NGDI.ubc.ca

Neglected Global Diseases Initiative

UBC

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NGDI Newsletter February, 2012

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NGDI Member News

NGDI Associate David Grierson receives \$400,000 CIHR Grant for HIV Work



Congratulations go to Dr. David Grierson of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences along with co-investigators Benoit Chabot and Peter K. Cheung have been awarded an almost \$400,000 CIHR grant for their 3 year project titled: *Development of Specific Inhibitors of Alternative Splicing Events Crucial to HIV Replication: A New Anti-HIV/AIDS Strategy.*

For more information on the project: click here.

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Dr. Larry Lynd will Lead a new Emerging Team for Rare and Neglected Diseases

Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences professor, Dr. Larry Lynd and several colleagues have been awarded a 5-year \$1,466,018 grant for "Developing a Canadian framework for evaluation and decision-making for expensive drugs for rare diseases through innovation, value, and priority setting." As our understanding of diseases and how to treat them evolves, so too must our decision making procedures for providing fair and cost effective treatments for those living with an illness. Today, one area of policy and decision making in particular lags behind, that for treating rare diseases. The NGDI-UBC congratulates the new team! For more information on the grant click here.

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Department of Microbiology and Immunology feature seminar by Dr. Richard Lee

Charles Thompson of the Centre for Tuberculosis Research is hosting Dr. Richard Lee, Chemical Biology & Therapeutics at the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, TN.

Title: Chemistry and the antibacterial drug discovery endgame

The decreasing rate of new antibacterial drug approvals is particularly concerning when combined with increasing rates of resistance in the clinic and the exit of most large pharmaceutical companies from this therapeutic area. One area of science that has received very little attention in the postmortem of our current failures is the intrinsic chemistry deficit of the standard target based approaches to antibacterial drug discovery.

Date: February 8, 2012 Time: 2:00 – 3:00 PM Location: Life Sciences Centre, LSC3, 2350 Health Sciences Mall For more information, please contact Dr. Charles Thompson at <u>Charles.thompson@ubc.ca</u> or 604-822-2501. Download the poster <u>here</u>.

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NGDI Director, Kishor Wasan gives NGDI talks around campus

Kishor Wasan discussed the NGDI and its objectives in two recent talks: he was a featured presenter at the Student Leadership Conference held on January 14, and he presented to the Faculty in Residence

Series on January 24th.

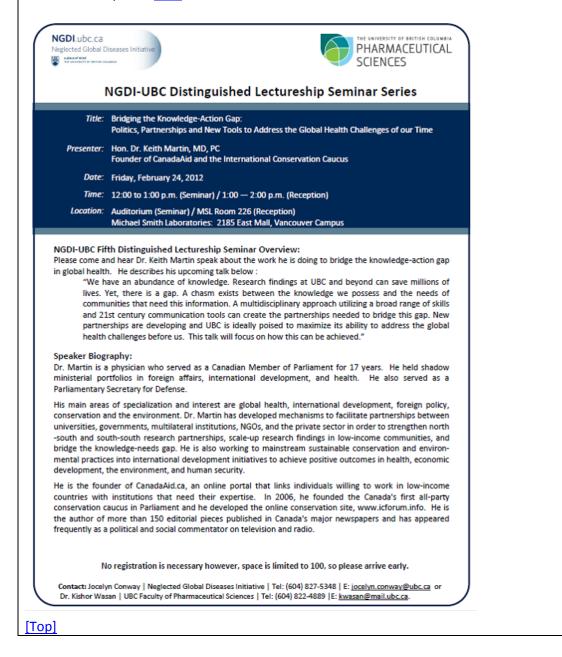
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NGDI News

Please join us for the next NGDI-UBC Distinguished Lectureship Seminar featuring Dr. Keith Martin

Date: February 24, 2012

Time: noon – 1:00 PM (Seminar), and 1:00 – 2:00 PM (reception w/ light lunch) **Location:** Michael Smith Laboratories Auditorium at 2185 East Mall, Vancouver Campus Download the poster <u>here</u>.



