

# Research Canada **UPDATE**

September 2014

NEWS FOR PARLIAMENTARIANS ON CANADIAN HEALTH RESEARCH

## NHL HOCKEY PLAYER'S PEAK PERFORMANCE AIDED BY MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY



*NHL star Cory Conacher wears a Medtronic insulin pump*

Cory Conacher is living his dream of playing NHL hockey. At 5 foot 8 inches and born in December 1989, he was always the youngest and smallest on his team. At 8 years old, he was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes, which means his body doesn't produce insulin. Nonetheless, he hasn't let his size or his diagnosis get in the way of his hockey career.

Playing at such an elite level, it is crucial that Cory manage his diabetes both on and off the ice. Rather than rely on injections, he wears a Medtronic insulin pump and continuous glucose monitoring (CGM) system to help him manage his glucose levels. "The insulin pump and CGM system has helped me take some of the guess work out. It gives me more peace of mind that my [blood glucose] numbers are under control."

An insulin pump is a small, portable device that continuously delivers insulin, which allows for insulin delivery to more closely mimic the function of a healthy pancreas.

Cory's CGM is integrated into his insulin pump and comprises a glucose sensor inserted just under the skin, which gives him real time data on how his glucose levels are trending to help him keep his blood glucose levels in target range. His CGM also has a low glucose suspend feature, which is clinically proven to reduce hypoglycemia (low blood glucose).

Athletes are not the only ones who may benefit from CGM. The Federal government has partnered with the JDRF to fund numerous studies through the JDRF CCTN, including the CGM TIME trial which looks at when to start CGM on children, and CONCEPPT, a study investigating CGM use during pregnancy. Additional research is also being done in Canada in support of the closed loop artificial pancreas, including key studies being led by researchers in Montreal and Toronto.

**Hon. Kelvin K. Ogilvie,**  
will host the  
**Reception and Kiosk Session**  
**Health Research Caucus**  
**Medical Device Technologies**

*Monday,*

**October 6, 2014**

*4 p.m. to 7 p.m.*

**Room 256 S, Centre Block**  
**Parliament Hill**

Co-hosted by  
Health Research Caucus Vice-Chairs  
Ms. Carol Hughes (Algoma-Manitoulin-  
Kapuskasing) and  
Dr. Kirsty Duncan (Etobicoke North) and  
The Chair of Research Canada, Ms.  
Maureen Adamson

On October 6, 2014 eight ground-breaking medical technologies will be presented to parliamentarians on Parliament Hill in Ottawa in the next Health Research Caucus Kiosk event.

Visit:

<http://www.rc-rc.ca/events/medical-devices>

Please RSVP to:  
613-234-5129 or [rsvp@rc-rc.ca](mailto:rsvp@rc-rc.ca)

**STAY IN TOUCH**

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[www.rc-rc.ca](http://www.rc-rc.ca)

# MEDEC: REPRESENTING CANADA'S MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES

For more than 40 years, MEDEC, as the association representing Canada's medical technology companies, has been working in partnership with governments, health care providers and patients to contribute to better health and more sustainable healthcare for Canadians.

MEDEC members are creating implantable devices, surgical tools, diagnostic technologies and many more innovations that are improving the lives of patients in Canada and around the world every day. These technologies are leading to earlier and more accurate diagnoses, less invasive procedures (meaning faster recoveries and reduced hospital stays), improved treatment options and reduced wait times to name just a few of the benefits. In addition to improving health outcomes, these technologies bring great value – making important contributions to ensure the sustainability of Canada's health care system.

Through the ongoing research and development of innovative products, Canada's medical technology industry contributes significantly to the effectiveness and efficiency of the healthcare system and to the wellbeing of Canadians, while helping to drive a vitally important sector of our economy – providing well-paying jobs to over 35,000 Canadians.

And we know Canada's medical technology industry could do even more. Despite the often substantial barriers to getting technologies adopted into the Canadian healthcare system, events like the Research Canada/Federal Health Research Caucus Medical Device Technologies event at Parliament Hill, as well as recent initiatives like the federal government's Advisory Panel on Healthcare Innovation and the Ontario Health Innovation Council are showcasing that governments and healthcare partners across the country are recognizing the immense potential that the medical technology industry offers.

## THE VALUE OF INNOVATIVE MEDICINES

The Value of Innovative Medicines Rx&D is the association of leading research-based pharmaceutical companies dedicated to improving the health of Canadians through the discovery and development of new medicines and vaccines. These companies discover, develop and deliver innovative medicines and vaccines to Canadians which represent some of the most advanced safe and effective medical treatments available today.

These products help Canadians live longer, better and more productive lives. They also ease the burden on our healthcare system by avoiding more costly hospitalizations and invasive surgical procedures. When appropriately prescribed and adhered to by patients, innovative medicines are a key enabler of long-term health system sustainability. Innovative medicines and vaccines are often the most effective means of treating and preventing illness – and sometimes the only available treatment for some conditions. They minimize the cost of

achieving a desired health outcome, maximize the health benefits that can be achieved within a given cost-constraint, and often produce health and societal benefits that exceed the costs of treatment.

In some cases, the success of our innovative medicines is enhanced with the use of medical device technologies, affording Canadians even more opportunities at long, healthy and productive lives. The convergence of medical device technologies with innovative medicines continues to help further advance patient outcomes.

*Russell Williams  
President*

*Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D)*



## HEALTH RESEARCH CAUCUS LUNCHEON EVENT

AT RESEARCH CANADA'S 9TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING ON

**NOVEMBER 5, 2014**

**SAVE THE DATE**



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**MEDEC**

CANADA'S MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY COMPANIES  
LES SOCIÉTÉS CANADIENNES DE TECHNOLOGIES MÉDICALES

## HUMAN INGENUITY AND OUR MICROBIAL ENVIRONMENT

**SPEAKER: DR. ANDREW SIMOR,**  
HEAD OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES AT  
SUNNYBROOK HEALTH SCIENCES CENTRE  
HOSTED BY SENATOR KELVIN OGILVIE

Please visit:

<http://www.rc-rc.ca/agm/agm-2014>

or call  
613.234.5129