



RESEARCH2REALITY

Shining a light on research & innovation.

'I've Become a Part of History. That's What It Means'

An interview with the **2021 Gairdner Award laureates:**

Elizabeth Eisenhauer, 2021 Canada Gairdner Wightman Award laureate

Mary-Claire King, 2021 Canada Gairdner International Award laureate

Malik Peiris, 2021 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Award laureate

Jens Juul Holst, 2021 Canada Gairdner International Award laureate

Daniel Drucker, 2021 Canada Gairdner International Award laureate

Joel Habener, 2021 Canada Gairdner International Award laureate

and **Yi Guan**, 2021 John Dirks Canada Gairdner Award laureate

Elizabeth Eisenhauer

Winning a Gairdner and getting a phone call from Janet Rossant in the middle of one of the darkest winters that we have suffered through as a society was a beam of light.

Mary-Claire King

I think it's particularly important that we kept it up this year even through COVID. We are scientists and we are teachers, and the science continues. And nothing has been more important during this period than good science.

Malik Peiris

I'm particularly pleased because I believe it is a recognition for our whole team here at Hong Kong U for the work that we all have been doing together for over 20 years now.



Jens Juul Holst

It's very surprising. It's a huge super honour. It's wonderful that this field of research is getting the attention of the world because this is what happens with a prize like this. And so I am extremely happy, particularly on behalf of the use of these molecules at their future.

Daniel Drucker

It really validates the ideas that we've had, the outcomes that we've realized, and I think is tremendously satisfying not just for me but for the dozens of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows and collaborating scientists. This award is as much recognition for their work as it is for mine.

Joel Habener

Peer recognition such as is provided by this award is a strong indication that I've actually accomplished something useful and important.

Yi Guan

It reminds me what I did, that my work is still remembered by somebody. I've become a part of history. That's what it means for me.



Elizabeth Eisenhauer

To have a prestigious organization like the Gairdner see the importance and value of academic clinical trials research is huge. And I'm extremely grateful and will try to do my best to live up to the honour that they've given me. The challenge with doing childhood cancer research is that most people in the world, they don't really know much about childhood cancer. They assume that it doesn't really happen in kids. But it does, and it's a very different disease than in adults.