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“This book is a must-read for those who are interested in our health care system and who want to make it better. Dr. Montague provides an illuminating overview of his journey through hospital wards, clinical trials, outcomes research...drawing on his diverse and unique background, he gives a fascinating history of the past, an important analysis of the present and a compelling glimpse of the future.”

- **Dr. David Johnstone**  
**President, Canadian Cardiovascular Society**

A prescription for Canada's ailing healthcare system

# **Patients First**

## **Closing the Healthcare Gap in Canada**

Dr. Terrence Montague

**41% of Canadians give our healthcare system a grade of C or worse,  
says July 2004 Ipsos Reid poll**

Canadians live in a country that is associated with some of the best health and quality of life outcomes in the world. We live longer and better than most. Yet we feel things can be better but are afraid they may get worse – we know there are gaps in our current health care system.

Health care has long been a primary target for governments looking to reduce costs in order to reign in large deficits. The fear that Medicare may not be sustainable is widely perceived as a threat to our way of life. How did this situation come about? Why is an institution so revered by citizens at such risk of failing?

*Patients First* (Wiley / September 2004 / \$49.99 CAN / ISBN: 0-470-83511-7), by Dr. Terrence Montague, provides a clear blueprint for improving health care in Canada. Drawing from his extensive clinical, academic and business experience, Dr. Montague shows all stakeholders in the Canadian health care system, including patients, how they can work together to make a meaningful improvement to the care patients receive and the outcomes they achieve.

In the wake of the implementation void following the presentation of the Romanow Report, this book proposes a practical, community-oriented action plan for Canadian health care. *Patients First* argues for the adoption of the Patient Health Management method, which puts the patient at the centre of the health care system.

An optimistic look at closing the health care gap in Canada, *Patients First* is a vision, an action plan, and an important reminder to those invested in the health care system that things can be better.

## **About the Author**

**Dr. Terrence Montague** (Montreal, Quebec), a cardiologist and health researcher, heads the Department of Patient Health at Merck Frosst Canada Ltd.

He graduated from Dalhousie University, where he held professorships in Medicine and Physiology from 1979 to 1988. In 1988, he became Professor of Medicine and Director of the Division of Cardiology at the University of Alberta. He joined Merck Frosst Canada Ltd. in 1996, where he is a Vice President and member of the Executive Operating Committee.

Dr. Montague is a retired Lieutenant Colonel, Canadian Army, having served in various Regular and Primary Reserve roles in Canada and abroad. He is a member of a number of professional associations, including the Royal College of Physicians of Canada, the American Heart Association, the American College of Cardiology and the Royal Canadian Regiment Association. He is the author of more than 300 scientific publications and has been a member of the editorial board of several medical journals.

## **Patients First Closing the Healthcare Gap in Canada**

Dr. Terrence Montague

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