BOUNDLESS INSPIRATION

CELEBRATING THE LEGACY OF NORMAN BETHUNE
1939–2014

“I am content. I am doing what I want to do. Why shouldn’t I be happy — see what my riches consist of. First I have important work that fully occupies every minute of time... I am needed.”

Norman Bethune
Faculty of Medicine, 1916
Message from Honorary Chair, the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson
Welcome
Message from Meric Gertler, President of the University of Toronto
Message from the Bethune Family
Becoming Doctor Bethune (1890–1927)
The Road to China (1928–37)
The Heroic Years (1938–39)
The Legacy (1939–present)
A History of Meeting Global Challenges
Advancing Medicine in the 21st Century
Transforming Health Through Education and Research
Preparing Global Citizens
Inspiring the Next Generation
The Norman Bethune Sculpture
The Norman Bethune Gala
Boundless Legacy
Thanks to our Sponsors

“I am content. I am doing what I want to do. Why shouldn’t I be happy — see what my riches consist of. First I have important work that fully occupies every minute of time... I am needed.”

Norman Bethune
Faculty of Medicine, 1916
Norman Bethune is a potent symbol of the University of Toronto’s historic ties with China. A graduate of our Faculty of Medicine, Bethune travelled to China in 1938 where he spent the better part of two years operating on war casualties and training Chinese doctors and paramedics.

Since his passing in the Hebei Province in 1939, Bethune’s legacy and global impact continues to inspire the world today. On the approach of the 75th anniversary of his passing, the Faculty held two landmark events in his honour.

Under the patronage of the 26th Governor General of Canada, The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, the President of the University of Toronto, Meric Gertler, and Dean of Medicine, Dr. Catharine Whiteside, the Faculty unveiled a bronze sculpture of Norman Bethune at U of T’s St. George campus on May 30, 2014 and held the Norman Bethune Gala on May 31, 2014 at the Four Seasons Hotel in Toronto.
THERE HAS NEVER BEEN A CANADIAN LIKE NORMAN BETHUNE. To me, he is the most extraordinary Canadian who ever lived because of the qualities he displayed, which were fundamentally our best characteristics as a nation and because he has been recognized and continues to be recognized by the largest country in the world, China.

It was with the Chinese people that Bethune came to his apotheosis as a doctor, as a human being, and as a Canadian. As a doctor he performed Herculean feats of endurance and technical skill. As a humanitarian he gave of himself to a people of whom he had no real previous knowledge and as a Canadian he displayed the generosity, kindness and acceptance, which we have as qualities when we are at our best.

His life story is inspiring: growing up in a small town in Ontario, realizing that medicine was his vocation, going into the First World War as an ambulance bearer, committing himself to the eradication of tuberculosis through his skills as a surgeon.

His willingness to put his own life on the line was always evident. It was dangerous to be a stretcher bearer in the First World War, but it meant he could save lives without having to risk taking the life of anyone, including the enemy. As a brilliant thoracic surgeon, he invented nearly a dozen instruments a few of which are still in use today, including the Bethune rib shears. He profited from nothing he ever did and gave the revenue from his patents to the man who manufactured the tools for him. He came up with a policy to have virtually free medical care for Canadians in 1936, and, bitterly disappointed when no political parties would take up this cause, went to Spain to help the Republican cause. There he invented ambulatory blood transfusion and saved hundreds of lives in the year that he was there which was before the arrival of the Mackenzie-Papineau Brigade.

His death was a kind of martyrdom because he did not stop helping when equipment ran out. He operated without gloves and put himself at such risk that he contracted blood poisoning and died of septicaemia. At the age of 48, he made his mark in the world in a way that few can do. He did this by being himself, by being the product of an early 20th century Canada, which was poised at a time at the beginning of enormous growth. He would never live to see the rewards of his sacrifice. But he never questioned the certainty of his commitment to his fellow human beings. He offered to humanity all that he could give—his own life.
IT IS OUR GREAT HONOUR TO WELCOME YOU TO THE NORMAN BETHUNE GALA, A MOMENTOUS EVENT FOR THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO. Since his graduation from the Faculty in 1916, Dr. Bethune has become a legend throughout the world for his selflessness and innovation in health care. During his brief, but impactful life, Dr. Bethune’s humanitarianism and approach to care reflected the very attributes the Faculty tries to cultivate in our students. As we approach the 75th anniversary of his passing, his legacy has only grown and become a source of inspiration for many global citizens.

We are especially honoured to have our former Governor General, the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, join us as the Norman Bethune Gala Honorary Chair. As the author of the book, Extraordinary Canadians: Norman Bethune, she has nurtured the collective memory of Dr. Bethune’s contribution around the world. We thank her for generously donating a copy of her book to our Gala participants.

