



Program at a Glance

Day 1: November 30th, 2009 - Private Meetings


11:30 – 12:30 **Annual Meeting Welcome and Networking Lunch with Keynote Speaker Dr. Alex Jadad** – *NCE delegates and committees only*

Networks of Centres of Excellence Associate Vice-President Jean-Claude Gavrel joins NCE delegates and committees for a networking lunch to open the program.

Keynote speaker Dr. Alex Jadad will provide a humorous and forward-looking presentation on innovation and the future.

Dr. Jadad is the Chief Innovator and Founder of the Centre for Global e-Health Innovation. His mission is to help improve health and wellness through information and communication technologies (ICTs). Dr. Jadad's research focuses on using virtual tools to support the encounter between the public and the health system; interactive tools to promote knowledge translation; and online resources to support social networks to respond to major public health threats.

Born and educated in Colombia, Dr. Jadad obtained his medical degree in 1986 with a specialization in anesthesiology. He joined the University of Oxford (Balliol College) in 1990, where he led the development of the most widely used tool to assess the quality of clinical trials (the "Jadad scale"). He moved to Canada in 1995, and joined the University of Toronto in 2000. There he led the creation of the Centre for Global eHealth Innovation, a setting designed as a simulator of the future, to study and optimize the use of ICTs before their widespread introduction in the health system and society at large.

Dr. Jadad has received numerous awards including a National Health Research Scholars Award by Health Canada in 1997, the New Pioneers Award in Science and Technology in 2002, and he was featured by Time Magazine as one of the new Canadians who will shape the country in the 21st century. (
www.ehealthinnovation.org/ajadad)

12:30 – 14:15 **Sector Sessions**

Networks and centres come together in this cross-program networking session. Four simultaneous sessions will take place, organized by sector, and focusing on the role of networks and centres within their space, the ways in which networks and centres add value to the community and the economy, and the challenges faced within each individual sector. The sessions provide a unique opportunity for delegates to speak with fellow participants in their respective sectors.

After a brief presentation by each network and centre (presentations will be available prior to the sessions), the groups will focus on networking with partners on specific issues. The four sectors' key ideas on opportunities and challenges will be used to guide panel discussion on the following morning.

The sessions will be held simultaneously, and will be divided into the following sectors:

- Information and Communications Technologies (ICT)
- Health
- Biotechnology, Life Sciences & Pharmaceuticals
- Natural Resources, Energy and Environmental Science

14:15 – 14:30 **Break**

14:30 – 16:00 **Steering Committee Consultation (NCE-Networks)**

Led by Dr. Suzanne Fortier, President of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, members of the NCE Steering Committee will host a roundtable discussion with the Directors and Chairs of the Networks. Discussions will focus on the future direction of the program.

Program Meetings

Delegates from the Centres of Excellence for Commercialization and Research (CECR) and the Business-Led NCEs (BL-NCE) will meet in private program sessions. Each group will meet separately to discuss best practices and network.

16:00 – 18:00 **Private Sector Advisory Board Consultation (CECR Centres and BL-Networks)**

Members from the Private Sector Advisory Board (PSAB) will meet with the Directors and Chairs of the CECRs and BL-NCEs to discuss ownership models for commercialization efforts including expectations of return; definitions of success; and expectations regarding the outcomes and challenges faced by the CECRs and BL-NCEs.

Government of Canada Communications (Communicators)

Directors of Communications from the three research granting councils, NSERC, SSHRC, and CIHR will meet with managers of communications from the networks and centres. Possible discussion topics include opportunities for partnerships, potential areas of collaboration, and ministerial communications. The session will open with a brief presentation on government relations from seasoned executive, Ms. Sue McGovern, Mars Innovation.

Program Meetings

Delegates from the Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) program will meet in a private program session to discuss best practices and network.

18:00 – 20:00 **20th Anniversary Reception with Key Decision Makers**

A look at the impact the NCE had and will continue to have on Canadian researchers, industry and society. Special guest Julie Payette joins Key Opinion Leaders and delegates on the showcase floor to celebrate the impacts of the NCE initiative.

