

The Departments of National Health and Welfare and of National Defence maintain well-equipped laboratories in which research is carried out by highly qualified personnel. The Department of Veterans Affairs also encourages its staff to carry out investigations in its own hospitals, mainly in the fields of chronic illness, such as arthritis, atherosclerosis, metabolic and nutritional disorders.

A great variety of medical problems are studied in the medical schools and their affiliated hospitals. In this category, funds from the federal treasury are provided through the Medical Research Council, the Defence Research Board and the Department of National Health and Welfare. The Medical Research Council, established in November 1960 following recommendations by a Special Committee of the Privy Council to review support of extramural medical research by the Government of Canada, is now thoroughly considering its policy for the future. Initially, it is continuing the policies of the former division of medical research of the National Research Council. In principle, it supports the broad field of research in the medical sciences. At present this involves assistance for research in the so-called basic medical sciences such as anatomy, physiology, biochemistry, pharmacology, bacteriology and pathology, as well as in clinical investigation and experimental surgery.

The Defence Research Board awards grants for studies which are related particularly to problems of defence, such as shock, the preservation of blood and the use of blood substitutes, the effects of low temperature, etc. The Department of National Health and Welfare provides funds for research, available on the recommendation of provincial departments of health, in the following fields: public health, tuberculosis control, child and maternal health, mental health, and general public health. It also gives assistance to the Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society (which obtains other support by public subscription) and to the Ontario Heart Foundation (which derives its other resources from the Ontario Government). In addition, the Department makes available to the provinces cancer grants, out of which the provinces may supplement the research funds which the National Cancer Institute receives from the Canadian Cancer Society.

Universities also receive funds for research from provincial branches of the Canadian Cancer Society and from such government foundations as the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation and the Alcoholism Research Foundation, from fraternal societies and clubs such as the Rotary Club, from the J. P. Bickell Foundation, the Atkinson Charitable Foundation, the Canadian Life Insurance Officers Association, the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Canada, the Banting Research Foundation, the Multiple Sclerosis Society, pharmaceutical companies, etc. At several universities, individual investigators also receive grants in aid of research from various granting bodies in the United States.

With help from these diverse sources, active research programs are in progress in every one of the twelve Canadian medical schools. In certain of these there are special departments devoted to research; these departments contain graduate students who work toward higher degrees. With few exceptions, departments designed for undergraduate instruction are active in research; a majority provide graduate instruction as well, in which the students are maintained on research fellowships or grants. In many cases, other assistants are employed under grants and thus obtain training in research.

Notable contributions to medical knowledge are made every year by Canadian scientists, but space permits the mention of only a few fields: epilepsy at the Montreal Neurological Institute; functions and interrelations of areas in the brain and brain stem and studies in neurophysiology and neurochemistry at McGill University, the University of Montreal, the University of Ottawa, the University of Western Ontario and Laval University; endocrine and metabolic studies at McGill University and the Universities of Montreal, Toronto, Western Ontario, British Columbia and Manitoba; anticoagulants at the University of Saskatchewan; atherosclerosis and hypertension at McGill and Queen's