In addition to this exciting Gala, the Faculty unveiled a landmark tribute to Dr. Bethune when we unveiled a bronze sculpture in his likeness at the University’s St. George campus on May 30, 2014. This sculpture is a reminder of our connection to our honoured alumnus, Norman Bethune, who will continue to inspire our Faculty and students.

Over the past few months, we have thoroughly enjoyed working with our wonderfully dedicated group of volunteers who have been instrumental in providing the Faculty with direction on many aspects of these exciting events. Their passion for Dr. Bethune’s legacy has been a humbling testament to his boundless impact.

Finally, we thank you for sharing this moment with the Faculty of Medicine. We are delighted to have such an opportunity to recognize Dr. Bethune and the impact of his legacy, not only on the Faculty of Medicine, but throughout the world.

WELCOME

CATHARINE WHITESIDE
MD, PhD
Dean, Faculty of Medicine
Vice-Provost, Relations with Health Care Institutions
University of Toronto

JUSTIN POY
Chair, Norman Bethune Celebration

Right: The Terrence Donnelly Centre for Cellular and Biomolecular Research is a collaborative multidisciplinary hub at the University of Toronto bringing together investigators from the Faculty of Medicine, the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering and the Faculty of Arts & Science.
AS PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, AND AS A PROUD CANADIAN, I AM DELIGHTED TO SHARE IN THE CELEBRATION OF THE LEGACY OF DR. NORMAN BETHUNE. Bethune stands forever as one of our most famous alumni, and as an extraordinarily accomplished graduate of our Faculty of Medicine. World renowned in the history of humanitarianism, he served and continues to serve as a key bridge between Canada and China. We at the University of Toronto are especially pleased that he remains a powerful link between our global community of scholars and alumni, and many of China’s leading institutions of advanced research and higher education. For these reasons I was honored to take part in the recent unveiling of the bronze sculpture of Bethune outside the Medical Sciences Building and in view of the Ontario Legislative Building. It will serve as a tangible landmark reflecting our shared history and reminding us of the ideals to which the Faculty aspires.

Bethune’s spirit of tireless innovation and principled leadership is seen today in the research, teaching, and clinical care of the faculty, staff, students, and alumni of our Faculty of Medicine. U of T now anchors one of the world’s greatest biomedical networks, with nine partner research hospitals, 1,500 researchers, and 5,000 graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. Medical and health research with partners in China covers an array of fields, including neuroscience, haematology, biomaterial-stem cell delivery strategy, critical care medicine, cancer, diabetes, influenza and tuberculosis. These partnerships exemplify the Faculty’s mission to provide international leadership in improved health through innovation in education and research.

I join everyone taking part in this celebration of Dr. Norman Bethune, in the hope that this gathering will strengthen our relationships and help to forge new ones. As President, I thank The Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson for serving as Honorary Chair of the Norman Bethune Gala, all of our generous and dedicated donors and Gala volunteers, and Mr. Justin Poy, for serving as Norman Bethune Celebration Chair.

Best wishes for a wonderful celebration of a towering figure in the history of our University and our country, and in the development of our strong and crucial relationships with China and its people.
MESSAGE FROM THE BETHUNE FAMILY

DAVID PRICE, MD
Chief, Department of Family Medicine at Hamilton Health Sciences and member of the Norman Bethune family

CHERI BETHUNE
Member of the Norman Bethune family

THE MEMORY OF NORMAN BETHUNE HAS BEEN BOTH DAUNTING AND INSPIRATIONAL IN OUR FAMILY. HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN LARGER THAN LIFE AND SEEMS TO INCREASE IN STATURE WITH EACH PASSING YEAR.

As youngsters, my cousin Cheri Bethune and I were always fascinated to read articles about Norman — whether it was about his time on the front lines in the Spanish Civil War and inventing mobile blood units (the first MASH units), as a surgeon at Montreal Children’s Hospital or developing the Bethune rib shears. Older family members who knew Norman personally always seemed to have both a mixture of admiration and incredulousness of his energy, passion and commitment to living life to the fullest; qualities that were evident in the care of his patients.

He has always been an example of what can be accomplished with dedication, hard work and boundless determination. In many ways, I was happy to have known that he was a distant cousin, but not carry the burden of having his name. The expectations of being a Bethune are huge! In fact, my father was invited to China in the late 1970s to help establish a nephrology program. Cheri visited China in a role as an educator and has had numerous Chinese colleagues meet with her over the years to discuss the legacy of Norman. The connection between China and the Bethune family remains strong to this day. I hope he would be proud of the work that some of his “young cousins” have undertaken in a variety of fields of medicine.

