



# NEWSLETTER

## PROBUS CLUB OF VANCOUVER

PO Box 74539, KITSILANO, Vancouver, BC, V6K 4P4

Enriching members with topical, entertaining speakers and social activities

[www.probusvancouver.com](http://www.probusvancouver.com)

November, 2015

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**Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 10th**  
**Time:** 9:30 am  
**Location:** H.R. MacMillan Planetarium and Space Centre, Lower Level  
**Speaker:** Dr. Andre Gerolymatos  
**Topic:** Will the US/Iran Nuclear Agreement change relations in the Middle East?

### FUTURE SPEAKERS

December 8: Duncan Davies, CEO of Interfor  
Tentative Topic: Challenges facing the BC forest industry (US lumber agreement, China, pine beetle, etc)

### DR. ANDRE GEROLYMATOS



Dr. Andre Gerolymatos is a Professor of History, Chair of Hellenic Studies, and Director of the Stavros Niarchos Foundation Centre for Hellenic Studies at Simon Fraser University. He received his M.A. in Classics in 1982 and his PhD in History in 1991 from McGill University and is a Concurrent Professor at History College of Nankai University, China. He has received numerous awards and fellowships including, most recently, the Hellenic Republic's Order of the Phoenix in recognition of his contributions to Greek culture, the HRH Queen Elizabeth's Diamond Jubilee Medal acknowledging his important contributions in his service to Canada, the Simon Fraser University President's Award for Service to the University through Public Affairs and Media Relations, and the BC Sugar Achievement Award (SFU) for activities that have brought international recognition to Simon Fraser University. He has published a numerous books including *Castles Made of Sand: A Century of Anglo-American Espionage, Black Ops, and Intervention in the Middle East; Red Acropolis, Black Terror: The Greek Civil War and*

*the Origins of Soviet-American Rivalry; The Balkan Wars: Conquest, Revolution and Retribution from the Ottoman Era to the Twentieth Century* and has edited several volumes and written numerous refereed articles. He regularly contributes to The National Herald, The Globe and Mail, The Vancouver Sun and other newspapers on topics of national security, Greek, Balkan and Middle Eastern politics, and military affairs.

### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE DECISIONS

At the October meeting of your Management Committee, three motions were proposed and passed unanimously. The first was to change the supplier of our name badges. President Jack has found a source of blank badge holders. He can then create a name badge which is identical in appearance to our current one. The advantages are twofold; new members name badges will not need to be ordered which means immediate availability and the cost will be half, \$5.00 instead of \$10.00. The second was to initiate a charge of \$5.00 for replacement badges in the event that a member loses their original one. The third motion was to discontinue purchasing a distributing Probus Club pins. This decision came after a recent meeting where we were one pin short to present to the new members. A search of all attendees revealed that not a single member was wearing their pin!

## Report of the October 13th Meeting

Attendance: 121 Members and Guests

This meeting was the Presidents' Lunch at the Arbutus Club, honouring past Probus presidents. John Gunn acted as Secretary. The meeting was opened by President Jack Zaleski, who gave a delightful report on his method of maintaining good physical health involving only sacks of potatoes. President Jack then introduced the past presidents.

The chairman then introduced Peter Cooperberg who in turn introduced Dr. Montaner, our distinguished guest speaker, who arrived here from Argentina in 1981 and has been here doing his amazing work ever since. He arrived here just as a new illness was striking our population, particularly among men between 25 and 44, with a strange and fatal form of incurable pneumonia, which eventually was named HIV/AIDS (Human immunodeficiency virus infection and acquired immune deficiency syndrome).

If members of this club rewind their memory banks to the eighties and nineties, it will be surprising if a number of us will not recall friends, acquaintances or persons in the news who were taken from our midst by that tragic AIDS epidemic which was spreading everywhere. We had to witness the long and often slow decline of the lives of these people, finally ending in their death. We now realize this tragedy might still be haunting us but for the remarkable endeavours of Dr. Montaner and his colleagues along with the Sisters of Providence right here at our own St. Paul's Hospital. At the end of his talk Dr. Montaner received a well-deserved standing ovation.

As well as 600 published scientific papers, Dr. Montaner has been awarded an Order of Canada and very many other recognitions not only in Canada but worldwide and their treatment with three special drugs, which they eventually developed, became the standard procedure throughout the world. Initially their work followed some earlier work done by the Pasteur Institute in France.

HIV, which if not treated leads to AIDS, is a "retroviral" infection. Treatment worldwide at that time was generally with two particular drugs and the results were mixed. The St Paul's group then went on and developed a unique treatment with a difference. Initially the treatment that they brought in involved three particular drugs and their administration was very exacting. Not an insignificant problem was the cost - about \$15,000 a year for each patient. Initially the team had to do a so-called 'double blind' test on a group of patients in order to be certain that the application of these drugs was

really the reason for the remarkable rate of improvement.

