

CDRD Investigator Newsletter

February 2008

Keeping CDRD Investigators informed about new drug development initiatives, collaborative research opportunities, and CDRD services and facilities.



In This Issue

How Does CDRD Help Investigators?

New Database Launched

Who you need to know at CDRD

How CDRD is Funded

CDRD's Labs Ready by Spring

Quick Links

[CDRD Website](#)

[Newsletter Archive](#)

Questions/Input/Feedback?

Please email: info@cdrd.ca

The CDRD is located on the UBC Campus in the Lower Mall Research Station.

For more information on CDRD visit www.cdrd.ca

New Database Launched

CDRD has recently upgraded the database. We need you to update your profile and project details. Please log into the database from the Member Login tab located on the lower left side of the CDRD home page at www.cdrd.ca

Comments/Concerns?

Email: onlinehelp@cdrd.ca

Phone: **Nicole @ 604-221-7750 ext. 123**

How Does CDRD Help Investigators?

Dr. Pieter Cullis, Scientific Director



The Centre for Drug Research and Development (CDRD) is meant to address that throw-away line we often put at the end of our grant requests: "Success in this research will provide cures for cancer and Alzheimer's!" Well, we may not put it quite that enthusiastically, but we often infer that success will lead to a new drug to treat disease. CDRD's objective is to provide a way for this to actually happen. It is a highly collaborative endeavor designed to

enhance the probability that your discovery leads to a new medicine. There are three key ways we do this:

Access to Drug Development Facilities

CDRD is amassing a relatively complete suite of drug discovery and development equipment and resources ranging from NMR facilities to high through-put screening to facilitated access to animal studies. CDRD will provide CDRD investigators with subsidized access to use these resources for projects that could lead to potential drugs.

Access to Drug Development Expertise

CDRD's Division Heads and Deputy Heads have had considerable experience in bringing therapeutics to market. In consultation with you, the Principal Investigator (PI), they will help to move your project closer to the clinic by providing services such as:

- Identifying critical issues required to establish therapeutic potential
- Conducting pivotal pilot experiments
- Identifying collaborations and facilitating collaborative grant requests
- Project management services for multi-investigator programs

Commercialization of Promising Technologies

CDRD has a commercial arm, Drug Development Inc. (DDI) that has "first negotiation" rights to CDRD-supported projects. DDI will attempt to license promising potential drugs in the CDRD pipeline from the institution (or person) holding the intellectual property. If successful, DDI will then develop these potential drugs, in collaboration with the PI, to the stage that will enable commercialization through licensing or creation of a spin-off company. To learn more about this process, visit the CDRD website at <http://www.cdrd.ca/ddi/>

Access to state-of-the-art equipment, mentorship in the drug development process and help commercializing your discoveries—where's the catch? Simply put, there is no catch. We have convinced our funding partners that more needs to be done to help BC's scientists realize the therapeutic potential of their discoveries, and we are focusing funds in a way to make that happen. We welcome you as a CDRD investigator and invite your feedback and questions; you can reach us at info@cdrd.ca. If you know other researchers who would benefit from CDRD membership, direct them to www.cdrd.ca to sign up.

CDRD's Labs Ready by Spring



CDRD's initial core facilities will be located on the UBC Campus, at the Lower Mall Research Station. Construction on five core labs—target identification; screening; design and synthesis; drug delivery; and drug evaluation—is nearing completion and CDRD expects the labs to be fully operational by the spring. The labs will be outfitted with the most recent instrumentation and sophisticated technologies required in drug development.

Some examples of the equipment you can expect to see include:

- **Luminex system capable of multiplexing**
- **Sophisticated NMR facilities**
- **Non-invasive optical imagers for visualization of fluorescence and luminescence in vivo**
- **High Content Screening systems**
- **Suite of HPLC and MS systems**

CDRD will continue to commission equipment through 2008. We will keep you posted on progress.

Who you need to know at CDRD

CDRD Project Contacts

The CDRD builds on the substantial existing strengths of its founding members, who have played catalytic roles in establishing numerous key companies in the local life sciences industry. The CDRD's senior staff members have worked on more than five drugs that received clinical approval and sales in excess of \$1 billion. The expertise runs deep and the CDRD team is growing. As CDRD investigators, if you have a project that could become a therapeutic or you have research you want evaluated, these are the people to contact:

Department	Contact	Email
Target Identification	Edie Dullaghan	edullaghan@cdrd.ca
Screening	Tom Pfeifer	tpfeifer@cdrd.ca
Design & Synthesis	Jason Crawford	jcrawford@cdrd.ca
Delivery	Richard Liggins	rliggins@cdrd.ca
Evaluation	Murray Webb	mwebb@cdrd.ca
Project Development	John Coleman Norbert Maurer	jcoleman@cdrd.ca nmaurer@cdrd.ca
Grant Development	Euan Ramsay	eramsay@cdrd.ca

How CDRD is Funded

Pfizer Canada Commits \$1M to CDRD

On February 4, 2008, Pfizer Canada announced it is committing \$1 million to the CDRD to create the "Pfizer-CDRD Innovation Fund." This innovation fund aims to fast-track the commercialization of academic research projects in BC. Funding will be allocated to unique scientific opportunities with promising commercialization potential in any of the following areas: cancer research, central nervous system related diseases, inflammation and pain, cardiovascular and metabolic diseases, as well as areas of excellence supported by the CDRD (such as nanomedicines, imaging, biomarkers and therapeutic peptides.) Further details on how CDRD will implement and administer the innovation fund will be ironed out in the coming weeks. Once the details are established, all CDRD investigators will be notified. For the full press release, [click here](#).



Including the Pfizer funding, CDRD has raised over \$50 million for operations, core facilities and personnel. Other sources have included:

- Canada Foundation for Innovation/BC Knowledge Development Fund and Industry partners: \$20 million to build and equip core facilities
- The Province of British Columbia: \$25 million for operating funds and personnel
- Western Economic Diversification Canada: \$700,000 for startup costs.
- Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research: \$1 million for platform development and personnel
- BIRC Corporation: \$200,000 for lab renovations.

Initially, start up funding was provided by the University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser University, Canadian Institutes for Health Research, QLT, Angiotech and Merck-Frosst Canada. To access more detailed funding news visit <http://www.cdrd.ca/about/news-events>.