

## **Biography- Dr. Geoff Fernie, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute's Vice President of Research**

**Dr. Fernie, Vice President of Research at Toronto Rehabilitation Institute (Toronto Rehab), is keenly aware that current assistive devices often do not function well in challenging environments, like icy or snowy conditions, are not attractively designed or as user-friendly as consumers would like. For this reason, throughout his career, Dr. Fernie has worked in rehabilitation engineering to find innovative ways to improve and enhance the lives of individuals recovering from, and living with, disabling injury and illness and age-related conditions.**

**He is the creator of a range of assistive devices and technologies to help people with disabilities in day-to-day living. Over the years, Dr. Fernie has successfully transferred several products to the marketplace, including award-winning devices such as Staxi (nestable transport chair) and Toilevator (toilet base riser).**

**iDAPT is Dr. Fernie's vision and with his technology research team members and private sector partnerships, he will continue to turn innovative ideas into well-designed, commercially successful products for consumers to use and benefit from.**

**Recipient of the 2002 Jonas Salk Award, Dr. Fernie has played active roles in launching three spin-off companies. His committee roles include the advisory boards of the CIHR Institute of Aging, the Medical and Assistive Devices Consortium of Ontario and Western New York, the Veteran's Administration Research Center in Atlanta, and mostly recently he was appointed to the Accessibility Directorate of Ontario's new accessibility standards committee. He is an executive member and team leader of the very successful Ontario Rehabilitation Technology Consortium.**

**Dr. Fernie is also a professor in the Department of Surgery at the University of Toronto with cross-appointments that include the Institute of Biomaterials and Biomedical Engineering, the Graduate Department of Rehabilitation Science and the Departments of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy.**

**He was Director of the Centre for Studies in Aging at Sunnybrook & Women's College Health Sciences Centre until he joined Toronto Rehab in September 2003. A mechanical engineer, he has published over 100 peer-reviewed journal papers and book chapters, and over 23 families of patents. Dr. Fernie has a doctorate in Bioengineering from the University of Strathclyde in Scotland.**