



Dr. William Wall invested as a member of the Order of Canada

November 5, 2009

Rideau Hall, Ottawa - Her Excellency the Right Honourable Michaëlle Jean, Governor General of Canada presented The Order of Canada to several recipients including London transplant surgeon Dr. William Wall during an induction ceremony today. The Order of Canada was established in 1967 as Canada's highest civilian honour to recognize outstanding achievement and service contributions to Canadian society.

The investiture citation stated: "*William Wall is a dedicated and compassionate physician whose surgical and clinical proficiency have benefited many Canadians with end-stage organ disease.*

Professor of surgery at the University of Western Ontario, he established Canada's first liver transplant program at the London Health Sciences Centre, where he is director of the Multi-Organ Transplant Program. In this role, he has promoted excellence in research and patient care, as well as public awareness and support for organ donation. Widely respected by his peers, he served as president of the International Liver Transplantation Society."

"I am deeply, deeply honoured to receive this award. What we have accomplished in liver transplantation has been a team effort from the very beginning. I am indebted to a remarkable group of colleagues who have been integral to what we have accomplished," said Wall, after the award was first announced last December.

Wall joined the Department of Surgery in 1977 and has been instrumental in building the Multi-Organ Transplant Program into a national leader. More than 4,100 organ transplants have been done at LHSC since the first kidney transplant in 1973. Wall performed the first successful liver transplant in Canada in 1982.

To date, more than 1,500 liver transplants have been performed at the hospital, including the first liver transplants in Canada using living donors.

"I look back on those early days and every liver transplant was a very risky undertaking with very little chance of success," he said. "But what seemed impossible at the beginning became not only possible, it became routinely successful."

In addition to his medical leadership Wall is also a leader with London Health Sciences Foundation, where he is a donor and a volunteer board member since 1998.

Wall's motivation for his Foundation involvement is simple and profound: "I have the privilege of observing first-hand the day-to-day impact of the foundation's fundraising efforts on hospital services and patient care. As I see the needs of the hospital met by the enormous contributions generated through the foundation, my pride and enthusiasm for the foundation's work increases every day that I come to work."