

## GREAT DISCOVERIES

In a long line of accomplishments, Dr. Lorne Tyrrell's most lauded is perhaps his key role in discovering antiviral therapy for chronic hepatitis B (HBV), which led to the licensing of Heptovir in Canada and Zeffix worldwide. There are approximately 400 million chronic carriers of HBV worldwide and this virus has been rated by the World Health Organization as the ninth leading cause of death.

Interestingly, that scientific breakthrough came from teaching a class, back in 1986. "I was assigned to teach a graduate class and lecture on hepatitis B," says Tyrrell. "When you're going to teach a course, you want to make sure you have as much knowledge about that subject as you can."

There are great discoveries to be made in the classroom for students and teachers alike. Tyrrell's 'A-Ha' moment came early in his teaching career. "Because I started teaching fairly soon after I had been a medical student, I thought, 'If you can make a lecture more relevant, it will be more interesting to the students.' When I was teaching biochemistry, for example, I consciously ended every lecture by saying, 'Let's take five minutes and see how this is applied to medicine.' It's a way of showing that what you're teaching has clinical relevance to some of the basic sciences."

In his over 40 years of teaching, Tyrrell admits he frequently learns things from students too. "Sometimes you get very good dialogue with students," he says. "Students are often very bright and come up with ideas that are not to be ignored. Anytime I have any despair about the healthcare system, I see many of these bright and motivated students and it restores my faith in the whole system. It makes me feel like the future is in good hands."

One of the ways in which teaching has changed over the years is the advent and continual growth of electronic media. "When I first began teaching, a person would spend a great deal of time in the library looking through stacks of journals. Now you print the key words in PubMed and you can come up with great solutions," says Tyrrell.



Dr. Lorne Tyrrell, OC, AOE, MD, PhD  
Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry  
2010 Distinguished University Professor

The internet can be a portal into too much information, of course. Sometimes it can be hard for a student—or a patient, says Tyrrell—to sift the quality information from that which is perplexing or simply overly provocative. The electronic age puts the onus on teachers to promote critical thinking, he believes. To that end, the University of Alberta is more than moving in the right direction. "We've gone to more problem-based learning where we present problems and the students have to think their way through those problems," he says. "It's much more effective than a teacher simply giving the solution to what the problem is."

Tyrrell is a University of Alberta graduate himself. It was in 1964 that he received a Gold Medal in Science upon completing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry. Since then, he has trained a multitude of research students and postdoctoral fellows, served on over 200 committees, and continues to be published worldwide in peer-reviewed science journals. No stranger to awards, this Alberta Order of Excellence and Officer of the Order of Canada recipient has now received yet another title of honour: Distinguished University Professor. "It is a tremendous recognition from the university and colleagues," he says.

## UPCOMING DEADLINES FOR ACADEMIC AWARDS

### CAFA Distinguished Academic Awards

The annual Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations (CAFA) Awards, the Distinguished Academic Award and the Distinguished Academic Early Career Award are specifically designed to honour excellence and raise awareness of the many ways in which the scholarly or creative work of university academic staff serves the wider community outside our universities.

Nominees must be current members of one of the academic staff associations within CAFA (e.g. AASUA). For a group nomination, a majority of group members, including the primary researcher or group leader, must be current members of one of the CAFA academic staff associations. Nominees for the Distinguished Academic Early Career Award must be no more than eight years beyond the completion of a doctoral degree or equivalent qualification. The deadline to submit nominations is **Wednesday, April 20, 2011**.

### Centennial Professor

The title of Centennial Professor was created to recruit outstanding external candidates to the University of Alberta. Centennial Professor is bestowed on new members of the academy who have achieved outstanding distinction in their area of research and scholarship, teaching, and who have earned favourable regard from the community.

Any individual new to the University who is eligible to be appointed as a full-time member ranked as Professor of the Faculty (Categories 1.1 and A1.5) may be nominated for the title of Centennial Professor. Nominations are accepted on a continual basis.

### Distinguished University Professor

The title of Distinguished University Professor recognizes those exceptional faculty members who are globally recognized leaders and whose exemplary teaching, research and citizenship have made them leaders in their disciplines internationally. They serve as senior advisors to the University community, and act as mentors and exemplars to other professors.

Any full-time member ranked as Professor of the Faculty (Categories A1.1 and A1.5) with at least ten years of service as a faculty member at the University of Alberta may be appointed as a Distinguished University Professor. The deadline to submit nominations is the first working day of May (i.e. **Monday, May 2, 2011**).

### University Cup

The University Cup is the highest honour the University of Alberta can bestow on a member of its academic staff and is granted only to those individuals who have achieved outstanding distinction in each of the areas of scholarly research, teaching and service to the University and the community at large.

Any full-time member of the academic teaching staff with 20 years of service as a faculty member in a university community and at least ten years of service as a faculty member at the University of Alberta may be nominated for the University Cup. The deadline to submit nominations is the first working day of May (i.e. **Monday, May 2, 2011**).

### Order of Canada

The Order of Canada recognizes a lifetime of outstanding achievement, dedication to the community and service to the nation. The Order recognizes people in all sectors of Canadian society. Their contributions are varied, yet they have all enriched the lives of others and made a difference to this country.

All Canadians are eligible for the Order of Canada, with the exception of federal and provincial politicians and judges while in office. Any person or group is welcome to nominate a deserving individual as candidate for appointment to the Order of Canada. There is no deadline for nominations as it is an on-going process.

### Other Upcoming Deadlines

Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund (TLEF)–Projects or Research funding: **February 1, 2011**

Rutherford Award: **February 25, 2011**

Provost's Award for Early Achievement: **February 25, 2011**

Teaching Unit Award: **February 25, 2011**

William Hardy Alexander Award: **February 25, 2011**

For more information, visit our website, [www.ualberta.ca/academicawards](http://www.ualberta.ca/academicawards), use the search tool or navigate to the award you are interested in.

For **discipline-specific awards**, please visit our website, select the appropriate field of study and determine which award(s) are applicable to you.



### Academic Awards and Ceremonies Office

With the support of the campus community, we have added numerous new awards that University of Alberta faculty members have received to our website, [www.ualberta.ca/academicawards](http://www.ualberta.ca/academicawards). If you have received an award and your accomplishment is not celebrated on our website, please contact us so that we may recognize your achievement.

### Need help with a teaching award nomination?

For more information or assistance with an academic award nomination, please contact Bobbi Schiestel, Faculty Awards Facilitator, at 780.492.2644 or via email at [bobbi.schiestel@ualberta.ca](mailto:bobbi.schiestel@ualberta.ca).

### Office of the Registrar and Student Awards

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