



ISMP Canada Founding Member Dr. Beverley Orser Appointed Officer of the Order of Canada

The appointment honours her exceptional contributions to medicine, neuroscience, and patient safety in Canada.



Toronto, ON July 7, 2026: Beverley A. Orser, MD, PhD, FRCPC, FRSC, FCAHS, a Founding Member of the Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada (ISMP Canada), Professor and Chair of the Department of Anesthesiology & Pain Medicine at the University of Toronto's Temerty Faculty of Medicine, and a practicing anesthesiologist at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre, has been appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada. The appointment was announced on June 26, 2026, by Her Excellency the Right Honourable Louise Arbour, Governor General of Canada.

This honour recognizes Dr. Orser's extraordinary and sustained contributions to medicine, science, and patient care. The Office of the Governor General described her as a leading anesthesiologist, neuroscientist, and University of Toronto professor internationally recognized for defining anesthesia's molecular mechanisms. Her discoveries have reshaped how the world understands the way anesthetic drugs influence memory, consciousness, and brain function, while her leadership and advocacy have advanced patient safety practices in Canada and abroad.

Dr. Orser established the world's first Perioperative Brain Health Centre at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre and collaborated with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration on the safety of anesthetic drugs in children. Her many contributions have been recognized across the globe and include a Fellowship in the Royal Society of Canada, the Gold Medal from the Canadian Anesthesiologists' Society, and the American Society of Anesthesiologists' Excellence in Research Award. She was elected to the U.S. National Academy of Medicine in 2018 and appointed a Member of the Order of Ontario in 2022.



“To see Beverley recognized this way is a proud moment for everyone connected to this organization,” says Trevor Hall, Chair, ISMP Canada. “Her vision helped make medication safety a national priority and we’re grateful for all she’s given to this work.”

In 2000, Dr. Orser co-founded ISMP Canada with David K. U, Dr. Michael Cohen of ISMP (U.S.), Sylvia Hyland, and the late John Senders. Founded on the belief that safer care begins with the willingness to learn from errors; ISMP Canada became the country's first organization dedicated to advancing medication safety. Today it stands as a trusted partner to healthcare providers, patients and caregivers, operational leaders, and policy experts, all working together towards a shared vision of zero preventable harm from medications.

“Dr. Orser has been part of ISMP Canada's story from the very first day, and her belief that safer care begins with evidence still shapes how we work,” says Natalie Borden, CEO, ISMP Canada. “This honour recognizes not only her scientific achievements, but the countless patients who are safer because of them. We are proud to celebrate her.”

About the Order of Canada

Since 1967, the Order of Canada has recognized more than 8,300 people whose outstanding achievement, community dedication, and service to the nation have enriched others' lives and moved the country forward. Appointments are made for sustained achievement at three levels: Companion, Officer, and Member.

About the Institute for Safe Medication Practices Canada

ISMP Canada is an independent national not-for-profit organization committed to the advancement of medication safety in all health care settings. ISMP Canada is working toward the vision of zero preventable harm from medications.

Media Inquiries

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