Celebrate Research Week Event: Developing Drugs for Developing Countries

The NGDI-UBC and the student group Science Biotechnology Network (SBN) are co-sponsoring a Celebrate Research Event for 2012. A panel of four speakers will walk students and audience members through the process of moving biotechnology advances in global health, specifically neglected diseases from bench science to clinical trials. The represented areas are pharmaceutical research, a young biotechnology firm who licensed UBC research, Entrepreneurship UBC program, and a law firm working in the IP process in the biotech industry. There will be a networking reception for the last half hour with a poster competition.

Date: Friday, March 2, 2012 Time: 4:00 - 6:00 PM Location: Michael Smith Laboratories Auditorium, This event is free but seating is limited, so please come early.

Speakers:

Kishor Wasan, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences Andrew Rae, iCo Therapeutics Inc. Carol Leacy, Entrepreneurship UBC Sonia Ziesche, LLB, Gowling, Lafleur Henderson

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Funding Opportunities

Deadline reminder

The ACHIEVE Research Partnership: "Action for Health Equity Interventions": Post-Doctoral Fellowship <u>www.crich.ca/education.php</u> Submission Deadline: **February 13, 2012**; Decision announcements: May, 2012

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NSERC CREATE Program

Up to \$1.6 million over six years, the Collaborative Research and Training Experience (CREATE) Program supports the training of teams of highly qualified students and postdoctoral fellows from Canada and abroad through the development of innovative training programs.

- The application has two stages. Stage 1: Letter Of Intent is due May 1, 2012.
- NSERC provides UBC a yearly quota and only those researchers internally selected can submit LOIs.
- Last year's quota was 6. 2012 quota is TBA.
- UBC's deadline for the internal selection will be April 2, 2012. Submission details TBA.

The CREATE Program is designed to improve the mentoring and training environment for the Canadian researchers of tomorrow by improving areas such as communication, collaboration and professional skills, as well as providing experience relevant to both academic and non-academic research environments.

To build on Canada's research strengths and priorities **at least 60 percent of the CREATE funding will be directed to the following priority areas**:

- Environmental science and technologies;
- Natural resources and energy;
- Health and related life sciences and technologies; and
- Information and communications technologies.

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Medicines for Malaria Ventures Opens its 10th Call for Proposals

MMV welcomes projects in the hits-to-lead stage for new families of molecules specifically addressing the key priorities of the malaria eradication agenda: transmission blocking and prevention of *P. vivax* relapse. Proposals for chemical series with the potential for *P. falciparum* chemoprevention or blood stage efficacy as a result of long-half lives are encouraged, though the project should already have initial confirmation of *in vivo* oral blood stage activity. Early target validation falls outside of our mandate.

In the clinical arena, MMV welcomes proposals for the clinical development of new chemical entities. We have a strong pipeline of new molecules, and so welcome applications regarding capacity building to develop new sites for first-in-patient testing of these new molecules, including both blood stage, transmission blocking and vivax anti-relapse capabilities.

Do you have an idea that could revolutionize malaria drug discovery? If so, we want to hear about it and could offer you an MMV Challenge Grant to turn that idea into reality.

MMV is offering up to ten Challenge Grants of USD 50,000 each in the first quarter of 2012 for fresh ideas to propel malaria drug discovery forward. Project proposals are expected to be at the concept stage (i.e. no prior experimental work is required) and for work to be completed within one year. The allocation of the MMV Challenge Grants will be made based on scientific merit and in line with the MMV strategy. The three challenges posed are:

- 1. Screening: to test the MMV Malaria Box against malaria and other parasitological assays
- 2. Medicinal chemistry: to perform hit-to-lead or optimization chemistry on any antimalarial series
- 3. Translational and clinical development: to identify new methods to study or validate the inhibition of *P. vivax* relapses or the interruption of transmission

Whilst there is no commitment to fund any awardee above the stated sum, the aim is that these MMV Challenge Grants will translate ideas into proposals that could be assessed as part of our 11th Call for proposals in 2013.