Showcase

Connect and grow your network by visiting the showcase. More than 20 networks and centres will be displaying their latest successes and innovations from the full suite of NCE programs.

Network globally, by connecting with representatives from around the world seeking partnerships in many exciting sectors. Visit the Networks of Centres of Excellence display to learn about its past successes and future goals, and the impacts it has had

Day 2: December 1st, 2009

Plenary Program		
7:00 – 8:00		Breakfast
8:00 – 10:00	<p>Excellence Canada 2009 20th Anniversary A welcome address by NSERC president and Chair of the NCE steering committee Dr. Suzanne Fortier will open the program.</p> <p>Keynote Presentation with Julie Payette Dr. Fortier welcomes to the podium astronaut Julie Payette for her keynote presentation.</p> <p>Julie Payette is a Canadian who truly symbolizes excellence and achievement, and is one of Canada's most successful scientists.</p> <p>Ms. Payette served as the flight engineer on the crew of the STS-127 aboard Space Shuttle Endeavour on the 29th mission to the International Space Station. She also flew on the Space Shuttle Discovery from May 27 to June 6, 1999 as a crewmember of the STS-96, during which time she served as a mission specialist, supervised the space walk and operated the Canadarm robotic arm. She was the first Canadian to participate in an International Space Station assembly mission and to board the space station.</p> <p>Ms. Payette was born and raised in Montreal, Quebec. In 1980, she received one of six Canadian scholarships to attend the United World College of the Atlantic in Wales, UK where she earned an International Baccalaureate. She then went on to earn her Bachelor of Engineering, Electrical from McGill University in 1986, and her Masters of Applied Science – Computer Engineering from the University of Toronto in 1990 during which time she was awarded an NSERC post-graduate scholarship. She was awarded the Ordre national du Québec in 2002.</p> <p>Before joining the space program, Ms. Payette conducted research in computer systems, natural language processing and automatic speech recognition. She worked as a system engineer with IBM Canada from 1986 – 1988, a research assistant at the University of Toronto from 1988 – 1990 and a visiting scientist at the IBM Research Laboratory in Zurich, Switzerland in 1991.</p> <p>In 1992, Ms. Payette was selected by the Canadian</p>	<p>Showcase Connect and grow your network by visiting the showcase. More than 20 networks and centres will be displaying their latest successes and innovations from the full suite of NCE programs.</p> <p>Network globally, by connecting with representatives from around the world seeking partnerships in many exciting sectors. Visit the Networks of Centres of Excellence display to learn about its past successes and future goals, and the impacts it has had across the country</p>

Space Agency to become one of four new astronauts. In preparation for her space mission, Ms. Payette obtained her commercial pilot's license, and has logged more than 1200 hours of flight time. She was Chief Astronaut for the Canadian Space Agency from 2000 – 2007.

Key Opinion Leaders and Media Tour
Media representatives are invited to visit the showcase floor for a tour of Canada's best and brightest. The showcase displays more than 20 years of NCE collaborative success. Special guest Julie Payette of the Canadian Space Agency joins key opinion leaders and local and national media to visit displays from the brightest minds, the most effective scientific directors, and the best innovations. This demonstration brings together innovators, policy leaders and decision makers in a celebration of the accomplishments of the many components of the NCE.

9:30 – 10:00

Break

10:00 – 12:00

Panel Discussion: How Can Canada Step Up and Lead in the 21st Century Economy

Experts from academia, industry, government and health meet to discuss what it takes to make a country into a leader, and how Canada may continually demonstrate its leadership role on a global scale.

Considering the importance of strengthening research excellence for the future, discussions will include taking research and development to the next level and bringing knowledge to the forefront. The panel will investigate how various sectors must work together for success, and the ways to encourage research and development towards innovation. With a look at how the NCE programs will meet the challenges of the next 20 years, the panel will examine what must be done to establish Canada's place among the world's best.

The panel will be moderated by Research Money's Jeffrey Crelinsten.

Panelists include Iain Stewart, Assistant Vice-President of Research at Dalhousie University, Paul Bates, Dean of Business at McMaster University, Mark Lievonon, President of Sanofi Pasteur, and Edwin Bourget, Vice-Rector for Research and Innovation at Laval University.

