Plagues and thoracic surgeons • Birth of airway surgery • Lung transplantation • The epidemic of lung cancer • Solving the mysteries of the pleural space • Notes from the gullet • Thoracic injuries • Exploring the frontiers of the mediastinum • The promise of surgical research • Legacy of Canadian thoracic surgery worldwide • Contributions of anesthesia • Unsolved dilemmas • Old and new worlds of thoracic surgery • Future of thoracic surgery • The 125 most important publications of all time.
Canada’s contribution towards the twenty first century’s understanding and practice of thoracic surgery is both unique and multilayered. Scattered throughout are tales of pioneers that treaded where none had gone before – where opportunities were greeted by creativity, courage and humour – where iconic figures followed one another in a rich mix of research, teaching and practice.

Many of the developments occurred by chance and through serendipity. Notably, it was the specific focus on Thoracic Surgery to the exclusion of Cardiac and General Surgery that distinguishes the Canadian experience – a model that is now emerging everywhere. The influence of Canadian Thoracic Surgery on international practice from America to Asia and from Europe to the Middle East and Australasia has been significant.

The importance and attention to research is one of the defining qualities as to how this story came to be told. From Chimera twin calves to ex-vivo organ preservation – from the study of diffuse esophageal spasm and oculopharyngeal muscular dystrophy to the removal and regeneration of airways – from intensive care research to complexity science, Canadians have excelled in their commitment to research.

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“This is not a fishing story. It is a real tale.”

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The book will be released September 2014 in two formats:

- 500 “Limited edition copies” (numbered 1-500), leather-bound and signed by the three authors at a price of $550.00 CDN including taxes, handling and shipping.
- 500 “Standard edition copies” at a price of $250.00 CDN including taxes, handling and shipping.

All proceeds from book sales will go to the upcoming Pearson/Nelems/Deslauriers Canadian Thoracic Surgery Foundation for Research and Education.

Book orders should be directed to the Canadian Association of Thoracic Surgeon’s website [www.canadianthoracicsurgeons.ca](http://www.canadianthoracicsurgeons.ca).