Application templates

Further guidelines, application templates and submission instructions can be found <u>here</u>. **Deadline**

15 March 2012

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Canada's Rising Stars in Global Health: Round Three Open

Request for Proposals Announcement



We are looking for bold ideas with big impact. Grand Challenges Canada is pleased to announce **Canada's Rising Stars in Global Health** Request for Proposals, Round Three. This unique program is a call to action to Canada's early-career innovators to make their contribution to global health. Grand Challenges Canada's goal is to tap into the creativity, knowledge and skills of Canada's scientists, entrepreneurs and social innovators to solve some of the most persistent health challenges in the developing world through *Integrated Innovation*.

Round Three provides \$100,000 in seed grants for up to 20 successful proposals. If the ideas are robust, effective, and proven, the innovators will be eligible to apply for additional scale–up funds of up to \$1 million for each proposal.

Deadline for proposals: March 23, 2012 11:59 p.m. EDT

Proposals must include a 2 minute video segment outlining the health problem, the proposed solution, and why it is innovative and bold.

For the **Canada's Rising Stars in Global Health** Request-for-Proposals and link to the application site, please click <u>HERE</u>.

Please send questions to <u>stars@grandchallenges.ca</u> [Top]

UBC Internal Grants

International Research Collaboration Workshop Grant Deadlines: April 2, 2012 & Oct 15, 2012

Provides matching funds for a workshop or roundtable to foster significant research collaborations with groups at leading research institutions outside of North America. Workshop must lead to a joint research agenda and/or delineation of specific research questions or needs, and a strategic plan for joint proposal submission. Value: up to \$10K matching funds

<u>UBC Graduate Student International Research Mobility Award</u> Deadline: May 1, 2012, October 1, 2012, Jan 10, 2013

Grants are available for UBC faculty to host an overseas graduate research student at UBC (or for UBC graduate students to participate in a research abroad program). Supports the development of highly meritorious international research partnerships and exchanges with research-intensive institutions outside North America. Launched in April 2009, the grant has provided mobility awards to more than 105 graduate students (outbound & incoming). Value: \$1500

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Saving Lives at Birth: A Grand Challenge for Development

Notice of Upcoming Round II Request for Applications

Grand Challenges Canada, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Government of Norway, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and The World Bank are issuing their second call to global problem solvers for innovative solutions to dramatically reduce maternal and newborn deaths and stillbirths. **Saving Lives at Birth: A Grand Challenge for Development** seeks groundbreaking prevention and treatment approaches for pregnant women and newborns in poor, hard-to-reach communities around the time of childbirth.

The Request for Applications (RFA) is expected to be posted in **early February** on <u>grants.gov</u> and the <u>Saving Lives at Birth</u> website. The RFA will seek to identify and develop transformative approaches that integrate new technologies, better service delivery models, and improve "demand side" innovations

that empower pregnant women and their families to adopt healthy behaviors and be aware of and access health care before, during, and after pregnancy.

The partners anticipate awarding a maximum of \$13 million USD for up to 25 seed grants and five transition-to-scale grants as a result of the final RFA. [Top]

ISTPCanada, CIIRDF and NSERC Join Forces to Increase S&T Collaboration at Home and Open-Up New Market Opportunities Abroad <u>Download the Press Release</u> February 1, 2012

OTTAWA, Ontario – International Science and Technology Partnerships Canada (ISTPCanada), the Canada-Israel Industrial R&D Foundation (CIIRDF) and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) have joined forces to increase the impact of three R&D collaboration programs, accelerate industrial innovation in Canada, and increase its commercial potential in global markets.

Under a new initiative, the organizations will jointly solicit, evaluate and fund collaborative R&D projects that bring together Canadian companies, academic researchers and their counterparts from partner countries under the International S&T Partnerships Program (ISTPP). These include China, India, Israel and Brazil.

These countries represent some of the fastest growing economies in the world, as well as key technology leaders in critical areas of research. Building on a shared commitment to world-class scientific and technological excellence, this ISTPCanada-CIIRDF-NSERC partnership will expand the R&D capabilities of innovators, facilitate access to international markets, and boost commercialization in Canada.