In due course the team was able to obtain a single pill incorporating the powers of the original three effective drugs, and there now exists a single pill to be taken once a day for the rest of life and this allows the patient to live out a totally normal life. Without the treatment, the patient would die. Keep in mind that over 30 million people have already died of AIDS worldwide. A peripheral benefit of their treatment, which had not been expected, was that those who had the treatment were not only out of danger themselves from AIDS but, as well, they were no longer a threat to others in that they might pass it along, and so as a result, the rate of new infections went down dramatically. So dramatic was this outcome that a move was started to try and test everyone, that's everybody, in order to cut down the spread of the scourge. Note that even pregnant women with HIV who had been treated did not pass it on to their child. One of Dr. Montaner's exciting moments took place when he showed Premier Gordon Campbell some of his results. Apparently Campbell grabbed his arm and said "What are we waiting for. With your brains and our money we can make this happen." Incidentally the cost of treatment has now come down to around \$75 per year and if taken always, a normal life can ensue. Of course the long term hope is that an actual vaccine would be discovered which would alleviate the need for life-long medication but this is not coming soon. Currently they are working on a program called 90 90 90 by 2030 which requires that 90% of people will have been tested, 90% of those infected are treated and 90% of those treated are living normally. The program received much support from many sources - except from our Mr. Harper who suggested that this work would encourage prostitution! It goes without saying, that Dr. Montaner is a strong supporter of safe injection sites which can remove the danger of HIV transmission among drug users resulting from shared needles, in spite of Ottawa's view that such things encourage bad behaviour!

For a version of the above which includes questions and answers, please go to our Probus website at

[www.probusvancouver.com](http://www.probusvancouver.com),  
click on "Speakers" then on  
"Dr. Montaner"

### ROTARIANS' INVESTMENT CLUB

**Our next meeting will be on Thursday evening, October 29th at the RVYC, starting at 6.00 pm with a no-host bar followed by the meeting at 6.30 pm sharp !**

**Guest Speaker is Jamie Bonham of NEI Investments on the topic of "Fossil Energy - What we need to know". We shall also have reports on last month's stock acquisitions, presentations by members on the Round Table stock choices, and Watchdog reports on our portfolio.**

**We are expecting several Probus and Rotary Club members to see what the Club has to offer by attending and enjoying our always delightful 3 course dinner, including dinner, wine, gratuities, taxes for the modest sum of \$60.00 Please bring a cheque and call/email our President, Phil Webber (604-263-9247 or [philwebber@shaw.ca](mailto:philwebber@shaw.ca)) by Wednesday, October 28 at noon if you can attend as we have to advise RVYC of our numbers.**

**Call or email John Sullivan if you would like further information about our educational and sociable monthly meetings, or to receive our advance Agendas - 604-714-4773/office or [johnsullivan@shaw.ca](mailto:johnsullivan@shaw.ca).**



### **COME FOR LUNCH!**

After the meeting enjoy the conversation and fellowship at a "No Host Lunch" at the **"Local Public Eatery"** 2210 Cornwall Avenue.

### **THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



On October 13th our Presidents' Lunch honoured our Past Presidents who had a major role in making our club one of the best in Canada. 12 of our past 19 Presidents were able to attend and were warmly greeted by those in attendance. My apologies once again to Nick Thornton for missing him during the introductions! (No excuses since I met him in the elevator on the way to the luncheon!!).

Our speaker that day was Dr. Julio Montaner, Director of the BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS, Professor of Medicine and Chair in AIDS Research at UBC, and Past-President of the International AIDS SOCIETY. It was an outstanding presentation on his concept of early detection and treatment. An approach that has led to a remarkable 67% decline in new diagnosis and an 87% drop in AIDS related deaths from 1997 to 2013. BC has reported only 2 deaths from AIDS in the past year. Dr. Montaner received a standing ovation for his presentation and his work.

Special thanks go out to Peter Cooperberg for securing Dr. Montaner as our speaker.

Lunch was held at the Arbutus Club who did an excellent job. The service was superb and the food was great. Congratulations to Doug Jones and his team for organizing this event.

Next month we again welcome Dr. Andre Gerolymatos from SFU as our speaker. Dr. Gerolymatos spoke to us on the Middle East in January 2014 and in July 2013. His topic (tentative) will be "Will the US/Iran Nuclear agreement fundamentally change relationships in the Middle East?"

### **IN MEMORIAM**

*It is with regret that we announce the passing of Dr. Trevor Sandy on October 8th. Our condolences to his family. The Probus Club of Vancouver will make a donation in Trevor's memory to a charity of his family's choice*

## MEMORIES OF THE 2015 PAST PRESIDENTS' LUNCH