It is such an honour to participate in the Norman Bethune Gala. Needless to say, Canadians by and large do not have a true understanding of the adulation of this man in China and around the world. This Gala provides an opportunity to educate fellow Canadians on the fact that our international reputation has been strengthened due to the selfless commitment of Norman Bethune.

Sincerely,
Dr. David Price
Born in the central Ontario town of Gravenhurst on March 4, 1890, Henry Norman Bethune came from a family with deep Canadian roots. An ancestor, the Reverend John Bethune, had emigrated from Scotland to North Carolina, fought on the Loyalist side during the American Revolution, and founded the first Presbyterian congregation in Montreal. His descendants included distinguished clergymen and educators, yet the family also had a wild streak. The Reverend’s eldest son Angus roamed the North and sailed to China with the great furtrading companies. Norman’s father Malcolm Nicholson Bethune was likewise a wandering adventurer until he met Elizabeth Anne Goodwin, an English Presbyterian missionary in Hawaii. The couple returned to Toronto, and following their marriage in 1887 Malcolm became a fervent evangelist who preached in various Ontario centres. Young Henry Norman was deeply affected by his family’s wanderings, developing a restlessness of spirit along with keen intelligence, curiosity, and pride in his heritage. Inspired by the example of his grandfather, an early Toronto surgeon and educator also named Norman, he was strongly attracted to a medical career. In spite of frequently changing schools, he did well academically. In 1907, at age 17, Bethune finished high school in Owen Sound with honours and was eligible for admission to the University of Toronto. Yet getting there was another matter. Norman’s parents had little money, so like many of his classmates who hailed from farms or small towns across Ontario he had to work his way through university and medical school. Before entering the pre-medical Physiology and Biochemistry program in 1909 he worked in northern construction camps and taught in a one-room rural schoolhouse. His entry to medical school was similarly delayed, and in 1911 he took a job as a labourer-teacher for the Reading Camp Association at a lumber camp near Sudbury. The combination of gruelling physical labour and giving classes in English and arithmetic to the loggers satisfied his love of the wilderness and desire to serve others.

Bethune enrolled in the Faculty of Medicine in 1912, but with the outbreak of World War I in 1914 he interrupted his studies to enlist as a stretcher-bearer. Wounded in the leg during the second battle of Ypres, he was given a medical discharge and completed his medical degree in December 1916 as a member of the war-shortened “class of 1917” (which also included Frederick Banting). Bethune re-enlisted, spent the rest of the war as a medical officer, then undertook internships and surgical training in London and Edinburgh, becoming a member of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in 1922.

In August 1923, Bethune married Frances Campbell Penney, a bright and cultivated woman from a prominent Edinburgh family, but the relationship proved stormy. The couple divorced in 1927, and they remarried two years later, and divorced again in 1933. Despite the failure of his marriage Bethune remained deeply in love with Frances as long as he lived. The couple sailed to North America in 1924. That fall Bethune started a medical practice in Detroit, Michigan. After two years of relentless effort he was beginning to prosper, then misfortune struck: at age 36 he contracted tuberculosis—a often fatal disease for which the standard treatment was extended rest—and in December 1926 he was hospitalized at the Trudeau Sanatorium in New York State. After reading a paper there on a radical alternative treatment, the pneumothorax procedure (collapsing the affected lung to allow it to heal), he demanded the surgery. It was successful. Bethune’s condition improved rapidly and by December 1927 he made a full recovery. This experience changed his life: Bethune now emerged as a crusader against tuberculosis and the social conditions that spawned the disease.
Norman Bethune emerged from his personal struggle with tuberculosis determined to battle the disease by becoming a thoracic specialist. He approached Dr. Edward Archibald, a pioneer in the field who had just opened a TB research centre at Montreal’s Royal Victoria Hospital. By March 1928 Bethune was already 38 years old, so this was a bold move. Yet his qualifications and enthusiasm impressed Archibald, who accepted him as his first assistant. They worked together until January 1933, when Bethune—now impatient to lead his own service—became chief of pulmonary surgery at Sacré-Cœur Hospital, a Catholic-run facility located just north of Montreal.

During this period he emerged as a talented innovator who introduced new procedures, invented or improved several surgical instruments, trained surgeons and made a series of contributions to the Canadian and international medical literature. In 1932 he became a member of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery, and three years later was elected to its council. At the same time Bethune became involved in Montreal’s vibrant cultural scene, mingling with artists, intellectuals and activists. In addition to taking up painting and creative writing, he became increasingly conscious that social inequities were the root cause of tuberculosis.

