

News Advisory:
For Immediate Release
(Vancouver, April 14/09)



WHAT: The Impact of Genomics in the Clinic: Annual Conference

A one-day conference informing clinicians about advances in genomics and giving examples on how new technologies can be used in research and clinical practice.

Leading genomics experts will examine current issues faced when using genetic information in clinical practice, and will provide their perspective on the promises made by personalized genomics. Several of B.C.'s foremost genomics scientists will discuss currently available genomics technologies and show their broad applicability to clinical problems. The full program is available at www.bccgn.ca.

WHEN: Monday, April 20th, 2009
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

WHERE: Plaza 500 Hotel Ballroom
500 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver, BC

WHO: **Keynote Speaker Ian Brown** (Globe and Mail feature writer, radio host) will talk about his experiences as a father of a child with a rare genetic disorder and his interactions with scientific researchers. He will discuss the gap between the promises of research and the hopes of parents, with recommendations to demystify the world of medical research for doctors and their patients.

Dr. Michelle Demos, who researches the genetic causes of seizures in children with epilepsy. She hopes her work will lead to new medications that can better control seizures.

Dr. Neal Boerkoel, who has discovered and implemented a **new genetic test** that can be used to help counsel families who have an inherited form of **mental retardation**.

Dr. Rod Rassekh, who has been investigating how to better treat **cancer patients** who may suffer from **adverse drug reactions** due to differences in their genes.

BC Clinical Genomics Network Co-Leaders Dr. Michael Hayden and Dr. Jan Friedman are also available for interviews.

About the BC Clinical Genomics Network:

The British Columbia Clinical Genomics Network (BCCGN) is a technology methodology platform **supported by the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research**. It works with experts from the BC Cancer Agency, University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, the University of Northern BC and with technology platforms located at the Child & Family Research Institute, BC Cancer Agency Genome Sciences Centre, VGH Prostate Centre, BCCH Molecular Cytogenetics Lab and the BC Cancer Research Centre. It aims to educate BC clinicians about the impact of genomics, and to help them access BC's state-of-the art genomics technology platforms so as to advance scientific knowledge and its application to improved health outcomes in the province of BC.

Contact: Lesley Phillips
BC Clinical Genomics Network
Tel: 604 875 2000 ext.5980
lesleyp@interchange.ubc.ca



Michael Smith Foundation for
Health Research