

# CDRD Investigator Newsletter

May 2008

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



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### Questions/Input/Feedback?

Please email: [info@cdrd.ca](mailto: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](http://www.cdrd.ca)

## Is your Investigator Profile up to date?

Please update your profile and project details for any changes. 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](http://www.cdrd.ca)

### Comments/Concerns?

Email: [onlinehelp@cdrd.ca](mailto:onlinehelp@cdrd.ca)

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

## Check out your new labs on June 4th

You're invited to the official opening of CDRD's new drug development laboratories on Wednesday June 4th. This is your opportunity to tour the labs, check out the latest instrumentation and technologies, meet the Division and Deputy heads, ask questions and find out about collaborative projects. Space is limited so RSVP to Trisha West at [twest@cdrd.ca](mailto:twest@cdrd.ca) or (604) 221-7750 ex 135.

## Pfizer Funds to go to selected CDRD projects



In February we announced Pfizer Canada committed \$1 million to CDRD to create the Pfizer-CDRD Innovation Fund. This fund aims to fast-track the commercialization of some of our most promising academic research projects. Working with Pfizer we've determined that monies from the fund will be

used by CDRD to provide wide-ranging support to selected high-potential projects including: personnel, consumables, IP support.

### Here's how we'll initially select the nominated projects:

1. The projects we consider will be selected from the growing list of approved CDRD Projects that CDRD investigators have submitted.
2. We will be looking for projects in the following research areas: cancer, central nervous system related diseases, infectious diseases, inflammation and pain, cardiovascular diseases, metabolic diseases as well as areas of excellence supported by CDRD (nanomedicines, bioimaging, biomarkers, and therapeutic peptides).
3. An Expert Review Panel has been assembled to review project on behalf of CDRD. Projects will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
  - Value of the project opportunity
  - Incremental value added to the project by the funding
  - Quality of plan and achievability of milestones
  - Potential return on the investment

For more information please go to: <http://www.cdrd.ca/funding/pfizer-fund.html>

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## Expanding CDRD's Capability at the BC Cancer Agency and SFU

In February CDRD received \$15 million in funding from the Government of Canada and was among 11 organizations to be named a Centre of Excellence for Commercialization and Research (CECRs). CDRD's collaborative research model and our focus on bridging the commercialization gap, aligns with the Government's focus on innovation excellence and accountability.



**BC Cancer Agency**



**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY**  
THINKING OF THE WORLD

So what does it mean for CDRD investigators? Because this funding significantly accelerates our progress and increases our capacity, it means you have access to further resources, equipment and expertise. Specifically, we requested the CECR funds to address current bottlenecks and establish essential capacity in three areas:

- Medicinal and synthetic chemistry
- Animal efficacy and toxicity studies
- Pre-commercialization activities

CDRD, in partnership with SFU, plans to increase medicinal chemistry and synthesis for drug scale-up capacity by building on SFU's expertise in this area. It will establish a second drug research institute at SFU to enable in vitro drug metabolism studies and scale-up synthesis of promising drug candidates. The facility, targeted for completion in late 2008, will house tissue and cell culture incubators, biomeks and HPLC and radioactive analysis equipment.

CDRD will establish a third drug research institute at the BC Cancer Agency to provide comprehensive animal efficacy and toxicology study capabilities for lead drug candidates. It will build upon and expand the well-established Investigational Drug Program (IDP) that provides validated preclinical efficacy models and rodent toxicology assessments of anti-cancer drugs. This facility will operational in late 2008

CDRD also plans to establish a pre-commercialization unit to help enhance commercialization efforts. This unit will provide funding for crucial development studies and technology development activities that are difficult to fund from normal granting sources. It will also work with technology transfer offices to provide commercially-focused expertise in intellectual property and business plan development. Working with our educational partners, CDRD will provide commercialization-focused conferences and training programs starting in late 2008.