Message from the President: Historic gift from York alumnus will expand the University’s global health leadership

I am delighted to announce that York University alumnus Victor Phillip Dahdaleh, Canadian business leader and philanthropist based in the United Kingdom, has made a transformational donation of $20 million for the expansion of the University’s global health initiatives.

Mr. Dahdaleh’s historic gift, announced today at the High Commission of Canada in the United Kingdom, is the largest to be made by a York graduate in the University’s 56-year history. The noted philanthropist graduated with a BA (Honours) degree in administrative studies almost four decades ago, and recognizes the University’s commitment to addressing international health challenges.

This significant investment will enable York to expand our global health teaching and research activities, in keeping with our academic priorities, to better enable us to prepare the next generation of global health leaders and advance our commitment to building stronger, healthier communities.

Last year, our Faculty of Health launched the first Global Health Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science programs in Canada, to produce graduates who will work with health practitioners, educators, non-governmental organizations, governments and businesses around the world. This donation will have a major impact at the University and the world beyond through the expansion of our innovative Global Health program and research initiatives.

Victor Phillip Dahdaleh is known for his philanthropic and leadership contributions in support of education, health-related research, economic and social development, and the arts at a number of organizations around the globe, including McGill University, the London School of Economics, the William J. Clinton Foundation and the Canada Gallery at Canada House.

We look forward to sharing further details about the expansion of these teaching and research programs in the coming weeks.

Mamdouh Shoukri
President and Vice-Chancellor