



For Immediate Release

\$1.5 Million to Brain Sciences Research at Sunnybrook

Toronto, ON (January 21, 2010) – A \$1.5-million donation will support the construction of a new Brain Imaging Research Centre at Sunnybrook, giving scientists a new window into the brain, and new hope to those afflicted with stroke, dementias and mood disorders.

The gift, which will also fund new multi-disciplinary fellowships in Brain Sciences, is made to the Sunnybrook Foundation by Mrs. Ada Slaight and the Slaight Family Foundation.

“My mother and the Slaight Family Foundation are giving to one of the most innovative areas of Sunnybrook, where it is leading discovery into the health and diseases of the brain and mind, to honour the patient care and dedication to research shown by Dr. Sandra Black and the Neurology team at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre,” says Mr. Gary Slaight. “Dr. Black and her team are remarkable professionals who need the infrastructure and support to innovate and translate that innovation into improved care. We are thrilled to be supporting them and Sunnybrook.”

Dr. Sandra Black, known internationally as a leading Canadian cognitive neurologist and clinical researcher in stroke and dementia, is the research director of the Brain Sciences Program at Sunnybrook. Dr. Black is a full-time professor at the University of Toronto where she holds the Deborah Ivy Christian Brill Chair in Neurology and is the medical director of the Regional Stroke Centre at Sunnybrook. She is also the interim director of the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario Centre for Stroke Recovery, of which Sunnybrook is a major partner.

“This gift will help to establish future important scientific contributions,” said Dr. Black. “It will allow the Brain Sciences team to search for information that is crucial for finding the cures and treatments that will save and improve lives of people afflicted with brain disorders. The people of Ontario will benefit greatly from the generosity of the Slaight family.”

“Sunnybrook and the Brain Sciences Program are grateful and honoured to receive this generous donation from the Slaight family,” says Dr. Barry McLellan, president & CEO of Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre. “This recognition of Dr. Black is clear acknowledgement of her outstanding level of compassionate and innovative patient care and her pioneering work in the field of neurovascular diseases and dementia. She is an inspirational mentor to her patients and their families, her colleagues, and to students.”

In recognition of the gift, Sunnybrook Foundation plans to name a research suite and fellowship program in honour of Mrs. Slaight and the Slaight Family Foundation.

As the population ages, the number of Canadians living with brain-related conditions is increasing. Sunnybrook’s Brain Sciences Program expands on our understanding and management of these disorders of the brain and mind. The program uniquely brings together teams within medicine as well as interdisciplinary health professionals in clinical care, research and teaching to provide comprehensive care - from prevention, acute intervention, long-term management, outreach, and linkages to community providers. Research includes world-class neuro-imaging, neurochemistry, pharmacology and neuropsychology. The program is pioneering new interventions and imaging analysis techniques to optimize brain recovery and rehabilitation.

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