In 1935 he attended an international physiology conference in Russia along with his former classmate and fellow artist Banting (now world renowned for the discovery of insulin) and several other prominent Canadian physicians. Impressed by the Soviet medical system, Bethune organized a study group with representatives from various health professions, which in 1936 developed and promoted a plan calling for universal health care. The Canadian medical establishment of the day was not ready for socialized medicine, and its reaction was hostile. Bethune was deeply disappointed by this rejection, and with the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War in July 1936, he resolved to help the Republican forces in their struggle against Franco and his Fascist allies. Supported by the Toronto-based Canadian Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy, he sailed to Spain in late October, armed with medical supplies. Bethune’s major contribution in Spain was the establishment of the first mobile transfusion service to bring blood to front-line battle units, an approach which became the model for blood services during World War II and subsequent conflicts.
Although a Spanish blood service had previously been set up in Barcelona, the Madrid-based Servicio Canadiense de Transfusión de Sangre, created in December 1936, was located closer to the fighting and served a larger area. Keenly aware that transfusing the wounded as quickly as possible would save lives, Bethune took the team’s ambulance to the edge of the combat zone. At least once they got too close: during the battle of Guadalajara in March 1937, Bethune drove through a hail of gunfire, literally dodging a bullet that pierced the windshield while he scrambled out to aid a wounded combatant.

But Bethune’s relations with the Republican authorities soured. The Spaniards assumed control of the transfusion service, and in May 1937 he was sent home.

Back in Canada, Bethune was honoured by leftists and undertook a successful fundraising tour in support of the Spanish Republican cause. When the Japanese invaded China in 1937, he was determined to continue the war on fascism by aiding the Chinese. This mission would be his last and greatest achievement.
With support from several aid agencies, Bethune’s Canadian-American Mobile Medical Unit—its other two members were Joan Ewen, a Chinese-speaking Canadian nurse, and American physician Charles Parsons—sailed from Vancouver to Hong Kong in January 1938. In February they flew to Hankou, where after meeting there with Communist leader Zhou Enlai, Bethune and Ewen made the long and dangerous trek to Yan’an in northern China to support Mao Zedong’s 8th Route Army. Parsons declined to make this trip, but the unit was joined temporarily by Canadian missionary surgeon Richard Brown.

While in Yan’an, Bethune spent several hours with Mao Zedong, a meeting which deeply impressed both men. He worked briefly at the primitive regional hospital there, but was anxious to serve at the front. After sending Ewen south to retrieve the group’s supplies (which had finally reached X’ian from Hong Kong), Bethune and Brown travelled to the northeastern frontier region, reaching the village of Jingangku in June. A month later Brown was forced to return to his mission work, leaving Bethune the only trained doctor in a war-torn region of 13 million people.

Appalled by the lack of medical support, Bethune worked feverishly, performing surgery and training his Chinese colleagues in basic surgical and nursing techniques. An extension of the training program was the construction of a Model Hospital in the village of Songyankou. It opened on September 15, but was destroyed by advancing Japanese forces at the end of October. Undeterred, Bethune focused instead on bringing mobile medical units directly to the wounded.

On March 4, 1939, Bethune celebrated his 49th birthday with “the proud distinction of being the oldest soldier at the front.” He continued to work relentlessly, sleeping very little and sharing his food and clothing with patients. During a battle in April, Bethune and his Chinese assistants performed 115 operations in 69 straight hours. His selfless dedication inspired the soldiers, who went into battle crying, “Attack! If we are wounded we have Bai Qiuen to treat us!” But these ceaseless efforts were taking a great toll on his health. Bethune had grown alarmingly thin, and by August his teeth and eyes were in bad shape and he was deaf in one ear.

There was as well a desperate shortage of supplies. The China Aid Council had collected a good deal of medical equipment and medication, including a small supply of the new antibacterial sulfa drugs, but most of it never reached the front.

By August 1938, Bethune’s fingers were already becoming infected from operating in contaminated wounds because he had no surgical gloves. The following summer he was treated for two more serious infections, a sign of weakening immunity. On October 28, 1939, his scalpel slipped during a procedure, slicing the middle finger of his left hand. Several days later he contracted septicaemia (blood poisoning) after operating barehanded on a suppurating head wound. As his condition worsened, his comrades tried to carry him to the Huapen base hospital on a stretcher. But lacking the sulfa drugs that might have saved him, Norman Bethune died on November 12. He was buried wrapped in an American flag as no Canadian or British flag was available, and solemn memorial ceremonies were held in his honour in both the frontier region and in Yan’an.
The loss of their beloved doctor “Bai Qiuen” was a great blow to the 8th Route Army. On December 21, 1939, Mao Zedong published a eulogy, In memory of Norman Bethune, praising his “utter devotion to others without any thought of self” and his “boundless sense of responsibility in his work.” When the People’s Republic of China was founded in 1949, Bethune was enshrined as a martyred hero of the revolution. His tomb was moved to Shijiazhuang, a large city south of Beijing, where a Bethune Medical School and International Peace Hospital opened in 1952. Mao’s essay became part of the school curriculum, and Bethune was revered by the Chinese people as a model of self-sacrifice.

