

The History of the Sellers Postdoctoral Fellowship

The Sellers Postdoctoral Fellowship is named in memory of Dr. Edward A. Sellers and his son H. Hugh Sellers. They, and the rest of the Sellers family, had a professional and personal connection to Dr. Charles H. Best and his family for over 30 years.

Dr. Edward Sellers (1916-1985) was instrumental in establishing the BBDC in 1978, and became its first Director. He first met Charley Best in 1942 as a member of the WWII Naval Research Unit. In 1947 he earned his Ph.D. in Physiology under Dr. Best's supervision. Throughout much of his research career, he focused on regulatory mechanisms in endocrinology and the autonomic system. As Professor of Pharmacology, Associate Dean (Basic Sciences) of the Faculty of Medicine, and Chairman of Innis College at U of T, Dr. Sellers was an advocate for multi-disciplinary approaches to medical education and research.

The professional camaraderie and friendship that Drs. Sellers and Best shared was such that Charles Best was named as a godparent to Edward's newborn son Hugh in 1945. Hugh became an outgoing and charismatic public-school teacher and Vice Principal at Southwood Park School, piloting applications of computers in education. By personal example, father and son taught and inspired many. This Fellowship honours that tradition.