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# **Canada-France Legacy Event on Dementia Harnessing the Power of Discoveries: Maximizing Academia and Industry Synergies**

Address by

Yves Joanette, CIHR and Etienne Hirsch, AVIESAN

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Canada

Minister Ambrose,  
Monsieur l'Ambassadeur  
World Envoy,  
Messieurs les Présidents des IRSC et de AVIESAN,  
Distinguished Participants, Panelists and Discussants,

The global challenge of dementia is not expected to wind down any time soon. By 2050, the number of individuals having to live with dementia will double in all G7 countries, and will more than quadruple in low-/middle-income countries.

This global challenge requires a strong global response. A major source of success of this enterprise will reside in our capacity to increase the collaboration between researchers, disciplines, countries and especially between Academia and Industry.

Indeed, academia/Industry synergies and effective collaboration will be crucial for a better understanding of the underlying mechanisms of the many different neurodegenerative diseases, and their many different variants, as well as to transform this knowledge into solutions to stop, delay or better care for people with dementia and their caregivers.

The goal of this second Legacy Event in support of the Global Action Against Dementia is to identify the best strategies and approaches to allow academia and the private sector to work together by sharing ideas, data and solutions to combat dementia.

In preparing for this event, our aim was to bring expertise and experience not only from the academic and industry stakeholders who are already involved in the quest for solutions regarding dementia, but also to bring new ideas and out-of-the-box thinking from related fields where solutions to enhance this synergy have already occurred.

This is why this event represents a catalyst for the identification of solutions to facilitate and enhance collaboration between academia and industry. We do not want this event to limit itself to a list of identified barriers between these two sectors and cultures. The challenges are already well identified; let us work together to identify solutions!

Six panels constitute the backbone of this Canada-France event. In each of these panels, experts will share with you their perspective and, sometimes, successful experience in bringing academia and industry closer and more effectively working together.

For each panel the process will be the same. Following the presentations by the panelists, you will be invited to discuss, comment or ask a question. The discussion will be initiated by targeted discussants who have kindly accepted to ignite the discussion. These people are identified in the program as discussant for each panel.

We will take note of all of the ideas towards solutions that will be proposed by panelists, discussants and all of you. We will provide a synthesis of these proposals to the World Dementia Council and the Envoy shortly after the event, in order to contribute and support the work of the Council towards a global action plan against dementia.

We would like to express our appreciation to all of the panelists, experts, and all participants for your involvement in this important event. Personally, I would like to thank our colleagues from Canada for hosting this event and for their hard work in organizing what represents a positive turning point in Academia Industry relationships to combat dementia. Together, we will identify the path for enhanced interaction and collaboration between Academia and Industry to the benefit of all people living with dementia and their caregivers.

The organization of the Canada-France event was itself based on the close collaboration between two countries with a long history of scientific collaboration in the area of dementia. Thanks to our French counterparts for a truly team effort. We are grateful to our respective Government leaders having chosen to organize this event together. It is our hope that this Second Legacy Event will inspire and bring to the forefront, solutions and ideas for enhanced collaboration and synergy between academia and industry.