The news of Bethune’s passing reached the China Aid Council in New York two weeks after his death. Yet with the Second World War now raging across Europe and Canadians rushing to the front, the Chinese conflict was all but forgotten.

In Canada, Bethune remained a controversial and under-appreciated figure for many years. In 1943 the Canadian Congress of Labour proposed unsuccessfully that his work be recognized, and the first full length biography, published in 1952 at the height of the Cold War, appealed mainly to the political left. Meanwhile, some conservative physicians who had known Bethune during his Canadian career—offended by his sharp temper, unconventional “bohemian” lifestyle and radical approach to both medicine and politics—judged him harshly, dismissing him as too impulsive to be considered a great surgeon.

By the centenary of Bethune’s birth in 1990, he was becoming better known and regarded in his homeland. Commemorative postage stamps were jointly issued by Canada and China, and his life—already the subject of a documentary and television programs—was chronicled in a feature film starring long-time Bethune admirer, Donald Sutherland. In 1998 he was inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame, and in August 2000 a bronze sculpture was unveiled in front of the Gravenhurst Opera House by the town’s mayor, Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, and the Chinese ambassador. Dr. Norman Bethune had finally come home.

An appreciation of Bethune’s life and legacy began to emerge with the rapprochement between Canada and the People’s Republic of China in 1970. Two years later the Canadian government officially recognized his historical significance: the manse in Gravenhurst where he was born was purchased by Parks Canada and in 1976 became a national museum. The same year, Place Norman-Bethune (Bethune Square) was created in downtown Montreal, dominated by a replica of the statue in Shijiazhuang donated by the Chinese government.

A more comprehensive picture of Bethune’s accomplishments followed, beginning in 1982 as the Canadian and Chinese governments agreed to exchange copies of documents and artifacts. Since then, a large volume of additional Canadian, Chinese and Spanish sources have been brought to light. Numerous books and articles have been published, including several substantial biographies, along with many photographs and examples of Bethune’s artwork, letters, literary and scientific writings.

THE LEGACY (1938—PRESENT)

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In 1979, the fortieth anniversary of his death was marked by ceremonies in both China and Canada, including a three-day conference at McGill University.

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In the lobby of the Medical Sciences Building at the University of Toronto, a bilingual English–Mandarin plaque honouring “Dr. Henry Norman Bethune” for his work in China is prominently displayed along with tributes to several other heroes of the Faculty of Medicine including Banting and Best. In 2000, the Faculty’s Office of International Surgery established a Bethune Round Table, an annual conference on surgery in developing countries inspired by his humanitarian efforts in Spain and China.

This global vision is perhaps Bethune’s most enduring legacy to the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto and to the world. From its earliest years and well into the 20th century, there was a strong missionary element within the Faculty, with many of its graduates serving in foreign lands or in the Canadian north. Although profoundly influenced by his evangelical Presbyterian parents, Bethune’s crusades were motivated by a passionate humanitarianism rather than faith. In her biography of Bethune, c remarks on the irony of his being viewed as “Canada’s greatest missionary” through his service (and sacrifice) in China. Instead, this visionary created a new model of medical aid. “In his two intersections with world history, Bethune seemed to know what new directions social forces were taking and how he could influence them. He made history. … He put himself into events before there was any organized intervention.”

Bethune’s medical humanitarianism lies on in emergency and organizations such as Médecins Sans Frontières as well as numerous international and global health initiatives worldwide. The Faculty of Medicine has become increasingly engaged in these activities in recent years. Global health is a core commitment of the University of Toronto’s new Dalla Lana School of Public Health, established in 2008, and a growing area of focus in other departments.

Bethune’s medical innovations have been similarly far-reaching. Although most of the instruments he devised for chest surgery have since been rendered obsolete by advances in the treatment of tuberculosis, his introduction of mobile blood transfusion services at the battle front represents an enduring contribution to military medicine. His proposal for universal health care, considered so revolutionary during the 1930s, would eventually be adopted in Canada and many other countries.
As far back as the 1870s, University of Toronto students, alumni and faculty have lived, worked, studied and taught in China. This tradition of collaboration is very much alive today.