International Connections on Showcase Floor

Trade commissioners from the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) will participate at the showcase of networks and centres.

During this time they will meet with the various networks and centres with the goal of developing strategic partnerships in sectors of interest. Countries participating in this open networking session include India, China, the USA, Brazil and Japan.

12:00 – 13:30

Lunch Presentation with Keynote Speaker Andrew Abouchar

Prominent venture capitalist Andrew Abouchar will discuss the most effective methods of engaging the interest of venture capitalists. The presentation will

touch on which elements are necessary to attract the attention of the venture capitalist, and what they are looking for in today's market. Mr. Abouchar will also explain the process venture capitalists use when assessing potential opportunities.

Andrew Abouchar is a founder and Partner of Tech Capital Partners where he focuses on investment opportunities in the enterprise software and systems, semiconductor and cleantech sectors.

While working for a number of years at Toronto-based Working Ventures Canadian Fund Inc. (acquired by GrowthWorks), Mr. Abouchar created Waterloo Ventures, the first Community Small Business Investment Fund to launch in Ontario. In 2001, Mr. Abouchar partnered with Tim Jackson to create Tech Capital Partners Inc., a venture capital firm focused on early-stage technology businesses.

Mr. Abouchar has over 13 years of experience as an investor in emerging technologies. Actively involved with a number of companies, he currently serves as a director on the boards of Avvasi, Covarity (www.covarity.com), Sidense (www.sidense.com), and Software Innovation (www.softinn.com). He has also been a Director of Sirific Wireless (www.sirific.com) and VideoLocus, a developer of next generation video compression technologies and solutions (acquired by LSI Corporation - NYSE: LSI).

As an advisor to both the Government of Canada and the Province of Ontario, Mr. Abouchar serves as Chair of the Idea to Innovation Investment Review Committee of the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) and is a member of the Accelerator Investment Review Committee of the Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE). He is also Vice-Chair of the board of directors for QuantumWorks, a network of researchers committed to furthering quantum research in Canada.

Mr. Abouchar holds Bachelor of Applied Science (Mechanical Engineering) and Bachelor of Arts degrees from the University of Waterloo. He is a Certified Corporate Director, a Chartered Financial Analyst and a Chartered Accountant.

13:30 – 15:00

Panel Discussion: The Pillars of Commercialization and Innovation

The panel will focus on outlining new approaches and solutions for commercialization of research and knowledge translation. The panel will examine short-term success, areas of improvement, and try to answer the tough questions that stem from putting

International Connections on Showcase Floor and Showcase continues

knowledge into practice with an eye to taking commercialization beyond commerce. The panel will take on a more focused one-on-one format to invite an open flow of ideas and suggestions.

Panel discussions will be moderated by Janet Scholz, Managing Director of the Alliance for the Commercialization of Canadian Technologies (ACCT). The panel consists of David Miller of Woodbridge Foam Inc., John Molloy of PARTEQ Innovations, Angus Livingston from the UBC Industry Liaison Office, and Sally Brown of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada.

15:00 – 15:30 **Break**

15:30 – 17:30 **Panel Discussion: Open Innovation**

What is the next frontier of collaboration? The panel will look at examples of new partnerships which represent the next generation of collaboration and how they are creating new pathways to success. This will serve as a starting point for a discussion on how we achieve success through new and innovative ways to collaborate. This panel seeks to examine where innovation is leading us, and the advantages Canada has through collaborations, as well as developing new and beneficial ways of collaborating.

The Panel includes Jim Hawkins, Arctic Operations Manager, Imperial Oil Ltd., Max Fehlmann from the Consortium Québécois sur la découverte du médicament, and Andrew Kaniki, Executive Director of Knowledge Management and Strategy at the National Research Foundation in South Africa, and will be moderated by Perrin Beatty, President and CEO of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce and Chair of the Private Sector Advisory Board.

International Connections on Showcase Floor and Showcase continues

17:30 – 20:30 **Excellence 2009: NCE Networks and Centres Celebration Dinner and Reception**

A dinner will be held in celebration of 20 years of success of the NCE program. Alumni of the NCE programs, committees and special guests are welcome.