

August 21, 2006

Dear colleagues,

**Re: University of British Columbia-McGill
University Donald and Elizabeth Hillman
Endowment**

We are pleased to announce the creation of the Donald and Elizabeth Hillman Endowment in Global Child Health to be held at the BC Children's Hospital Foundation and managed by the Centre for International Child Health. The endowment will be used to establish an annual lectureship in honour of Don and Liz to be given at a sponsoring Department of Paediatrics in Canada or Africa.



The endowment is being created at this time as a memorial to Dr. Donald Hillman, who died on July 4, 2006. Throughout their long and illustrious careers, Don and Liz have formed an inseparable team and served as effective advocates for children in Canada and in every corner of the world. They have been particularly well known in the past 35 years for their contributions to global child health. Their achievements were recognized in 1994 through the award of an Order of Canada.

Dr. Elizabeth Hillman is a graduate of the University of Western Ontario and received her postgraduate training at the Montreal Children's Hospital, Queen Mary Veterans Hospital, Great Ormond Street Hospital in London, England, and Harvard University. She began her academic career in 1957 at McGill University as director of the ambulatory department at the Montreal Children's Hospital. She became the first female president of the Medical Council of Canada in 1981.

Dr. Donald Hillman graduated in Medicine at McGill University (1949) and received his postgraduate training at the Montreal General Hospital, the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, and the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. He completed a PhD in Investigative Medicine at McGill in 1961 where he subsequently became associate professor of paediatrics and Associate Dean of Postgraduate Studies.

The Hillmans moved in 1976 to the then new Faculty of Medicine at Memorial University of Newfoundland as Professors of Pediatrics. At the Janeway Child Health Centre, Don Hillman was Physician in Chief and Liz Hillman was Director of Ambulatory Education. They remained in Newfoundland for 13 years.

Since 1989, the Hillmans have held professorships at McMaster University in Hamilton and at the University of Ottawa while continuing their active engagement in global health.

In the early 1970's, McGill University, working with the Canadian International Development Agency, made a commitment to the development of a new medical school at the University of Nairobi (Kenya). A number of McGill faculty members and residents in the fields of Medicine and Paediatrics spent extended periods in east Africa helping with the development of the new school. Most importantly, in 1974 Don and Liz accepted a two-year posting in the University of Nairobi, Department of Paediatrics. This initial exposure blossomed into a lifetime commitment to the child health challenges in east Africa and other developing countries.

After their period of supporting Dr. Nimrod Bwibo, Dr. Alan Ross and others in the Nairobi development and following their move to Memorial University, the Hillmans shifted their attention to Uganda where they managed a CIDA project in social paediatrics known as CHAMP (the Child Health and Maternal Education Program) while serving in senior advisory roles for UNICEF in Kampala. That project, conducted during the darkest days in Ugandan politics, introduced a whole generation of Canadian paediatricians to the realities of child health in east Africa. From the roots of the McGill Nairobi program and CHAMP, there has grown a very substantial Canadian involvement in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania that can be seen in at least a half dozen projects currently operational.

In the late 1980's, the Hillmans again led a CIDA funded program in Africa centered on primary healthcare approaches to paediatrics in Tanzania, Zambia, Uganda, and Kenya. That program emphasized the benefits of interaction among Departments of Paediatrics in the four different countries and produced a manual of paediatric primary healthcare which is still used today by the cooperating departments. The idea of exchange among neighbouring Faculties of Medicine and their paediatric departments was novel at that time but has now developed further with consistent and continuing encouragement from the Hillmans. Don and Liz have supported the development of new medical schools at Moi University in Eldoret (Kenya), at Mbarara University for Science and Technology (Uganda), and at Gulu University (Uganda). In the past year, Don and Liz have visited these institutions offering support to the continued evolution of paediatric educational methods.

During the past fifteen years, at a time when others might have enjoyed retirement, Don and Liz have continued their active involvement in international health serving as medical consultants in China, Kuwait, Zambia, Tanzania, Singapore, Laos, Malaysia, South Africa, and Bhutan. They have also completed assignments for the Canadian Executive Services Organization (CESO) in Kenya, India, Guyana, the Philippines, and Pakistan.

The contributions of Don and Liz have been recognized from many quarters, among them, granting of an honorary doctor of laws degree by Memorial University of Newfoundland in 2004. Earlier awards included the Ross Award (1989), the Order of Canada (1994), the James H. Graham Award (1995) and the Lifetime Achievement Award of the Canadian Society for International Health (2000).

At the time of Don's death in July, the Hillmans were continuing to work on a project funded by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada. This initiative supported return visits by Don and Liz with their colleagues in Zambia, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda to review the longer term impact of their revolutionary east African project (1987 – 90) in paediatric primary healthcare.

The most important legacy left by Don Hillman in the medical academic world may be found in his influence on undergraduate students and on graduate physicians and faculty members from numerous Canadian and international universities. Always with the inspiration and energy brought to every

project by Liz, the Hillmans have attracted students, fellows, younger physicians and healthcare-givers who are interested in the challenges of overcoming the impact of poverty in the developing world and delivering appropriate healthcare to children and their families in the most difficult settings. The legacy of Don Hillman will be felt for decades to come, and the BC Children's Hospital is pleased to recognize the contributions made by both Don and Liz to international child health through the creation of an annual endowed lectureship.

Funds from the endowment will be made available to sponsoring Departments of Paediatrics in Canada or in Africa who wish to host the lectureship in any given year, subject to availability of funds. An application process will be established for the lectureship once the endowment is operational.

Please consider contributing to this endowment and feel free to distribute this letter to others who may be interested.

Donations should be sent to:

Don and Elizabeth Hillman Endowment
BC Children's Hospital Foundation
Attention: Janice Williams
4480 Oak St.
Vancouver, BC V6H 3V4

Or On-line at:

<https://ssl8.van.ca.securedata.net/bcchf.net/donation/general.cfm>

NOTE: Under step 3 of the on-line donations process, please designate the funds to the Don and Elizabeth Hillman Endowment.

Yours truly,

Stuart M. MacLeod, MD, PhD, FRCPC
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Professor of Pediatrics and Assistant Dean (Research),
Faculty of Medicine, University of British Columbia
Vice President, Academic Liaison & Research Coordination,
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