Pieter R. Cullis, Ph.D. FRSC;

Director, Life Sciences Institute, University of British Columbia Chair, Personalized Medicine Initiative Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Director, NanoMedicines Research Group, UBC.

Dr. Cullis and co-workers have been responsible for fundamental advances in the generation, loading and targeting of lipid nanoparticle (LNP) systems for intravenous delivery of small molecule drugs and macromolecular drugs such as small interfering RNA (siRNA). This work has contributed to three LNP products that have been approved by regulatory agencies in the U.S. and Europe for the treatment of cancer and its complications and five more in clinical trials. Dr. Cullis co-founded Lipex Biomembranes Inc., Tekmira Pharmaceuticals, Northern Lipids Inc., and, most recently, Acuitas Therapeutics and Precision NanoSystems. In addition, he co-founded and was Scientific Director of the Centre for Drug Research and Development (CDRD) 2004-2010. He has published over 300 scientific articles and is an inventor on over 60 issued patents. Dr. Cullis has received many awards, including the B.C. Science Council Gold Medal for Health Sciences in 1991 and the Alec D. Bangham Award for contributions to liposome science and technology in 2000. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 2004 and was awarded the Prix Galien, Canada's premier prize for achievements in pharmaceutical R&D, in 2011.