For more information, contact: **Sonya Shorey** <u>sonyashorey@istpcanada.ca</u> Senior Communications Strategist, 371A Richmond Road Suite 4 Ottawa, Ontario K2A 0E7 613-851-9416 [Top]

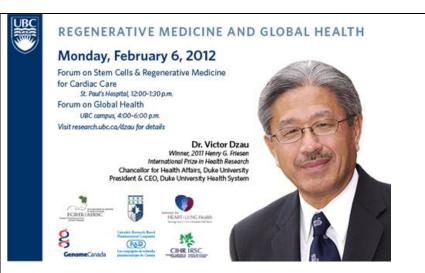
Upcoming Events

Forum on Global Health: Regenerative Medicine and Global Health featuring Dr. Victor Dzau

Renowned cardiac researcher and educator Dr. Victor Dzau will visit Vancouver on Monday, **February 6**, **2012** to participate in two public lectures. Dr. Dzau is Chancellor for Health Affairs at Duke University, and President and CEO of the Duke University Health System. In 2011, Dr. Dzau was awarded the prestigious Henry G. Friesen International Prize in Health Research for his outstanding achievement in fundamental and clinical cardiovascular research, for innovations in medical education, and for compassionate leadership in global health. He is a leading

authority in the fields of global health policy and regenerative medicine in cardiac care.

This event is free, but registration is required. Please visit <u>research.ubc.ca/dzau</u> for details.



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AAAS Annual meeting, February 16-20, 2012 - Vancouver, BC

The Annual Meeting is one of the most widely recognized global science events, with hundreds of networking opportunities and broad global media coverage. An exceptional array of speakers will gather at the 2012 AAAS Annual Meeting from 16-20 February in Vancouver, B.C.

The theme of the 2012 AAAS Annual Meeting in Vancouver, B.C., is "Flattening the World: Building a Global Knowledge Society." According to AAAS President Nina Fedoroff, the program will focus on "the complex, interconnected challenges of the 21st century and on pathways to global solutions through international, multidisciplinary efforts."

The wide-ranging AAAS Annual Meeting will feature more than 170 scientific symposia; plenary and topical lectures; a poster competition; career fair; career workshops; and an exhibit hall. Details about the scientific program and speakers will be available at the AAAS Annual Meeting Web site: http://www.aaas.org/meetings.

Dr. Fedoroff, professor of life sciences at Pennsylvania State University and distinguished visiting professor at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology, will open the meeting with the President's Address at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, 16 February 2012.

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Celebrate Research Week Event: Systems Health – Taking Personalized Medicine Beyond the Genome

The Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences at UBC is pleased to present a special seminar event as part of Celebrate Research Week 2012. Our panel of internationally distinguished speakers, Systems Health explores how personalized medicine is evolving into a holistic view of health care encompassing a wide range of biological phenomena.

Speakers:

Dr. Nessa Carey: The epigentics revolution – why our genetic code is a script and not a blueprint
Dr. Karen Nelson: Exploration and recent findings from the human microbiome
Dr. Ben van Ommen: Phenotypic flexibility and systems health in practice – Towards P4 medicine in Type
2 Diabetes

Date: March 5, 2012 Time: 1:00 – 4:00 PM (Reception to follow) Location: Telus Theatre, The Chan Center for the Performing Arts 6265 Crescent Road, Vancouver Campus

Please RSVP by March 2, 2012 to Dr. Barb Conway at <u>baconway@mail.ubc.ca</u> or 604-822-2390. Seating is limited. Download poster <u>here</u>.

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BC Forum of CCGHR: Knowledge to Action: Identifying BC's contributions to global health research

Registration for the conference will be open next week.

Knowledge to Action:

Identifying BC's Contributions to Global Health Research





The BC Forum of the Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research is hosting its inaugural conference to promote global health research networking among individuals & institutions and provide mentorship to the next generation of researchers.

