

Peter R. Ganz, Ph.D.

**Organization: Government of Canada Official - Health Canada
Ottawa, Canada**

**Presentation: Centre for Biologics Evaluation (CBE)
Health Canada, Health Products and Food Branch
Wednesday, September 23, 2009, 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.**

Dr. Ganz received both his bachelors and doctoral degrees in Toronto. As a Leukemia Society of America Fellow, he continued his post doctoral training in the Department of Microbiology and Parasitology, Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto working in the area of tumour virology. His interest in the biochemistry and molecular genetics of blood proteins moved him to Ottawa to take up an appointment as Research Director at the Ottawa Blood Centre, Canadian Red Cross Society. During his tenure at the CRCS, Dr. Ganz researched the molecular mechanisms of action of clotting and fibrinolytic factors and their interaction with platelets and human endothelial cells. This research work evolved to include highly cited studies on the expression of pharmaceutically important proteins in transgenic plant systems.

Dr. Ganz moved to the Bureau of Drug Research at Health Canada in 1996 and then to the Bureau of Biologics and Radiopharmaceuticals and later the Biologics and Radiopharmaceuticals Evaluation Centre as Chief of the Blood and Tissues Division in 2002.

Peter is currently the Director of the Centre for Biologics Evaluation (CBE). This Centre is responsible for evaluating the safety, quality and efficacy of Viral and Bacterial Vaccines, Blood, Cells and Tissues. CBE is also responsible for regulating the safety of the blood system in Canada. Dr. Ganz has been instrumental in driving forward several important blood safety initiatives for Canada. In 1998, his Division developed the science and medicine background necessary for Health Canada to promulgate a Directive requiring that all blood be leukoreduced in Canada. It is estimated that this action has reduced adverse transfusion reactions to blood in as many as 10,000 patients receiving blood in Canada. Moreover, in both 1999, 2000 and 2001, his Division was responsible for issuance of 3 Directives respecting deferral of blood donors for variant CJD risk. These measures, taken together, have brought the safety of Canada's blood system to the highest level and the efforts of Dr. Ganz, his team, and Health Canada has recently been recognized by the World Health Organization as having set the highest standard for blood safety in the world. His Division also received public service awards for issuance of directives to blood system operators for Y2K compliance and for setting standards for increasing the level of automation within Canada's blood system (7 new IMS were reviewed and approved by his Division).

Dr. Ganz represents Canada on a number of international committees to do with blood and blood safety. These include the Global Collaboration for Blood Safety (GCBS), WHO Blood Regulators Network, WHO Expert Committee on Biological Standardization and the Council of Europe Blood Committee (since 1997). These groups make decisions about blood policy and safety standards. He was the Executive Secretary for the Canadian Expert Working Group which developed new blood safety standards for Canada and is currently a member of the Canadian Standards Association blood safety technical committee.

Peter has been cross appointed as an adjunct professor in the Department of Biochemistry, Microbiology and Immunology within the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Ottawa since 1982. He is also a member of the School of Graduate Studies and Research and the Institute of Transfusion Medicine. He has published over 100 research articles in peer reviewed journals, reviews and book chapters with a focus on blood and transfusion medicine and science.