

CSCC Award for Research Excellence
Sponsored by Ortho-Clinical Diagnostics

Reinhold Vieth



The CSCC is pleased to honour Dr. Reinhold Vieth with the 2012 Award for Research Excellence. Dr. Vieth received his B.Sc. in 1974 in Medical Sciences. This was followed by a M.Sc. in 1975 and a Ph.D. in 1980 from the Department of Physiology, University of Toronto. He subsequently completed the Post-doctoral Training Program in Clinical Chemistry at the University of Toronto in 1982 and was certified as a Clinical Chemist in 1983 and became a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Clinical Biochemistry in 1987.

For almost 30 years, Dr. Vieth has been Clinical Chemist and Laboratory Director of the Bone and Mineral Laboratory in Toronto. This laboratory has performed most of the Vitamin D assays for hospitals in Ontario and across Canada and has supported both the basic and clinical research of the Bone and Mineral Group at the University of Toronto. Dr. Vieth has been deeply involved in studying the metabolism of bone and the musculoskeletal system. This research has had great impact not only on our basic understanding of this system but also on clinical practice. This combination is a goal that many Clinical Chemists believe we should strive for.

Over the years, Dr. Vieth has garnered a national and international reputation in the field of calcium metabolism and vitamin D in particular. His influential work on vitamin D in the epidemiology of calcium and vitamin D supplementation and how this can be done safely has led to improved treatment of postmenopausal bone loss. Related work on northern populations, especially those individuals who have emigrated from more sun-rich parts of the world, have also effected recommendations on vitamin D supplementation. He has also investigated the role calcium and vitamin D supplementation in patients with multiple sclerosis. In addition, he has turned his attention to cancer and has recently discovered that vitamin D supplements slow the rate of prostate cancer growth.

Dr. Vieth's research has been supported by grants from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), the Dairy Farmers of Canada, the National Cancer Institutes of Canada, and the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation of Canada amongst others. He has published over 150 peer reviewed papers, abstracts and book chapters in the area of his expertise. His scholarly accomplishments have been rewarded by promotion to Full Professor in the Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathobiology with cross-appointment to the Department of Nutritional Sciences, University of Toronto. He has trained a number of graduate students and is actively involved in both undergraduate and postgraduate teaching.

Dr. Vieth is a prolific presenter at national and international meetings. He has been an invited speaker for both the Canadian and American Societies of Clinical Chemistry. He has been involved in numerous Continuing Education Meetings and has participated in many workshops and symposia. Most notable of all, his expertise is recognized by the general public and the popular press. Through his many public lectures and interviews, he has been able to educate the public on the rational use of vitamin D supplementation. He has been the subject of a profile in the *Financial Times Magazine*. He has been interviewed by CBC (Radio One, Quirks and Quarks), BBC Radio 4, Business News Network (BNN), and

Canada AM, to name a few. Feature articles have appeared in a variety of print media such as the Toronto Star, Ottawa Citizen and Reader's Digest.

As a distinguished expert on vitamin D, Dr. Vieth has been appointed as a Member of the Expert Advisory Panel for the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. This panel advises Health Canada on the implementation of the 2011 Institutes of Medicine dietary guidelines for vitamin D and calcium. Through his many scientific and scholarly achievements, Dr. Vieth is certainly a worthy recipient of the Award for Research Excellence.