The Wosk Centre for Dialogue and Simon Fraser University's Harbour Centre Vancouver, BC



CCRSM

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Nancy Edwards, Scientific Director, Institute of Population and Public Health, CIHR

Confirmed Speakers	Networking & Capacity Building	
Douglas H. Horswill, Senior Vice President Sustainability and External Affairs, Teck Resources Ltd.	The cornerstone of the CCGHR is building a network of global health researchers and building capacity within and for the	
Craig Janes, PhD, Medical Anthropology Associate Dean, Academic, Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University	next generation.	
Chris Lalonde, PhD, Psychology Associate Professor, Department of Psychology & Co-Director of the Centre for Aboriginal Health, University of Victoria	Networking Reception—Day One Centre for Dialogue Atrium 4:30—6:00 pm Refreshments will be served and a cash bar available.	
Kelley Lee, D.Phil, International Political Economy Associate Dean, Research & Director of Global Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University	Poster Competition—Day One Centre for Dialogue Atrium 4:30—6:00 pm Posters will also be displayed during Day Two at lunch.	
John O'Neil, PhD, Medical Anthropology Dean, Faculty of Health Sciences, Simon Fraser University	Effective Networking—Day Two Mitacs Step is Canada's only comprehensive program	
Jonathan Smith, MPH Lecturer, Yale University	providing business-ready skills to up and coming researchers. Facilitator: Dr. Jennifer Gardy	
Patricia Spittal, PhD, Associate Professor, and Theme Leader, School of Population and Public Health, University of British Columbia	Building BC's Research Clusters—Day Two This workshop is designed to create linkages for faculty members for quick collaboration opportunities.	
Mary Teegee Director, Child and Family Services, Carrier Sekani Family Services	Additional workshops will be listed on our conference page as they are confirmed.	
Registration Early Bird registration for this event is until February 23, 2012 Regular: \$100.00 - After Feb 23 \$120.00 Students \$35.00 - After Feb 23 \$40.00 Register at: www.ngdi.ubc.ca/3296-2/conference	Conference contact: jocelyn.conway@ubc.ca	
For more information on the BC Forum of the CCGHR, p The national CCGHR website is:		
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Biology of Host-Parasite Interactions

June 10-15, 2012, Salve Regina University, Newport, RI Website: <u>http://www.nature.com/natureevents/science/events/14059-Biology_of_Host_Parasite_Interactions</u>

Applications for this meeting must be submitted by **May 13, 2012**.

The 2012 Gordon Research Conference on the Biology of Host-Parasite Interactions is focused on new concepts and approaches in the study of parasites and their interaction with mammalian hosts and arthropod vectors. The conference will place special emphasis on human and animal diseases such as malaria, toxoplasmosis, trypanosomiasis, leishmaniasis, trichomoniasis, giardiasis, entamoebiasis, schistosomiasis and gastrointestinal nematode infection. The program will feature a wide range of topics, such as host and parasite co-evolution, parasite cell and developmental biology, pathogenesis and virulence, host invasion, metabolic interaction, immune response and immune evasion, and drug action and resistance.

The aim of the meeting is to bring together scientists from a variety of disciplines in order to define the current state of this dynamic field and to discuss and set future research agendas. This GRC conference offers the unique opportunity for junior investigators and graduate students to get together and exchange ideas with leaders in the field in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere at the Salve Regina University Campus, Newport. Some submitted abstracts will be selected for short talks. Students and post-docs are strongly encouraged to apply. We are making a special effort to obtain funds to provide individuals from endemic countries with travel awards.

A list of preliminary session topics and speakers is available on the website above.

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Call for Papers

The Journal Public Health Reports calls for papers for two supplements

Supplement on Applying Social Determinants of Health to Public Health Practice [PDF]

Public Health Reports (PHR) is inviting papers for a Supplement on Applying Social Determinants of Health (SDH) to Public Health Practice. The guest editors for this Supplement are Drs. Hazel D. Dean, Kim M. Williams, and Kevin A. Fenton. Dr. Dean is Deputy Director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention (NCHHSTP). Dr. Williams, a Behavioral Scientist in the Division of HIV/AIDS Prevention, NCHHSTP, serves as Co-Chair of the NCHHSTP Health Equity Work Group. Dr. Fenton is Director, NCHHSTP.

The deadline for submission is May 1, 2012

Supplement on Program Collaboration and Service Integration (PCSI) [PDF]

Public Health Reports (PHR) is inviting papers for a Supplement on Program Collaboration and Service Integration (PCSI). The guest editors for this Supplement are Dr. Kevin Fenton and Gustavo Aquino. Dr. Fenton is the National Center Director and Mr. Aquino is the Associate Director for Program Integration, both with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention

The deadline for submission is July 1, 2012 [Top]