

Arnold Melvyn Noyek, MD, FRCSC, FACS rev 09/09

Dr. Arnold Noyek was born in Dublin, Ireland and immigrated to Canada. He graduated from Medical School at the University of Toronto, and trained in Otolaryngology at Manhattan Eye, Ear and Throat Hospital in New York City. He was Otolaryngologist-in-Chief at Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, from 1989-2002, where he continues on staff since 1966. He is a consultant with the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care in Toronto, serving the elderly with hearing handicap for forty years. Dr. Noyek is a Professor of Otolaryngology, a Professor of Public Health Sciences, and a Professor of Medical Imaging (Radiology) at the University of Toronto. He is also Director of International Continuing Education for the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto and Director, the Peter A Silverman Centre for International Health, Mount Sinai Hospital.

Dr. Noyek is the recipient of ten awards including the internationally prestigious Harris P. Mosher Award (First Professor and Chair of Otolaryngology at Harvard), presented by the American Laryngological, Rhinological and Otolological Society (The Triological Society) for his research thesis on bone scanning. He was the second Canadian to be so-honoured in over the past half-century. He is the author/co-author of four books, has edited four books, and has published 42 textbook chapters. Dr. Noyek has published over 150 journal articles and supplements (92 peer-reviewed). He has given over 600 invited lectures and presentations, and has been a visiting professor building academic and service bridges between the specialties of Otolaryngology and Radiology on five continents. He has produced numerous teaching videotapes over the years, and is a leader in developing and implementing information technology programming for international telehealth/Telemedicine [electronic distance learning and research] since 2001.

In the community, he was a member of the National Executive for Canadian Jewish Congress, and the Executive of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario Region over many years. He was also similarly a member of the Central Cabinet for the League for Human Rights, B'Nai Brith Canada. He is a welcome speaker and participant with the Canadian Jewish, Christian and Muslim communities and faith communities abroad. He is also an advisor to the community-based Canadian International Peace Project (CIPP).

Dr. Noyek is the Founder (and was Chair until September 2006) of the Canada International Scientific Exchange Program (CISEPO), a volunteer, federally incorporated, charitable organization based at Mount Sinai Hospital and the University of Toronto. CISEPO aims to contribute to peacebuilding in the Middle East through academic and scientific exchanges among universities and medical centres by fostering cooperative multi-lateral projects. Dr Noyek has worked actively in an international leadership role on promoting continuing medical education, professional development and capacity building with universities in Israel since 1972 and with Arab universities since 1982. Through the years (since 1984), American, Australian, Brazilian, Dutch, Egyptian, Israeli, Jordanian, New Zealand, Palestinian, Qatari, Spanish, Swedish, Thai, Turkish and other individuals and institutions from the health sector and scientific world have been involved with and successfully participated in cooperative academic projects, CISEPO's Canadian programming and the cooperation network of knowledge.

CISEPO's current emphasis since 1995 is on the development and operation of people-to-people and technology-supported collaborative academic medical and scientific programs (education, research, training, scientific exchange) among Canadians, Israelis, Jordanians and Palestinians in support of regional co-operation and building trust and confidence across the Arab and Israeli frontier – and thus ultimately contributing to peacebuilding. CISEPO's leading academic and peacebuilding cross-border Arab and Israeli programs are based on activities such as the Middle East Association for Managing Hearing Loss (MEHA) [His Royal Highness Prince Firas Bin Raad of the Royal Court of Jordan is Patron] and Canadian government support through the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and Foreign Affairs Canada (FAC). CISEPO faculty and projects have also been supported by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR).

CISEPO's projects build social capital through cooperative capacity-building, influence national health policy, produce leading international scientific contributions and create a significant critical mass of people-to-people interactions for common ground, community needs – across communities, borders, institutions, ministries, faiths and cultures – while advancing professional and societal development. At the metalevel, these projects serve the advancement of poor and marginalized children (ie genetic deafness) through early detection of hearing loss programming and equipping deaf children for life through habilitation, while building trust and confidence among parties in conflict in the Middle East and addressing the determinants of health more broadly, such as poverty reduction.

Dr. Noyek is also the founding Director of the Peter A. Silverman Centre for International Health at Mount Sinai Hospital. Within the Centre, Dr. Noyek promotes health sector people-to-people and technology-based programs such as CISEPO and academic and service projects which build social capital and address poverty in developing countries in Africa and elsewhere, thus enhancing social and cross-cultural relationships between Canada and communities in other parts of the world. Additional activities include programs such as the Dr Arnold Noyek Bridging the Silence Program, in the north of Israel, which builds cooperative, cross-cultural and interfaith programming in the health sector to benefit deaf children, their parents, their teachers and societies.

Dr Noyek's career has been deeply influenced by the values and ethics of his mentor, the late Dr Judah Zizmor of New York City, one of the founding fathers of the field of otolaryngologic radiology and by the opportunity of many years of academic collaboration with and learning from him, leading to his own pioneering odyssey and innovative contributions on the world scene. Dr Noyek in turn has mentored scores of medical students, allied health students and young medical and scientific professionals, setting them on productive and contributory career paths.

Dr Noyek promotes and teaches the concept of social responsibility and engages in many matters which serve the public interest and public health, ranging from providing expertise to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario in practice assessment to providing assistance to the Ontario Ministry of Health in the formation of the new provincial agency for Public Health Promotion and Disease Prevention. He also serves as the medical director of the Saul A Silverman Family Foundation, guiding and assuring the effective and productive philanthropic use of its donated funds in the health sector to its three lead program interests – Mount Sinai Hospital (Toronto), Baycrest Centre (Toronto) and Peter A Silverman Global eHealth Program (PASGeP).

In recognition of years of successful programmatic, developmental educational and capacity-building achievements, on April 28th, 2004, CISEPO and its founder, Dr Noyek, were the recipients of the Canadian Red Cross Power of Humanity Award, presented by Her Majesty Queen Noor. On November 7th, 2005, in Ottawa, Dr Noyek received the prestigious 2005 Lifetime Achievement Award of the Canadian Society for International Health for long term commitment to international development. In 2006, Dr Noyek was selected as the recipient of The Colin R Woolf Award for Long Term Contributions to Continuing Education, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto and, in 2009, the Ludwik and Estelle Jus Memorial Human Rights Prize at U of T.

Dr Noyek's multifaceted involvements, innovations and networking have had a profound local, national and international influence. His career accomplishments have had a significant world-wide impact on the professional development of his health specialty, allied specialties and academic and scientific advancement through education, research, effecting best practice and societal change. Dr Noyek was invited to address the Canadian Club of Toronto on February 2nd 2009 on: Health as a Bridge to Peace, reflecting the current impact and future potential of the CISEPO program as a unique, long term Canadian international development initiative in the Middle East. In September 2009, Dr Noyek was elected as a Senior Ashoka Fellow which now provides a lead social entrepreneurial platform and global partners to extend the Ashoka mission and the CISEPO model in global health, human rights and peacebuilding (see www.ashoka.org).