

# Our **INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS** at the University of Manitoba can save lives as well as transform them.



One of our most enduring and successful partnerships reached a significant milestone in January when we signed a five-year renewal of agreements with the University of Nairobi that builds on more than three decades of infectious disease collaboration.

I was fortunate to participate in that signing with Prof. George Magoha, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Nairobi, during a conference in Kenya that attracted infectious disease experts from around the world.

We have built a strong partnership and friendship with our colleagues at the University of Nairobi, based on trust and mutual respect that is grounded in a desire to help others.

It makes us all proud to see the University of Manitoba recognized as a global leader in research, prevention, care and support in the area of HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections.

The work pioneered by Dr. Allan Ronald, Dr. Frank Plummer, Dr. Stephen Moses and dozens of other scientists and doctors from Canada, Kenya and around the world has resulted in reduced infection rates and better outcomes for patients.

This partnership was chronicled in Larry Krotz's 2012 book published by University of Manitoba Press entitled *Piecing the Puzzle: The Genesis of AIDS Research in Africa*.

Through the leadership of Dr. James Blanchard and others, that knowledge has spread to India, Pakistan, China, Nigeria and Ukraine.

Like any success, it takes a team effort of outstanding scientists and physicians including Dr. Keith Fowke, Dr. Marissa Becker, Dr. Lisa Avery, Dr. Robert Lorway, Dr. Shiva Halli, Dr. Larry Gelmon and Dr. Blake Ball.

Our infectious diseases research team has attracted support from the Canadian International Development Agency, International Development Research Council, World Bank, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

We are looking to replicate that success through Partners for Health and Development in Africa, a new non-governmental

organization in the process of being established, which will help facilitate some of the University's other initiatives in Africa. We see other opportunities for partnership in Kenya including maternal health, agriculture, education and other fields of development.

The story of Dr. Blanchard's and his colleagues' achievements are featured in this month's edition of *On Manitoba*.

I am proud to say that even when citing one of the University of Manitoba's greatest international success stories, we are merely scratching the surface.

We have over 300 international university partners, giving our students and researchers opportunities to learn, discover and volunteer all over the world.

The University of Manitoba has more than 2,500 international students enrolled in our undergraduate and graduate programs. They make significant contributions to the diversity of our campus and broaden the learning environment for all of our students.

At the University of Manitoba, education has no borders. We support a climate of respect where all people are valued and where individuals from all communities, ages and cultures are welcome.

Of course, our success also includes you, our alumni.

We are blessed to have more than 128,000 advocates and ambassadors in 131 countries. As well as world-class researchers and doctors, our graduates include groundbreaking artists, successful entrepreneurs, international jurists and government and elected officials at the highest levels.

Your success elevates our university and enables us to attract the very best students, faculty and researchers. When you succeed, we celebrate that achievement because we admire you and you make our university stronger.

While it is difficult to capture all of your success and the far-reaching contributions of our students, faculty, staff and alumni around the world in one magazine, we believe this edition of *On Manitoba* will give you a taste of our impressive global impact.

DAVID T. BARNARD PRESIDENT AND VICE-CHANCELLOR