Dr. Norman Bethune is perhaps the best-known symbol of our shared history. While Bethune became a household name in China, there were other U of T alumni who made striking contributions to the region. Dr. William Macklin opened Nanjing’s Drum Tower Hospital in 1892 — an institution that has since grown into one of the largest medical facilities in China. In the late 1890s, Dr. Retta Kilborn founded a hospital for women and children and a training school for nurses. Dr. Robert McClane devised a surprisingly effective rural health care system during the 1920s using local volunteers to deliver basic services to the towns and villages outside Huaiqing. Touted as Canada’s second Norman Bethune, Dr. Tilson Harrison served with the Chinese Red Cross and the UN Relief and Rehabilitation Administration in the 1930s and 40s. Thanks to the passion of countless such individuals over the past 140 years, the University has fostered mutual understanding and benefited the lives of people in Canada and China.

Today, the Faculty of Medicine is carrying this tradition of collaboration into the 21st century. Working with our global partners, including many top universities in China, we are collaborating on leading-edge research in cancer, stem cell biology, regenerative medicine, nutritional science, infectious diseases, population health, community medicine, knowledge translation and health policy. Our growing engagement with China includes joint research projects, faculty exchanges, post-doctoral fellowships and student exchanges.

The bright path that Norman Bethune and others blazed decades ago is still being advanced today. Through deep engagement with the Asia-Pacific region, we are helping build a better world.

Dr. Calvin Law, MD’94 is Associate Professor of Surgery, a surgical oncologist, innovator and world-leader in improving patient care.

Dr. Bethune operating in a tent on the front line in China (Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library).
TRANSFORMING HEALTH THROUGH EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Recognizing that the most exciting health advances this century will be collaborative in nature and global in scope, the Faculty of Medicine is committed to intensifying its relationships with top research universities in China. Together, we are expanding our understanding of health and providing innovative learning opportunities. Today, we are engaged in a number of novel programs that underscore our work with, and in, China. Here are a few examples.

1. BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS

Collaboration with Fudan University

Since 2011, Dr. Jun Liu, a Professor in the Department of Molecular Genetics, has been cross-appointed as adjunct professor at Fudan University. His work focuses on developing novel strategies for the control of tuberculosis, one of the world’s most deadly infectious diseases. He collaborates with a tuberculosis vaccine research team at Fudan University.

The International Institute of Infection and Immunity

Co-led by Dr. David Kelvin, a Professor in the Department of Immunology, the International Institute of Infection and Immunity is a research partnership between Shantou University Medical College (SUMC) and the University Health Network that studies human infectious diseases. Located at SUMC, the Institute houses over 70 researchers who examine the virology and immunology of diseases like dengue fever, SARS, and highly pathogenic influenza. Based on their findings, scientists hope to design novel therapeutics and vaccines that will help prevent the spread of these illnesses. Recently, the Institute has made important discoveries in the transmission of avian influenza H7N9 and the implications for a human epidemic of this deadly virus.

The Department of Immunology at the University of Toronto and the International Institute of Infection and Immunity have also held a joint training program on emerging infectious diseases for Canadian undergraduate students since 2009. The course is held in China each summer and gives Canadian students hands-on training in emerging infectious diseases in South East Asia.

2. MOLECULAR GENETICS STUDENT EXCHANGE: INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

In 2010, the Department of Molecular Genetics established the International Undergraduate Research Program, which recruits some of the best undergraduate life-science students from top-ranked biomedical research universities in China to train at U of T. Students engage in an eight-week intensive knowledge-exchange experience, working alongside top-tier scientists in the department. Engaging in cutting-edge molecular genetics research inspires and motivates students to pursue advanced study in graduate programs in Canada, China, or elsewhere internationally.

3. THE ASIAN INSTITUTE

The Asian Institute at the Munk School of Global Affairs is the intellectual core for interdisciplinary research and teaching on Asia. Home to over one hundred scholars across the humanities and social sciences, including several of the world’s leading researchers on China, the Asian Institute is committed to innovative pedagogy and experiential learning for its students.

• Loren Brandt, a Professor of Economics at the University of Toronto, specializes in the Chinese economy. He has published widely in leading economic journals, and has been involved in extensive household and enterprise survey work in both China and Vietnam. He was co-editor and major contributor to China’s Great Economic Transformation, a landmark study that provides an integrated analysis of China’s unexpected economic boom of the past three decades.

• In 2013, the Asian Institute’s Dr. David Chu Program in Asia Pacific Studies hosted Professor Wang Hui as part of the Distinguished Visitors Program. Dr. Hui is Professor of Literature and History at Tsinghua University and Director of the Tsinghua Institute for Advanced Studies in Humanities and Social Sciences. He is recognized throughout the world as one of China’s foremost intellectuals and critics.

