



August 2, 2021

James McEwen, O.C., PhD, DSc (hc), P.Eng.

Dear Dr. McEwen:

It is my pleasure to advise you that, on the recommendation of the Advisory Council and with the approval of the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council, you have been appointed to the Order of British Columbia.

The Order of British Columbia, the highest form of recognition by the Government of British Columbia, was established in 1989 to recognize people who have served with the greatest distinction and excelled in any field of endeavour benefiting the people of British Columbia or elsewhere.

The investiture ceremony, during which you will be formally inducted into the Order, is tentatively scheduled for Dec. 9, 2021, at Government House in Victoria. For your interest, I have attached a list of all the appointees to the Order of British Columbia for 2021. Please accept my congratulations on your selection for this honour. Staff will be in contact once a date has been confirmed for your investiture ceremony.

Our province has many outstanding resources, but none more important than its citizens. I look forward to seeing you at the ceremony in December.

Sincerely,

John Horgan
Premier

Attachment

Dr. James McEwen, O.C. of Vancouver

Jim McEwen, a B.C.-based biomedical engineer, inventor, entrepreneur, philanthropist, mentor and volunteer, revolutionized one aspect of medicine through his invention of the automatic surgical tourniquet, a medical device that has significantly improved surgical safety, quality and efficiency around the world.



Dr. McEwen received BAsC and PhD degrees in electrical engineering from the University of British Columbia. He is a registered professional engineer and adjunct professor in UBC's school of biomedical engineering, department of electrical and computer engineering, and faculty of medicine. He has led and founded many successful companies and organizations, including Vancouver Hospital & Health Sciences Centre's biomedical engineering department, Western Clinical Engineering Ltd., Delfi Medical Innovations Inc., and the Medical Device Development Centre, a not-for-profit centre that facilitates the collaborative development and evaluation of new medical technologies.

The widespread adoption of Dr. McEwen's tourniquet technologies has significantly improved surgical safety, quality and economy. The idea for an automatic tourniquet arose in the late 1970s after Dr. McEwen, who had just earned his PhD, learned of a patient at Vancouver General Hospital who was injured by a conventional tourniquet during surgery. Dr. McEwen set to work on developing better technology. Four decades later, the tourniquets created by him and his team at Vancouver's non-profit Medical Device Development Centre have been used in over 80 million surgical procedures worldwide — nearly 20,000 every day.

Dr. McEwen's work today focuses on developing need-oriented medical technology that improves medical diagnosis and treatments and controls health care costs. He has over 240 patents and patent applications internationally for a range of medical devices, and continues to explore new innovations involving tourniquet technologies, such as those that support orthopaedic rehabilitation and cancer treatment.

Dr. McEwen has served on the Premier's Council on Science and Technology and as a board member of the Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation, BC Institute of Technology, and the ALS Society of BC. As board chair of the ALS Society of British Columbia he received the William Fraser Leadership Development Award and a BC Achievement Award for contributions including launching a design competition that pairs engineering and technology students with ALS patients to develop technologies to improve quality of life for those living with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease), a fatal disease with no known cause or cure. Dr. McEwen also supports the next generation of innovators through scholarships and bursaries for high school students who overcome adversity and achieve excellence while helping others.

Dr. McEwen's contributions have been recognized through his appointment as an Officer of the

Order of Canada in 2011 and induction into the National Inventors hall of Fame in 2020, where he joined an illustrious roster that includes fellow Canadians Frederick Banting and Charles Best, the co-discoverers of insulin. Other honours include the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal, honorary doctorates from Simon Fraser University and UBC, the Meritorious Achievement Award from Engineers and Geoscientists BC, the UBC Applied Science Dean's Medal of Distinction and the Principal Award for Innovation in Canada from the Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation.