Message from Executive Director
Mr. Brent Peltola

2017 was a great year for Partners In Research Canada! And 2018 is off to a great start as well!

The Delta program, launched in 2017, offers elementary school teachers in Ontario 85 lesson plans written to the needs of the Ontario curriculum – over 9000 lesson plans have been downloaded in less than 9 months.

Under the PIR Live Event banner we conducted a number of unique events including a cross-country multi-site DNA extraction that included over 2500 students participating!

Our partnership with code.org has resulted in PIR being designated as the first Canadian partner in their teacher professional development program.

Another successful campaign in the 2017 Sanofi Biogenius Canada competition saw the Canadian winner, Tasnia Nabil, recognized as an International competition runner-up. The 2018 Canadian winner, Sajeev Kohli, will compete at the International competition in Boston in June.

Brent Peltola – Executive Director

Message from Board President
Dr. Thomas Merritt

It’s my pleasure to be taking the reigns as board President of Partners In Research Canada.

I’d like to thank Dr. Alberto Martin from the University of Toronto who has been Board President the past two years and I’d like to welcome Dr. Debby Burshtyn from the University of Alberta taking on the role of Vice President. I’d also like to thank Dr. Doug Jones for his years of service on the board in several roles and congratulate Dr. Jones on receiving the Ron Calhoun Ambassador award for 2018.

I have been involved with Partners In Research as a volunteer expert, podcast host, board member and event facilitator for over 10 years – I believe in what this organization does and how they do it.

Research plays a vital role that everyone needs to understand - from social change to innovative technological discoveries to understanding our natural world - and I’m pleased to support Partners In Research Canada as they bring the message of research to Canadians.

Dr. Thomas Merritt – Board President

2018 Partners In Research Canada - Board of Directors

| Dr. Thomas Merritt – President | Ms. Rosemary Hicks – Treasurer | Mr. Douglas M. Bryce – Director |
| Laurentian University | Western University | Siskinds LLP |
| Dr. Debby Burshtyn – Vice President | Dr. Bruce Verchere – Director | Ms. Jessie MacAlpine – Director |
| University of Alberta | University of British Columbia | University of Toronto |
| Dr. Alberto Martin – Past President | Mr. Colin Jagoe – Director | Dr. David Lesbarrereres – Director |
| University of Toronto | Kawartha Pine Ridge District | Laurentian University |
| School Board | | |
The Virtual Researcher On Call (VROC) program, established in 2005, involves real-time interaction between researchers and classrooms through videoconference connection.

VROC connects researchers and professionals from Canadian colleges, universities, and industry with elementary and secondary classrooms coast to coast for real-time, interactive learning opportunities over a video connection.

Since the summer of 2016, PIR has been using the Zoom videoconferencing platform. Implementation of the Zoom platform continues to pay off with simplified program administration and many positive reports from teachers and researchers alike regarding ease of installation and use.

“We had a good meeting today. Third grade kids seem always better prepared than my ‘big’ university kids!”
Mihai Costea, Associate Professor & Curator of the Herbarium, Dept. of Biology, Wilfrid Laurier University

“Dr. Costea was amazing!!! He has invited us to come to his lab and check out plants under the microscope. My students had such a great experience. I will definitely be accessing the database to connect with more experts.”
Tawnya Dosman, Waterloo Catholic District School Board

The Delta Program is a series of interactive curriculum resource packages that focus on grade 1-8 Science and Technology in alignment with the curriculum standards of the province of Ontario.

These packages feature experiential learning components, inquiry concepts, and have a story backbone, all supported by interactive expert mentorship through videoconference.

Teachers are able to retrieve Delta lesson plans independently from the PIR website. In the first 9 months there have been over 9,000 lessons downloaded.

“We had a great call with Dr. Schamp! He was gracious with his time and answered all of our questions. My students are learning a lot through the lesson plan and adding a “real researcher” to the mix was perfect. Thank You.”
Teacher, Hamilton District School Board

“These are fun, and I believe in what they’re trying to accomplish”
Dr. Brandon Schamp, Associate Professor, Dept. of Biology, Algoma University
**PIR Live Event** webinars feature live interviews with Canadian researchers that are broadcast on the Internet. Schools from across the country can join the broadcast to pose their questions using the live chat function and get answers live over video.

