

Excerpts from a CDROM User Guide (printed piece)

Welcome to Hot Docs, Heroes of Canadian Medicine

Hot Docs is designed to introduce you to Canada's greatest medical heroes – the women and men whose contribution made a significant mark in the world of medicine. It was a Canadian whose studies of hypothermia paved the way for open heart surgery, a Canadian paediatrician who invented the child-proof medicine cap, and a Canadian whose ideas about universal medical care created a system envied the world over.

Our story begins with 19th century medical pioneers such as Sir William Osler who wrote an important medical textbook that helped educate a whole generation of doctors. Along the way we meet Sir Frederick Banting, discoverer of insulin, William Mustard whose famous operation mended the hearts of blue babies, and Leonora Howard King, a Canadian doctor who founded a medical school for women in China in 1908. Our story ends in the modern day with Michael Smith, 1993 Nobel Prize Winner in Chemistry, who developed a technique essential for today's genetic engineering and Jack Hirsh, currently leading a world-class team investigating new treatments for thrombosis (blood clotting).

The story is one for every student and Canadian citizen to be proud of. We are indebted to our heroes at home for the knowledge, the treatments, and the delivery of health care we enjoy today. We hope the discoveries you make as you explore Hot Docs will inspire you to dig deeper into the world of medicine and further explore the unending mysteries of the human body.

How to Use "Hot Docs"

Hot Docs is an information resource for Canadian students at the senior high school level. It is designed to be freely explored, driven by the student's interest in individual laureates or an area of study as organized on the main menu. Content is arranged to be interesting and interactive. Where relevant, we have included links to web sites, book references, and diagrams or animations to explain how things work. You can click and hear an audio recording of memorable quotes or and you can click and play a video of each hero's contribution. There are stories of famous experiments and accounts of great collaborations where scientists teamed up to understand a disease or find a treatment.