

SUNNYBROOK AND THUNDER BAY RESEARCH COLLABORATIVE GETS 'GO FORWARD'

August 1, 2007

Molecular Medicine Research Centre garners consolidating Federal Ministry investment to advance molecular medicine research in areas to include cancer, to ultimately improve patient outcomes.

July 30, 2007 (Thunder Bay, ON) – The Molecular Medicine Research Centre (MMRC), a unique cross-Ontario collaboration involving Sunnybrook Research Institute, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre, Lakehead University and Philips Medical Systems is pleased to receive today a \$14.7 million investment from the Government of Canada. This investment matches provincial support for MMRC and complements more than \$10 million of municipal support.

"Canada will achieve global competitiveness through multi-sector partnerships like the MMRC, where support of excellence in discovery research can align with and capitalize on industry investment. This is a transformative initiative, and we're proud to be part of it," said Dr. Michael Julius, Vice President, Research, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre.

"This investment completes a partnership of world-class organizations pursuing molecular medicine and imaging strategies and will translate directly to patient care," said Ron Saddington, President and CEO, Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre.

The MMRC will conduct research merging biology, physics and engineering towards the development of new molecular imaging technology and imaging guided diagnostics and treatment for cancer. Discovery and translational research conducted at MMRC will establish new standards for best clinical care and ultimately improve national cancer prevention and outcomes.

"The MMRC is an incredible asset for Northwestern Ontario and for the entire country. The federal investment announced today, together with the contributions of other partners will enable new discoveries which improve the diagnosis and treatment of all cancer patients," said Dr. Terry Sullivan, President & CEO, Cancer Care Ontario.

The MMRC has appointed Dr. John Rowlands as Founding Scientific Director. Dr. Rowlands is a senior scientist, Sunnybrook Research Institute and head of medical physics research, Odette Cancer Centre. He brings his expertise to this research collaborative and will oversee infrastructure and resource sharing, leading up to the MMRC's opening scheduled for March 2008. His areas of focus include developing new detectors for improved diagnosis using Positron Emission Tomography (PET) and High-Intensity Focused Ultrasound (HIFU) guided by Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) to harness heat to destroy cancers deep in the body without surgery.

- 30 -

Media contact:

Natalie Chung-Sayers
Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre