions in this regard are currently underway. I will be meeting with Dr. Douste-Blazy and his group in Paris on June 21, 2010 to pursue the matter.

#### FUNDRAISING

As Scientific Director, I take part in most of the Foundation's fundraising activities, including meetings with potential donors, where my primary role is to outline our research activities, explain the various viral targets that ICAV-affiliated scientists are working on, and summarize the latest scientific developments in the area of viral research.

Thanks to the exceptional dedication of FAV's dedicated volunteers, and their extensive networks in Canada and abroad, the Foundation has every chance of achieving its objectives.

In closing, I wish to convey my heartfelt gratitude to our Chairman, Pierre J. Jeannot, to our President and CEO, Jocelyn L. Beaudoin, and to our staff for their devotion and commitment to the Foundation.

*Michel Chrétien, F.R.S., MD, O.C., O.Q., CLH  
Scientific Director*