Welcome to International Innovation

PANNING ACROSS A spectrum of prevalent health challenges, the research showcased in this issue of *International Innovation* is linked by its relevance on a global scale. Dr Tom Friede, Director of the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, once said: “Global health and protecting our country go hand in hand,” and, echoing this statement, we focus in on researchers in Canada and the US to explore the important links between North American and global health.

We are proud to welcome Chris Clark, Chair of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, to open the edition. Sharing his optimism, Clark discusses the Partnership’s important work to reduce the burden of cancer, and expresses the healthcare community’s determination and persistence: “We have to believe that the investment and effort put into research will lead to answers”.

With today’s most pressing health challenges transcending national borders, a global perspective is often required. Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada/Canadian Institutes of Health Research Chair in Hypertension Dr Norman Campbell emphasises the importance of translating and sharing best practices across countries, while Dr Ginger Breedlove, President of the American College of Nurse-Midwives, highlights the value of building partnerships with other organisations, stakeholders and individuals.

Finally, discussing the importance of robust investments in health programmes in both the US and globally, Dr Christine Sow, Executive Director of the Global Health Council, touches on some of the barriers associated with working in an environment of increasingly restricted funding, in combination with growing expectations to produce results.

Continuing advances in healthcare are important steps along a much longer journey. Although they are making tangible progress, the researchers featured in this edition recognise that sustained efforts and support are required, along with shared priorities and a passion to succeed.

We are working hard to build a dynamic community, bringing together a diverse range of researchers, funders, policy makers and commercial partners to showcase the very best from across the research spectrum. Please don’t hesitate to get in touch to suggest further improvements, to enquire about a subscription, or to put forward your latest research for consideration in our next publication.

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