



ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN ACADEMIC HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATIONS

**REMARKS BY DR. KEVIN SMITH, BOARD MEMBER, ACAHO  
OCTOBER 29, 2009**

Distinguished awardees, invited guests, Honourable Members of Parliament and the Provincial Legislature, ladies and gentlemen. Good evening. My name is Dr. Kevin Smith. I am the President & CEO of St. Joseph's Healthcare in Hamilton – which is a multi-site, regional, tertiary, academic health sciences centre.

This evening I am here as a sitting Board member of the Association of Canadian Academic Healthcare Organizations (ACAHO) – which is the national voice of the country's research hospitals, academic regional health authorities and their research institutes. Unfortunately, Dr. Jack Kitts, who is Chair of the Board, is unable to join us this evening due to illness.

Tonight, along with all of you, we celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Canada Gairdner Awards – which over the past half century has recognized those individuals who have revolutionized the field of medical research, and ultimately, the way in which we care for those in times of need.

In this context, members of ACAHO share a common purpose with the spirit of the Gairdner awards given the role that we play in supporting and conducting health research across the country.

At the same time, we also share a common purpose and symbiotic relationship with the Universities across the country. Through the development of our strategic partnerships and vision, together we bring to life the Academic Health Sciences enterprise, with the objective of supporting excellence in scientific inquiry, and improving the health and health care of Canadians.

Through our sustained partnerships, Canada has a growing track record of discovery and applied research that we can all be proud of.

In the words of Winston Churchill, if "*The empires of the future will be empires of the mind*"...Canada's Research Hospitals and Universities – working closely with the federal, provincial and territorial governments, health charities, and the private sector – are increasingly well positioned to advance the field of medical research, to the benefit of all Canadians, and the global community.

Let me, once again, congratulate the Canada Gairdner Awards on this momentous evening, and we look forward to celebrating the next 50 years of discovery with you...