

## NEWS RELEASE

### **Rx&D SUPPORTIVE OF TRANSPARENCY AND SAFETY**

**Ottawa, May 25, 2005** – *Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies* (Rx&D) supports the principles of increased transparency, better information, and optimal drug utilization in response to the announcement today by Health Minister Ujjal Dosanjh in the establishment of a searchable online database of adverse drug reactions (ADRs) to health products.

In developing this database, Rx&D asks the Minister to ensure that patients also have access to information regarding the benefits of medicines and the value of optimal drug utilization.

“This new database could be of benefit to Canadians in having immediate access to the latest information on adverse drug reactions, stated Rx&D President Russell Williams. “Rx&D member companies have long been reporting ADRs to Health Canada and we are pleased to offer our advice to the department as the ADR database moves forward.”

It is also important that Canadians have access to information regarding the benefits of medicines, the necessary tools to interpret this new data, and include their health care professional in their decisions. “With the right tools and with advice from a health care professional, this additional knowledge, which can be complex, would add to Canadians’ understanding of the role and value optimal drug utilization brings to our health care system,” said Mr. Williams.

Part of this agenda also includes transparency in the creation of an international registry of clinical trials. These registries are good for patients who will be able to obtain more information about new medicines and therapies in development. Working in partnership with the international pharmaceutical community and Health Canada will ensure patients have access to necessary clinical trial data, including benefits and adverse drug reactions.

“Safety and transparency have always been fundamental to our member companies,” continued Mr. Williams. “Well informed patients have a better understanding of their condition, treatment, and can make well informed decisions about their health care.”

*Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies* (Rx&D) is an association of members dedicated to improving the health of all Canadians. As a partner of 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 more than 22,000 men and women working for over 50 member companies in Canada.

-30-

Information:

François Lessard  
Communications  
Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies  
(613) 236-0455