

## 2003 Cardiovascular Biomarkers and Surrogate Endpoints Symposium

Beginning in 2003, Dr. Peter Libby, Mallinckrodt Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School and Chief of Cardiovascular at Brigham and Women's Hospital; Dr. Jean-Claude Tardif, Director of the Montreal Heart Institute Research Center, and Dr. Therese Heinonen, Associate Director, Medical and Scientific Affairs, Montreal Heart Institute organized the first **Cardiovascular Biomarkers and Surrogate Endpoints Symposium**. The objectives were to 1) educate participants in state-of-the-art technologies for assessing atherosclerotic risk and progression; 2) to provide participants with an understanding of the issues related to applying these technologies in a setting of drug development; and 3) to provide a forum for improved understanding between academia, industry, and regulatory agencies. During the symposium, the participants explored the use of various diagnostic and research tools applied to clinical trials to assess risk for, and determine the progression of, atherosclerotic vascular disease (*Appendix A*). The principles behind these technologies and measures were addressed, including recent technical advancements, and the advantages and limitations of these technologies. New and cumulative data generated using these biomarkers were discussed, as were regulatory issues regarding the use of biomarkers and surrogate endpoints as the basis of drug approval. The faculty included experts from academia, industry, and government agencies (*Appendix B*). From the very first symposium in 2003, an environment of collaboration and cooperation has been fostered to the extent that faculty members have included representatives from government, academia, and industry. Additionally, symposium participants have included experts from all segments of the healthcare profession and have included colleagues from public and private institutions worldwide.