

**NEW CENTRE TO HELP MOVE MEDICAL IMAGING INNOVATIONS  
FROM THE LAB TO THE CLINIC**

Toronto (December 6, 2010) –The Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Industry awarded a new Centre of Excellence for Commercialization and Research grant of \$13.3 million to The Centre for Imaging Technology Commercialization and Research, a collaboration between Sunnybrook Research Institute and the University of Western Ontario, aimed at helping researchers and small companies commercialize medical imaging and digital pathology innovations in Canada.

“Our ultimate goal is to move ideas and inventions from the lab to the clinic to further support the health care community and to benefit patients,” Dr. Martin Yaffe, senior scientist, Sunnybrook Research Institute, and professor, Departments of Medical Biophysics and Medical Imaging, University of Toronto. Dr. Yaffe is collaborating with Dr. Aaron Fenster, scientist and director of Imaging Research at the Robarts Research Institute at the University of Western Ontario, and the lead for this new Centre for Imaging Technology Commercialization and Research.

The grant of \$13.3 million to the Centre for Imaging Technology Commercialization and Research is part of an overall \$61.1 million investment over five years awarded by the federal government to five new Centres of Excellence for Commercialization Research to fast-track innovations from the lab to the marketplace and to support economic growth.

Says Minister Clement, "Our government understands that an innovative society and economy depend on creative thinkers whose potential is encouraged and supported. That's why we are investing in the ideas, products and technologies generated by these Centres of Excellence to create jobs and businesses, help develop highly skilled people, strengthen our economy and position Canada for long-term prosperity."

The Centre for Imaging Technology Commercialization and Research will facilitate and expedite the translation of medical imaging and digital pathology developments for commercial and clinical use in Canada that will lead to the improved understanding, diagnosis and treatment of disease.

The Centre will address the barriers that prevent Canadian medical imaging companies from commercializing imaging technology, and will have three key roles:

- to help small and medium-sized enterprises, with the expertise, technical capabilities and infrastructure needed to become internationally competitive,
- to promote training and investment in imaging technology through the cultivation of new partnerships between the private sector and academic centres,
- to play an active role in managing intellectual property to ensure innovations are maximized.

Operating with sites at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto and at the University of Western Ontario in London, the Centre will begin its mandate by working with inventors in academic laboratories and small/medium sized enterprises in Canada.