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**CARTHA News Release**

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**Scottish scientist-entrepreneur joins Board of CARTHA, a global nonprofit based in Iowa City**



Dr. Chris Hillier, a serial biotech entrepreneur and Professor of Physiology at Glasgow Caledonian University, has joined the Board of Directors of CARTHA, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that operates out of Iowa City.

“Connecting scientist-entrepreneurs across borders is key to both getting more good business done as well as to delivering collective economic and social benefits. I have always been charmed by CARTHA’s unique vision and catalytic role in spurring new academic-practitioner collaborations and I am thrilled to join its governing Board,” said Hillier, who is engaged on numerous international efforts on his campus and currently leads an extensive program initiative in Malawi. In the words of the UK national newspaper, the *Guardian*, Hillier has “received just about every award or grant (for innovation and enterprise that) Scotland has to offer” including a Proof of Concept Award, a Royal Society of Edinburgh Enterprise Fellowship, a John Logie Baird Award for Innovation, Scottish Executive SMART and SPUR Awards and was a beneficiary of the Scottish Co-Investment Fund that directed public funding into private equity for the first time in the UK.

Serving on the CARTHA Council of Advisors, Hillier has participated in several of CARTHA’s programs, receiving resounding applause for his presentation at the Iowa City Noon Rotary Club in 2006 where he spoke about Iowa-Scottish entrepreneurial networks. Earlier this Spring, Hillier spoke at a CARTHA-led symposium titled “Humanity at the Nexus<sup>SM</sup>: Academic Partnerships and Entrepreneurship in Global Health,” held at the 2008 Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in Boston.



“Having worked with Chris, I can say that he represents one great example of a *Collaborative Doer*,” said Usha R. Balakrishnan, a long-time Iowa City resident and Rotarian who founded CARTHA (meaning “doer” in Sanskrit) in September 2006 and serves as its President and Chairman. She also volunteers on the Community Foundation of Johnson County Board in Iowa; the Council on Foundations-Community Foundations Leadership Team and the AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom & Responsibility in Washington DC.

Reflecting the symbolism of CARTHA’s logo (placing 55 dots and connecting them in particular ways to produce an exquisite *kolam* with 108 embedded triangles), CARTHA has designed and delivered its programs— based on its C2G2<sup>SM</sup> Training Model for *Building Collaborative Competence (C2) in Multisector Partnerships for Global Good (G2)*—in collaboration with 55 scientists, researchers, writers, entrepreneurs, and filmmakers volunteering from 9 countries in 5 continents. In all, over 235 individuals have contributed an estimated 6,500 hours over the last two years to provide the intellectual input, as well as the physical and financial resources to define and address issues that affect Collaborative Doers. Because of creative partnering, CARTHA’s programs to date—designed as thought leadership dialogues embedded into 8 conference panels, 5 public forums, and 9 seminars—have exposed its vision and work to over 1,000 faculty, students, and professionals. Through its Fellows program,



CARTHA has inspired 10 academics and practitioners from the younger generation, exposing them in early ways to the work of Collaborative Doers.

CARTHA's 2008 program includes the first international health technology innovation workshop in Recife, Brazil in November. Sponsored by Fiocruz-Pernambuco, this event brings together researchers and officials from health institutes, universities, biopharmaceutical companies, non-profits and other stakeholder groups to stimulate new cooperation for the development of products for public health, e.g., vaccines and diagnostics for *neglected diseases* such as tuberculosis (TB) that afflict millions of poorer populations in developing countries.

Next Spring, CARTHA leads a symposium titled "Thirsting for Daily Sustenance: Public-Private Partnerships for Global Water-Access" at AAAS 2009 in Chicago.

Hillier replaces Mark Sidel, Professor of Law at the University of Iowa, who completes his two-year term on the Founding Board of CARTHA.



Sidel, the incoming President of the International Society for Third Sector Research, says he will be continuing his affiliation with the organization as a *CARTHA Ambassador*, stating "CARTHA connects activism and scholarship, practice and research, and it connects people across borders. I'm delighted to be part of the growing network of people around the world that CARTHA has brought together."

Balakrishnan added, "Mark Sidel was the first Board member that I recruited into CARTHA and he has been an integral part of its birthing. I look forward to working together with Mark, Chris, and others as we continue along on our exciting phases of development, and pursue our fundraising efforts to support our next bold baby steps." Other CARTHA Board members are: Adhiambo Yvonne Owuor (Nairobi, Kenya); D. Balasubramanian (Hyderabad, India); Charles A. Gardner (Geneva, Switzerland); George W. Krull (Naperville, Illinois); and Thomas J. Mercolino (Chapel Hill, North Carolina).

#### **About CARTHA™**

Founded in 2006, CARTHA is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Its mission is to train, build, and empower networks of Collaborative Doers – bridging professionals who leverage academic-practitioner partnerships to enhance the positive impact of technological and social innovations. Focused on Academic-Public-Private Technology Transfer Partnerships, Global Health, Sustainability, and Social Responsibility, CARTHA's thought leadership dialogues and professional development initiatives are aimed to inspire, connect, and help mobilize resources for Collaborative Doers. For more information, please visit [www.cartha.org](http://www.cartha.org).

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