Live Event webinars are easy entry points to virtual programming that take the pressure off teachers who may be unsure of how to incorporate this kind of content into their curriculum delivery.

The Live Event platform continues to grow in popularity, increasing our ability to expose students to educational content, research and researchers from across Canada.

In 2018, Code.org designated Partners In Research as the first Canadian International Teacher Professional Development organization!

A PIR Science Odyssey water quality activity had over 100 students participate live with another 300 students participating afterward using the webinar recording. We also discussed water quality & testing with David Lloyd, a University of Calgary M.Sc. graduate-turned-entrepreneur who used his research with genetically modified microbes to create and commercialize new water testing technology! Live participants asked questions about the activity, water quality issues, and entrepreneurship.

In September 2017 Partners In Research collaborated with Science North and Science Literacy Week to present a “Cross Country” fruit DNA extraction activity featuring Laurentian University Professor Dr. Thomas Merritt.

There were 1570 students performing the activity with us live from 47 locations across Canada, including 7 classes that shared their observations on-screen. Dr. Merritt explained the science behind the activity and answered student questions!

Off-screen classes shared pictures via social media and classes who were unable to join live worked along with the webinar recording. All in all, over 2500 students participated!
**Sanofi Biogenius Canada (SBC)** is a national biotechnology competition that seeks to spark scientific interest in Canada’s youth. Since its inception in 1993, the SBC program has inspired over 6000 students toward discovery and careers in the exciting field of biotechnology.

The SBC program challenges students to initiate and undertake university-level research projects working with research mentors to conduct their project.

Students present their findings at regional competitions across the country with Regional winners competing at the National competition.

The National winner goes on to the International BioGENEius Challenge held annually at the Bio International Convention.

---

2018 Sanofi Biogenius Canada National winner Sajeev Kohli with Carrie McElroy and Catherine Cunningham from Sanofi Canada. Sajeev developed a drug delivery system for cancer treatments that result in fewer side effects than other systems.

---

2018 Sanofi Biogenius Canada National competitors joined by Carrie McElroy and Catherine Cunningham from Sanofi Canada, Chief Investment Officer for Ontario Mr. Allan O’Dette, VP Life Sciences for the National Research Council Dr. Roman Szumski and author and technology commentator Nora Young

---

Tasnia Nabil, 2017 Sanofi Biogenius Canada winner, recognized as Runner Up at the BioGENEius International competition.

A grade 11 student from Windsor, ON, Tasnia worked with Dr. Allison Allan at the London Health Sciences Centre on ferromagnetic nanoparticle therapy used to kill cancer cells. Tasnia’s model allows a physician to use patient data to determine how many nanoparticles to use and the duration of the therapy required to be most effective and least damaging to healthy cells.
The Partners In Research National Awards recognize Canadian researchers, whose outstanding body of work over a period of time has contributed to the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics and biomedical science and recognize their promotion of this research to the Canadian public. In 2017 a new award was added to recognize an early career researcher who exemplifies these same characteristics. In addition, the Ron Calhoun Science Ambassador Award recognizes a member of the lay community who has provided outstanding leadership over several years in support of health research. Partners In Research is proud to be associated with these amazing people.

Dr. Allen-Vercoe is recognized as an international leader in gut microbiome research. Only her dynamic and highly effective outreach program matches her impressive contributions to science.

Dr. Nathalie Ouellette has been active in science outreach for a decade and is a key figure in the Kingston education community by managing the Queen’s Observatory for over 6 years.

Dr. Jeremy Kerr has devoted his career to engaging the public and policy makers around the excitement and value of nature and biodiversity.

Dr. Kumanan Wilson strives to empower Canadians to manage their own healthcare through digital technologies including his launch of the Ottawa Hospital mHealth Lab in 2014.

Dr. Douglas Jones is recognized as a long-time member of the Partners In Research National Board and ardent supporter of STEM educational outreach.