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## Laurier speaker series welcomes Dr. James Orbinski

WATERLOO – Laurier’s CIGI Chair in Global Health and former international president of *Médecins Sans Frontières* (Doctors Without Borders), Dr. James Orbinski, will speak about his book *An Imperfect Offering: Humanitarian Action in the Twenty-First Century* at Laurier’s Waterloo campus Sept. 27.

Orbinski has front-line experience in complex humanitarian emergencies, from Rwanda to Somalia, Zaire and Afghanistan. As head of *Médecins Sans Frontières*, he accepted the Nobel Peace Prize on behalf of the organization in 1999.

His book, *An Imperfect Offering*, has become a best seller and was a finalist for the Governor General’s Award.

The event is part of Laurier’s Global Studies speaker series, sponsored by Laurier’s Global Studies Department, School of International Policy and Governance, the Balsillie School of International Affairs, and the Laurier Bookstore.

The lecture will be followed by book sales and book signing, and takes place from 4 p.m. - 6 p.m. at Laurier’s Senate and Board Chamber, Waterloo Campus. It is free and open to the public.

Dr. Orbinski began his role at Laurier at the beginning of September. He is affiliated with Laurier’s School of International Policy and Governance, the Health Sciences Program in the Faculty of Science, and the Balsillie School of International Affairs. Dr. Orbinski also serves as director of the Africa Initiative at CIGI and as senior advisor to CIGI’s vice-president of programs.

He was a professor at the University of Toronto Medical School and chair of Global Health at the Dalla Lana School of Public Health. He was also a fellow at the Munk Centre for International Studies and practiced medicine at St. Michael’s Hospital in Toronto. Dr. Orbinski is co-founder and board chair of Dignitas International, a non-governmental organization that performs health systems research and community-based care for people living with HIV in the developing world. He is also a founding board member of the Global Alliance for TB Drug Development, the Stephen Lewis Foundation, and Canadian Doctors for Medicare.

Dr. Orbinski was awarded the Meritorious Service Cross, Canada’s highest civilian award, for his work assisting the injured and bearing witness to the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. He is an Officer of the Order of Canada and a member of the Order of Ontario.