

**Dr. James Orbinski**  
St. Michael's Hospital & University of Toronto

After extensive field experience with Médecins Sans Frontières / Doctors Without Borders (MSF), Dr. Orbinski was elected as its' international president from 1998 to 2001. He launched its Access to Essential Medicines Campaign in 1999. In 1999 Dr. Orbinski accepted the Nobel Peace Prize awarded to MSF for its pioneering approach to medical humanitarianism, and most especially for its approach to witnessing.

Dr. Orbinski has received many honorary doctorates and awards, including the Meritorious Service Cross, Canada's highest civilian award.

Dr. Orbinski believes that access to health care and to essential health technologies are critical global health issues today, and most especially for poor people. His research interests focus on 1) access to medicines and health care, 2) medical humanitarianism in war and social crisis, and 3) global health policy.

Since joining St. Michael's Hospital and the University of Toronto, he is a founder and Board Chair of Dignitas International, a hybrid academic Non Government Organization launched to provide and research community based care, prevention and treatment for people living with HIV in the developing world. Dignitas is now caring for over 10,000 HIV positive patients, and has over 5000 women, children and men on treatment for AIDS in Malawi.

He has just completed a documentary film on humanitarianism, screened at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival, titled "Triage." He has also just completed a book titled "An Imperfect Offering: Humanitarianism in the 21st Century", that was released in April 2008!