DR. ROGERS PRIZE AWARDS INNOVATORS IN HEALTH CARE

The \$250,000 Dr. Roger Prize is awarded to trail blazers in the fields of complementary, alternative and integrative medicine

Many treatments and practices that we now consider to be commonplace have historically faced great opposition and resistance. Some, initially considered preposterous because they flew in the face of established paradigms, were rejected and dismissed outright. Their proponents often faced ridicule and professional censure, however remained steadfast in their claims. Dr. Ignaz Semmelweis, for example, died before his assertion that hand washing could reduce the spread of infection was borne out by the germ theory of disease. His work was dismissed by the scientific community as being superstitious despite observational evidence to the contrary.

Awarded biennially, the Dr. Rogers Prize is intended to recognize and reward those trail blazers who have made significant contributions in the field of complementary and alternative medicine to health care. The largest prize of its kind in North America, the first Dr. Rogers Prize was awarded in 2007.

True innovators in CAM, recipients of the prize continue to impact the field of health care. Dr. Hal Gunn, co-founder of InspireHealth, has advanced research of Site Specific Immunotherapies in cancer and IBD, while Dr. Badri Rickhi, Research Chair at the Canadian Institute of Natural and Integrative Medicine, has developed a spiritual-based approach to treating adolescent depression over the internet. Dr. Rickhi cannot overemphasize the importance of keeping an open mind. "If we stay in the box, what we're trying to do is become better technicians. If we go outside the box – for me – that is what being a scientist is about."

The most recent winner, Dr. Sunita Vohra, has been named Director of the recently announced Integrative Health Institute at the University of Alberta. Through the collaboration of dedicated and passionate researchers and clinicians, its aim is to promote innovation in the study and application of evidence-based patient-centered health care.



COMPLEMENTARY & ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE