



ICAV

International Consortium on Anti-Virals

NEWS RELEASE

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‘Virus Hunter’ Dr. Albert Osterhaus heads list of top speakers at Canadian – led International Consortium on Anti-Virals’ (ICAV) Symposium, Trent University

September 19, 2005, Peterborough Ontario

World-renowned virologist and influenza expert, Dr. Albert Osterhaus, known in scientific circles as the ‘Virus Hunter’, tops an impressive list of speakers at ICAV’s Third International Public Symposium and Scientific Workshop – ‘Combating Global Pandemics’ – September 23 - 25th Trent University, Peterborough, Ontario.

Osterhaus is a powerful voice in viral pandemic. A trained veterinarian, who earned his PhD in virology at Holland’s Utrecht University, Osterhaus has played a role in the discovery of the SARS Corona virus, hMPV virus, and avian influenza virus or H5N1 among others. He was responsible for alerting the WHO regarding H5N1, resulting in the culling of 1.2 million chickens in Hong Kong. He continues to be an advisor to the WHO, as well as to other agencies and governments around the world.

Also speaking at the Public Symposium, is Canada’s own expert, Dr. Frank Plummer – Director General of the Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control in Ottawa, Scientific Director General of National Microbiology Laboratory in Winnipeg, and Senior Scientific Advisor of the Public Health Agency of Canada. Others on the list include Daniel Sharp, Pandemic Preparedness Project, The Royal Institution World Science Assembly, USA; Daniel Berman, Access to Medicines Initiative, Médecins sans Frontières, France; Dr. Frank Liu, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China; and Dr. Michel Chretien, ICAV

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and Ottawa Health Research Institute, Canada.

ICAV's 3-day event consists of a Public Symposium, Friday September 23rd, and a 2-day Scientific Workshop for ICAV participants. It is expected to draw over 130 scientists, medical researchers, experts and government representatives from around the world. Two previous Symposiums and Workshops were held in Paris, France, co-hosted by the French Government and The Institut Pasteur; and in Toronto, Ontario, hosted by The Protein Engineering Network of Centres of Excellence (PENCE).

ICAV was founded in 2004 and is affiliated with Trent University. To date, ICAV draws expertise from 15 countries. The ICAV platform is to develop new, '*enhanced-spectrum*' anti-virals to combat existing and emerging serious viral disease such as HIV/AIDS and Pandemic Influenza. Targeting the virus/host interaction, anti-virals are used to treat infected individuals and their contacts, in contrast to vaccines, which are used in advance of infection. Anti-virals increase the ability to protect against constantly mutating viruses and are seen as an essential part of a comprehensive pandemic strategy.

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