



ANNUAL GAIRDNER HIGH SCHOOL  
STUDENT LECTURE

# Why is Research Interesting?

## Story of the COVID-19 mRNA Vaccines

Monday | October 24, 2022 | 11:00am

Join the webinar

University of Winnipeg | Eckhardt Gramatte Hall | 515 Portage Ave.

Passcode: 953406



Presented by:

**Pieter Cullis, PhD**

- Recipient of the Canada Gairdner International Award (2022)
- Professor, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of British Columbia
- Order of Canada

Pieter R. Cullis, PhD, FRSC, FNAI (USA), OC is director of the Nanomedicines Research Group and professor of biochemistry and molecular biology at the University of British Columbia (UBC).

Dr. Cullis and co-workers have been responsible for fundamental advances in the development of nanomedicines employing lipid nanoparticle (LNP) technology for cancer therapies and gene therapies. This work has contributed to five drugs that have received clinical approval.

Dr. Cullis has co-founded 11 biotechnology companies, published more than 350 scientific articles and is an inventor on over 60 patents. He has also co-founded three not-for-profit enterprises, including the Centre for Drug Research and Development (now AdMare) and the NanoMedicines Innovation Network.

Two drugs enabled by LNP delivery systems devised by Dr. Cullis, members of his UBC lab and colleagues in the companies he has co-founded have recently been approved:

Onpattro was approved by the U.S. FDA in 2018 to treat the previously fatal hereditary condition transthyretin-induced amyloidosis. Onpattro is the first RNAi drug to receive regulatory approval.

Comirnaty, the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Pfizer/BioNTech, has been approved in many jurisdictions, including Canada, the U.S., the U.K. and Europe. More than 3 billion doses were administered worldwide in 2021.

Dr. Cullis's numerous awards include the Order of Canada in 2021 and the VinFuture Prize and Prince Mahidol Award in 2022.

