

Focus on Faculty #52

Phil Gold



[Dr. Phil Gold](#) is the Douglas G. Cameron Professor of Medicine, and Professor of Physiology and Oncology, at McGill University. He has served as the Inaugural Director of the McGill (now Goodman) Cancer Centre, Chairman of the Department of Medicine at McGill and Physician-in-Chief at the Montreal General Hospital. He is presently the Executive Director of the Clinical Research Centre of the McGill University Health Centre at The Montreal General Hospital. Dr. Gold is a Companion of the Order of Canada, Grand Officer of the Ordre national du Québec and a Commander of the Order of Montreal. In 2010 he was inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame.

Dr. Gold earned a B.Sc. in Honors Physiology (1957), an M.D.C.M, and a M.Sc. in Physiology (1961) at McGill. He also did his internship and residency at McGill and a fellowship at the Public Health Research Institute of New York City (as a Centennial Fellow of the Medical Research Council of Canada).

Dr. Gold's early research led to the discovery and definition of the Carcinoembryonic Antigen (CEA), and the subsequent CEA blood test. This was the first blood test for cancer sanctioned by the FDA, and then internationally, and still the most frequently used test in the diagnosis and management of patients with cancer. For this work, other studies, and his outstanding contributions as a medical educator, he has gained national and international recognition. Over the course of his long career, he has been elected to numerous prestigious organizations and has been the recipient of many outstanding awards.

Dr. Gold has a strong commitment to and long history of teaching students and medical residents at McGill, and has received the Teacher of Distinction Award from the Faculty of Medicine. In 2006 the Faculty inaugurated the Phil Gold Chair in Medicine and in 2012 the Department of Oncology honoured Dr. Gold with a Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2017 the Goodman Cancer Centre inaugurated the Phil Gold Distinguished Lectureship.

At over 80 years of age, Dr. Gold is still very active in the McGill community, practicing medicine at the Montreal General Hospital, teaching and training students and residents as well as running the Clinical Research Centre at the MUHC. Most recently he was awarded a D.Sc (Honoris causa) at both Queen's University (2018) and University of British Columbia (2019) and presented the convocation address to the Medical Graduating class.

Outside of work, Dr. Gold values the time he spends with his wife of 59 years, their three children, and seven grandchildren. He enjoys reading, walking, swimming and sailing as well as music, including opera, symphony, ballet and jazz.

Here is a selection of Dr. Gold's seminal publications on carcinoembryonic antigen:

Gold, P. and Freedman, S.O. Demonstration of tumor-specific antigens in human colonic carcinomata by immunological tolerance and absorption techniques. 1965. The Journal of Experimental Medicine. 121: 439-462.

Gold, P. and Freedman, S. O. Specific carcinoembryonic antigens of the human digestive system. 1965. The Journal of Experimental Medicine. 122(3): 467-481

Gold, P. Circulating antibodies against carcinoembryonic antigens of the human digestive system. 1967. Cancer. 20(10) 1663-1667.

Gold, P. and Shuster, J. Historical development and potential uses of tumor antigens as markers of human cancer growth. 1980. Cancer Research. 40: 2973-2976.