

## **Centre for Drug Research and Development Receives \$8 Million**

### **New Hybrid Drug Development Centre Receives CFI Funding**

**Vancouver, BC: November 27, 2006:** Canada's first hybrid academic centre connecting discovery with commercialization for therapeutic drug development has received an \$8-million funding injection from the federal government.

The Center for Drug Research and Development (CDRD), a unique non-profit organization that brings together researchers, institutions and industry in B.C. to bridge the gap between primary research and the successful development of new medicines, was awarded the funds by the Canada Foundation for Innovation, a Government of Canada corporation that finances research infrastructure.

The CDRD is a new initiative that accelerates the development process so that new drug therapy discoveries from academic researchers can be quickly brought to the stage where they can attract funding required for clinical trials. CDRD will apply the funds to the construction of a \$20-million facility that would foster co-operation among B.C. researchers and help them commercialize discoveries. Based at UBC, these facilities will have state-of-the-art equipment and will serve researchers and trainees at universities and associated institutions across B.C.

The CDRD aims to advance early stage health-related discoveries through the core activities of drug discovery, design and synthesis, screening, in vitro and in vivo testing, and drug formulation and evaluation. It also provides a new research and training model that will broaden the B.C. pool of biotech entrepreneurs working on drug discovery and development.

CDRD includes two separate bodies: The Drug Research Institute(s) (DRI) is an academic research infrastructure that enables B.C. researchers in universities and hospitals throughout the province to focus and amplify their drug discovery and development efforts; Drug Development Inc. (DDI) assists the commercialization of drug therapies by driving drug development projects and bringing the technology to market either by creating companies or licensing to an existing company.

“We are very pleased to receive this funding. It enables our ability to build critical infrastructure and launch CDRD,” CDRD Chief Executive Officer Natalie Dakers said. “It also indicates that the federal government recognizes the need to address the commercialization gap between early-stage technology arising out of university based research and investment opportunities. It will also help create a network focal point for the growing B.C. biotech sector.”

Visit the Centre for Drug Research and Development at [www.cdrd.ca](http://www.cdrd.ca) for more information.

**About The Centre for Drug Research and Development**

The Centre for Drug Research and Development (CDRD) was founded by several biotechnology leaders in response to the growing challenges of securing funding and increasing the talent pool for early stage drug research and discovery in British Columbia. It is creating a template for the acceleration of biomedical technology from the lab bench to commercial development. CDRD provides a collaborative platform that makes facilities and expertise available to researchers to connect academic excellence and the commercial world. By linking basic drug research programs with comprehensive drug development research activities in a central location, the products of academic research can be matured into high-value candidate drugs that, due to their increased likelihood of successful translation into a medicine, are more attractive investors.

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