

2014 CSCC Award for Outstanding Contribution to Clinical Chemistry
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Eleftherios Diamandis



The CSCC is pleased to recognize the exemplary career of Dr. Eleftherios Diamandis by identifying him as recipient of the 2014 CSCC Award for Outstanding Contributions to Clinical Chemistry. This award recognizes Dr. Diamandis' outstanding service to Clinical Chemistry through leadership in Clinical Service, Research and Education. With this award he becomes the second member of our Society to achieve the CSCC award trifecta. At about 10 years into his career he received the CSCC Award for Research Excellence (1995). This was followed in 2003, by receiving the CSCC Award for Education Excellence. Receipt of all three major awards is reflective of the exceptional impact of Dr. Diamandis on the field of Clinical Chemistry both in Canada and internationally.

Dr. Diamandis came to Canada in 1982 with a B.Sc. (chemistry) and Ph.D. (Analytical Chemistry), both obtained from the University of Athens, Greece, to begin training in Clinical Biochemistry at the University of Toronto (University of Toronto). On completing the program he achieved Clinical Biochemist certification by both the American Board of Clinical Chemistry and the CACB in 1985. Dr. Diamandis has held leadership positions in Clinical Chemistry since the beginning of his career in 1986 and now, 28 years later, leads a team of about 8 Clinical Biochemists, and an exceptional clinical service in several academic hospitals as Division Head of Clinical Biochemistry, Mount Sinai Hospital (since 1997) and as Biochemist-in-Chief for University Health Network (since 2005) in Toronto. He is also Division Head of Clinical Biochemistry, Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology, at University of Toronto (since 1995), and became the Hold'em for life Chair in Prostate Cancer Biomarkers in 2010.

Teaching and mentoring have been major parts of Dr. Diamandis' career at University of Toronto, having a huge impact on the developing careers of many highly qualified professionals. Here he has been involved in educating dozens of clinical biochemist trainees studying through the University of Toronto program. He has also graduated 25 PhD, 19 MSc students, and 30 Post-Doctoral Fellows, plus many medical residents, undergraduate and summer students. Some of these contributions to education and professional development have been recognized through previous awards including the CSCC Education Excellence Award; and recently the University of Toronto Graduate Teaching Award in Recognition of Senior Sustained Excellence in Graduate Teaching (2013) plus others. Beyond University of Toronto he has been involved with organizing numerous workshops and symposia, one of the most recent will be the symposia on Men's Health at the annual CSCC conference in Charlottetown PEI, 2014.

Dr. Diamandis is one of the most internationally recognized Canadian Clinical Biochemists and is a highly sought international speaker. He has delivered more than 150 national and international lectures and received 70 different public media interviews. Dr. Diamandis is recognized as an international leader in the area of cancer biomarkers where he pursues discovery of new cancer biomarkers and their implementation into clinical practice. His lab was the first to develop an ultrasensitive assay for PSA. Similar assays are now used world-wide for monitoring prostate cancer patients post-radical prostatectomy. Dr. Diamandis lab also carried out pioneering work in the study of kallikreins (a large group of serine proteases that includes PSA), and cloned many of these proteins. Several of these are novel biomarkers for ovarian, breast, prostate and other cancers. Over the past decade work in his lab has

expanded through development of proteomic techniques and use of mass spectrometry in biomarker discovery and study. His lab is now the top ranked proteomics lab in Canada. His lab also ranks number one in Canada among protease labs. His work, which includes over 500 research articles, and almost 120 reviews are among the most highly cited among Canadian Scientists in the field of cancer diagnostics. To date he has also published 2 books on topics related to Immunoassay and Tumor Markers and 39 book chapters. He has also received prestigious national and international recognition for these contributions by awards by many professional organizations including CSCC (1995), AACC (1985, 1999, 2001, 2007), NACB (2000), IFCC (2009) to name a few.

Dr. Diamandis has contributed to the field of Clinical Chemistry through his service on over 40 scientific journal editorial Boards including Clinical Biochemistry and Clinical Chemistry (Associate Editor). He also chaired the committee during development of "Guidelines for Use of Tumor Markers in the Clinic" by the National Academy of Clinical Biochemistry. He has served as guest editor of many special issues of journals over the years including most recently as co-editor for special issues of Clinical Biochemistry, on Proteomics, and Clinical Chemistry, on conquering cancer using new diagnostics and therapeutics (2013).

His contribution to service, education and research is recognized both nationally and internationally. He has received top awards from both AACC and IFCC recognizing his contributions in Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine. This short article barely scratches the surface of the many contributions of Dr. Diamandis to Clinical Chemistry, but briefly overviews a few of his many achievements. His collegiality and teamwork continues to earn him the respect of his colleagues and peers worldwide, and we his colleagues in the CSCC honor his outstanding contributions and achievements through this award.