• Asian Institute Director, Joseph Wong, teaches a summer abroad course in Shanghai and Beijing—Transforming Global Politics: Comparative and Chinese Perspectives—designed to bring together University of Toronto and Fudan University students to foster cross-cultural dialogue.
4. SUSTAINABLE AND PROSPEROUS SOCIETIES

The University of Toronto and our Chinese partners are key collaborators in creating smarter, more livable and more prosperous urban areas, through the development of innovative technologies, infrastructures, products and services, and through transferring knowledge to key government leaders and policymakers.

Joint projects between the University of Toronto and Chinese universities include:

- Collaborations with Hohai University and Nanjing University around groundwater remediation.
- Studies into the technical issues surrounding pipe, pump and turbine systems, principally in Beijing, Nanjing and Harbin.
- Research into the application of high-voltage transmission systems.

5. THE CHINA PROJECT

In 1997, U of T’s Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work launched the China Project, which brought together researchers and practitioners from China and Canada to advance social work in both countries. Led by U of T Professor, Ka Tat Tsang, the project initially focused on working with Chinese partner institutions to develop much-needed social work education in China. Today, the China Project has two components: collaborating with colleagues at Tsinghua University and Shandong University, and developing better social services for Chinese communities in Canada.
Nowhere is U of T’s global footprint more evident than in our student body, representing more than 150 countries around the world. In the early 1900s, a small group of Asian students arrived at U of T; a century later, we welcome more than 6,000 students a year from the region. Seventy-five per cent of the University’s international undergraduate students come from the Asia-Pacific region. Moreover, thousands of students of Asian heritage—who grew up in Toronto’s multicultural metropolitan region—enrich and contribute to academic and student life at U of T.

Our students benefit from access to world class scholars, have the opportunity to learn in collegial small group environments and engage in countless research opportunities and a wide range of global learning experiences. They become global ambassadors, who contribute meaningfully to their communities in Canada, Asia and around the world.
Though it’s been 75 years since his passing, Dr. Bethune continues to inspire people around the world. In 2013, Niu Gensheng, founder and honorary president of the Laoniu Foundation, and Zhang Bin, President of China Cultural Industry Association, made a substantial donation to the Faculty of Medicine in honour of Dr. Norman Bethune. Mr. Zhang’s and Mr. Niu’s generous gift supports student awards and bursaries, as well as the installation of a bronze sculpture of Dr. Bethune on the St. George campus at the University of Toronto.

As international champions of art and culture, Mr. Zhang and Mr. Niu recognize the need to cultivate skills and advanced learning. Their support underscores the Faculty’s commitment to excellence in education and promotes a spirit of internationalism amongst our medical students while providing an invaluable opportunity to some of the best and brightest minds in our programs.

In May 2014, the Faculty had the pleasure of granting the Norman Bethune student awards to the first recipients, heralding a new era of learners whose future practice will be inspired by Bethune’s legacy.
Through the support and generous gift of Mr. Zhang Bin and Mr. Niu Gensheng, the Faculty of Medicine commissioned acclaimed Canadian sculptor, David Pellettier, to create a life-size bronze of Norman Bethune. In this major new work unveiled, on May 30, 2014, the artist conveys subtle qualities of heroism. Cloaked in traditional Chinese garb, Dr. Bethune is captured holding his journal in a moment of quiet contemplation. Rendered accessible through intimate positioning and a humble pose, this portrait of the medical innovator attracts a wide range of observers—students, travelers and the general public.

"DAVID PELLETTIER’S REMARKABLE SCULPTURE OF THE LEGENDARY DOCTOR BRINGS ADDITIONAL RENOWN TO THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO AND ITS CELEBRATED MEDICAL SCHOOL," said Professor Ethan Matt Kavaler, Acting Chair of the Department of Art, University of Toronto. "Pellettier has chosen to present Bethune, not as a conventional and inevitably interchangeable standing dignitary, but rather as a seated man of healing and reflection, less attentive to his stethoscope than his greater calling, as he gently lifts his head for inspiration. Flowing across his lap is a banner engraved with a quote that reveals his distinctive and impressive ethos. The University is fortunate to have enlisted the talents of David Pellettier, whose fame is in no small part due to his ability to express the complex character and aspirations of his portrait subjects."

Situated adjacent to the Medical Sciences Building, directly across from Queen’s Park provincial legislature buildings and in proximity to other historic buildings on the St. George campus, the setting is evocative of the time when Norman Bethune studied at the University of Toronto. Pellettier’s bronze of the historical figure is a unique landmark that inspires reflection on the Canadian physician’s extraordinary effort, selfless service, and medical greatness.

