



Canada's Research-Based
Pharmaceutical Companies



Les compagnies de recherche
pharmaceutique du Canada

News Release

CANADIAN PATIENTS TO BENEFIT FROM RENEWAL OF CIHR/RX&D HEALTH RESEARCH PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

Projects include studies of HIV drug regimen, Hepatitis C, Type 2 diabetes, pain management and quality of life after knee replacement

For immediate release

OTTAWA (February 8, 2007) – The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and *Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D)* announced today the renewal of the CIHR/Rx&D Collaborative Research Program.

Over the past five years, the program has invested over \$320 million in valuable research projects at universities and teaching hospitals across Canada, making this the largest and most successful public-private health research program in the country. Project examples include: finding new ways to prevent Type 2 diabetes, improve pain management; and create more effective treatments for Hepatitis C, HIV/AIDS and many other diseases.

"Through this collaboration we will continue to support the creation of new knowledge and its translation into new clinical practices and innovative health policies," said CIHR President Dr. Alan Bernstein. "For example, the results of the DREAM* trial, one of the projects supported through the first phase of our joint agreement, have provided us new information on a potential drug regimen to address Type 2 Diabetes."

"We are committed to working with governments throughout Canada to ensure that patients remain the first priority of our health-care system," said Russell Williams, President of Rx&D. "The renewal of the CIHR/Rx&D Collaborative Research Program reflects our ongoing commitment to supporting health research aimed at improving the health of Canadians and the efficiency of our health-care system."

The objective of the CIHR/Rx&D Collaborative Research Program focuses on building clinical research support through personnel awards such as CIHR-Rx&D Research Chairs and operating support programs, including research grants and clinical trials.

The program, which has been in existence for more than 15 years, also encourages the sharing of best practices in clinical research, leading to better training of investigators and more comprehensive clinical trials. These activities reflect an ongoing commitment to research and the creation of new and innovative ideas, ideas critical to improved health and Canada's competitiveness in the global knowledge-based economy.

The word "Canada" in a serif font, with a small Canadian flag icon above the letter 'a'.

* Diabetes REducation Approaches with ramipril and rosiglitazone Medications

Here are some examples of the many innovative research projects funded across Canada under this program:

- **Dr. Julio Montaner**, from St. Paul's Hospital (University of British Columbia), is **leading an international effort to make it easier for HIV patients to adhere to their treatments** by examining the safety and tolerability of taking two protease inhibitors once a day instead of twice a day;
- **Dr. Lorne Tyrell**, from the University of Alberta, is contributing to the **development of a better treatment for patients infected with the Hepatitis C virus** by testing immune cells and molecules to treat this chronic virus in the mouse model his team developed;
- **Dr. Hertzell Gerstein**, from McMaster University, is **testing the ability of ramipril and rosiglitazone to prevent Type 2 diabetes** in over 5,000 people from populations at high risk of diabetes, including aboriginal and South Asian people. The results of the DREAM trial (Diabetes REduction Approaches with ramipril and rosiglitazone Medications), will provide a new strategy for preventing Type 2 diabetes and its complications;
- **Dr. Celeste Johnston**, from McGill University, is testing a standardized program developed by the Canadian Pain Society aimed at **reducing the amount of pain experienced by hospitalized Canadians**; and
- **Ms. Gillian Hatfield**, from Dalhousie University, is **examining gait patterns – including joint dynamics and muscle function during walking** – to find ways of changing these patterns. For people who have undergone total knee replacement, even small changes to their walking styles could increase the life span of the joint and improve their quality of life.

To view a copy of the latest CIHR/Rx&D Collaborative Research Program progress report, please visit: <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/25243.html>

About CIHR

The Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) is the Government of Canada's agency for health research. CIHR's mission is to create new scientific knowledge and to catalyze its translation into improved health, more effective health services and products, and a strengthened Canadian health care system. Composed of 13 Institutes, CIHR provides leadership and support to more than 10,000 health researchers and trainees across Canada. www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca

About Rx&D

Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D) is an association of members dedicated to improving the health of all Canadians. As a partner in the health-care system, our discoveries help eliminate the need for medical procedures such as surgery, which have a significant impact on patient quality of life and health-care budgets. Our community represents over 22,000 men and women working for more than 50 member companies in Canada and is responsible for generating 100,000 jobs across Canada. www.canadapharma.org

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