About the Artist

DAVID PELLETTIER

David Pellettier was born in Toronto and graduated from the Ontario College of Art’s Department of Sculpture. The Canadian artist’s work is included in a number of prominent collections including Shell Canada, Art Gallery of Hamilton, Joseph E. Seagram and Sons Ltd., and numerous private international collections. One of the artist’s most recent sculptures is of the late NDP leader Jack Layton, in front of the eponymous ferry terminal (formerly the Toronto Island Ferry Terminal).
On May 31, 2014, the Faculty of Medicine held the Norman Bethune Gala, an elegant milestone event at the Four Season’s Hotel in downtown Toronto. The affair brought together leaders from government, industry and the academic community in Canada and China to celebrate Bethune’s legacy and recognize the way his dedication and work continue to inspire the Faculty as well as the next generation of health care leaders.

THE NORMAN BETHUNE GALA COMMITTEE

The Norman Bethune Gala would not be possible without the tremendous support of our volunteer committee. It is a testament to Bethune’s impact that the Faculty has had the privilege of working with this group of passionate and selfless volunteers. Through their contribution, the Faculty of Medicine has been able to recognize Bethune in a manner most worthy of his legacy.

“Working with a group of extraordinary people on an event to honour an extraordinary person is a precious opportunity indeed. This event will extend the recognition he so richly deserves.” — Philip Chiu

“When I first heard about the Norman Bethune Gala, I said to myself this is the one celebration of life and living that I would love to be a part of. To have the Canadian Foundation for Chinese Heritage Preservation involved is simply icing on the cake!” — Sonja Chong

“I grew up in a family where Eastern and Western medicine worked together harmoniously. Because of this, I am delighted to volunteer on this project, recognizing the impact of both Dr. Norman Bethune and the Faculty of Medicine around the world.” — Amber Ing

“I was very fortunate to be invited to attend a Cultural Dialogue conference in Beijing and to visit the People’s Great Hall to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Norman Bethune. It is a great honour for me to put my event planning skills to good use for this occasion.” — Annie Kwok

“It is an honour to contribute to the planning of the Gala, celebrating Bethune’s achievements, which advanced Western medical development in China and reinforced a positive image of Canada among Chinese people.” — Jack Leong

“It has been said that when Chinese school children are taught the value of helping humanity, the story they are told is Norman Bethune’s. It’s a great honour to be a member of this volunteer committee, helping to advance his story from generation to generation.” — Annie Song Qing Li

“As a Chinese-Canadian, I am so fortunate to be a Professor in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto, where Dr. Bethune graduated. Now, a sculpture of Dr. Bethune has been installed on campus to celebrate his life. Welcome home, Dr. Bethune!” — Mingyao Liu

“I’m excited to be a part of a celebration of a Canadian physician whose impact and legacy was at times misunderstood. It is my hope that Canadians will recognize Dr. Norman Bethune in a way deserving of his contributions.” — Larry Mah

“Dr. Norman Bethune has established a profound relationship between Canada and China. It is truly wonderful for the Faculty of Medicine to pay this highest respect to Dr. Bethune. I would like to salute the leadership of Dean Whiteside and the tireless effort of the Faculty staff.” — Bammy Wong

“Albert Einstein once said: ‘Try not to become a man of success, rather become a man of value.’ Bethune’s spirit has encompassed many generations of Chinese; his value still enriches the lives of people today, including mine.” — Hugh Zhao
The Faculty of Medicine has an established history of engagement with our collaborators in China, and around the world; one that is a source of great pride. As we look to the future, we are deepening our ties to international partners by fostering student mobility, faculty exchanges, joint research projects, and perhaps someday, even joint research degrees. This is a major theme of Boundless: The Campaign for the University of Toronto—a multi-year, comprehensive effort to raise $2 billion for the University’s highest priorities.

Among the Faculty’s top priorities is to nurture our long-term relationship with China through graduate and undergraduate student awards for students from China and the Asia-Pacific region; newly expanded exchanges with Asia through international research scholarships; summer abroad scholarships; and, support for research themes of particular interest to China, such as traditional Chinese medicine, among other initiatives.

Working with our alumni, donors, volunteers and partners in China, we will unlock the boundless potential of our next generation of students to strengthen their communities both locally and internationally and, like Dr. Bethune, make the world a better place.
THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

The University of Toronto’s Faculty of Medicine thanks our generous sponsors for their support, helping us to celebrate one of our most well-known graduates.

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PUBLISHED BY:

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