

NGDI.ubc.ca

Neglected Global Diseases Initiative



a place of mind  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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## NGDI Member News

### NGDI Associate [Dr. Richard Lester Receives \\$100,000 Grand Challenges Grant](#)

[WelTel: Moving Evidence to Action for Patient-Centred mHealth](#) from Grand Challenges Canada on Vimeo.



Congratulations to NGDI associate member **Richard Lester** who received a \$100,000 “Rising Star” grant for his project WelTel through Grand Challenges Canada. *WelTel: Moving Evidence to Action for Patient-Centred mHealth* is a research project which utilizes low-cost cell phone technology to improve HIV/AIDS treatment. The cell phones are adapted to send scheduled reminders to patients with HIV/AIDS, ensuring that they remain on track with their drug therapy. It also allows the patients to address any problems they may be having.

[Grand Challenges Canada](#) is a not-for-profit organization that aims to turn bold, innovative research into health solutions. In addition to the WelTel project, around a dozen other Canadian global public health projects were awarded a total of \$1.5 million. To view an article in *The Province* on Richard Lester and fellow UBC researcher and Grand Challenges grant recipient Walter Karlen, click [here](#).

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### NGDI Associate Dr. Hongshen Ma Invents “Lab on a Chip” Device to Study Malaria

UBC researcher Hongshen Ma has developed a simple and accurate device to study malaria, a disease that currently affects 500 million people per year worldwide and claims a million lives. Spread by mosquitoes, malaria is caused by a tiny parasite that infects human red blood cells. Ma and his team designed a “lab on a chip” device to better understand the changes in red blood cells caused by Plasmodium falciparum, the most common species of malaria parasites. Ma explains the device will help those conducting laboratory research or clinical trials evaluate the efficacy of different compounds in treating malaria – a disease that is increasingly resistant to drugs. Funding for this research was provided by a grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation’s Grand Challenges in Global Health program. To read the full article, click [here](#).

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## NGDI News

### NGDI and SBN Celebrates Research Week

#### *Developing Drugs for Developing Countries*

NGDI and The Science Biotechnology Network presents a seminar and poster event in light of Celebrate Research Week. Come listen to **Dr. Kishor Wasan** of NGDI and the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, **Andrew Rae**, President & CEO of iCo Therapeutics, **Sonia Zeische**, patent agent of Gowling Lafleur Henderson, and **Carol Leacy**, program director of Entrepreneurship@UBC as they walk students and audience members through the process of moving biotechnology advances in global health, specifically neglected diseases.

**Date:** March 2, 2012 **TODAY**

**Time:** 4:00 to 6:00pm

**Location:** Michael Smith Laboratories Auditorium & Multi-Purpose Room

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## [NGDI-UBC Article in the International Pharmacy Journal](#)

An article written by the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences and the NGDI has recently been published in the International Pharmacy Journal. The article highlights the influence that pharmacists and the UBC Faculty is having on neglected diseases. *Looking Outward and Forward: Fighting Neglected Disease with Pharmaceutical Science* is also highlighted on the cover of this prestigious journal. To read the article, please click [here](#).

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## [Update on NGDI – CDRD Partnership: One year later](#)



### **Fight Against Neglected Global Diseases Moves Another Step Forward Through a Partnership Between CDRD and NGDI-UBC**

**VANCOUVER, BC—February 20, 2012:** One year after The Centre for Drug Research and Development (CDRD) and the Neglected Global Diseases Initiative at the University of British Columbia (NGDI-UBC) came together to develop interventions for neglected global diseases, a project to combine existing approved drugs to better treat Tuberculosis (TB) has emerged as the collaboration’s leading prospect.

TB is the second leading cause of death by infectious disease in adults worldwide and it is estimated that one third of the world’s population is infected with *Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb)*. Research by UBC’s Drs. Santiago Ramón-García and Charles Thompson has found a synergistic combination of two known drugs (used for other therapeutic applications but never before to treat TB) capable of inhibiting *Mtb* growth, while neither of these drugs have any effect on their own against *Mtb*.

“Although this partnership is still relatively young,” said Dr. Kishor M. Wasan, Director and Co-Founder, NGDI-UBC and Professor and Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies, Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences, UBC, “it is already proving to be very valuable in this global fight.” [<read the full press release>](#)

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## [NGDI Distinguished Lectureship Seminar](#)

Dr. Martin’s talk title *Bridging the Knowledge-Action Gap: Politics, Partnerships and New Tools to Address the Global Health Challenges of our Time* was a great success. Approximately 60 people filled the room and the Q&A was lively.

Our next Distinguished Lecturer will be Dr. Brett Finlay in late April.

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## Funding Opportunities

### Deadline Reminders

**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. UBC's deadline for the internal selection will be **April 2, 2012**.

**Medicines for Malaria Ventures** Opens its 10th Call for Proposals: Further guidelines, application templates and submission instructions can be found [here](#). Deadline: **15 March 2012**

**Grand Challenges Canada: Canada's Rising Stars in Global Health Round 3** Request-for-Proposals and link to the application site, please click [HERE](#). 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.

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### Department of Defense Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program Funding Opportunities for Fiscal Year 2012

The Fiscal Year 2012 (FY12) Defense Appropriations Act provides \$50 million (M) to the Department of Defense Peer Reviewed Medical Research Program (PRMRP). The vision of the PRMRP is to improve the health and well-being of all military service members, veterans, and beneficiaries.

The PRMRP challenges the scientific and clinical communities to address one of the FY12 congressionally directed topic areas with original ideas that foster new directions in basic science and translational research; novel product development leading to improved therapeutic or diagnostic tools; or clinical trials that address an immediate clinical need. This program is administered by the U.S. Army Medical Research and Materiel Command through the Office of the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP).

**Congressionally Directed Topic Areas:** The FY12 PRMRP will solicit research applications for the following 22 topics areas: Arthritis, Composite Tissue Transplantation, Dystonia, Drug Abuse, Epilepsy, Food Allergies, Fragile X Syndrome, Hereditary Angioedema, Inflammatory Bowel Disease, Interstitial Cystitis, Listeria Vaccine for Infectious Disease, Lupus, Malaria, Nanomedicine for Drug Delivery Science, Neuroblastoma, Osteoporosis and Related Bone Disease, Paget's Disease, Polycystic Kidney Disease, Post-Traumatic Osteoarthritis, Scleroderma, Tinnitus, and Tuberculosis.

**Military Relevance:** Relevance to the health care needs of the military service members, veterans, and beneficiaries is a key feature of each FY12 PRMRP award mechanism.

Please inform researchers interested in the Peer Reviewed Medical Research topics that the Investigator-Initiated Research Award program announcement has been released. FY 12 PRMRP program announcements and general application instructions are available on Grants.gov.

><http://cdmrp.army.mil/pubs/press/2012/12prmrppreann.shtml>

Investigator-Initiated Research – Pre-application due date is **April 10, 2012**

A listing of all USAMRMC funding opportunities can be obtained on the Grants.gov website by performing a basic search using CFDA Number 12.420.

A pre-application is required and must be submitted through the CDMRP eReceipt website (<http://cdmrp.org>) prior to the pre-application deadline of April 10, 2012. Applications must be submitted through the federal government's single-entry portal, Grants.gov.

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## Funding opportunities posted between January 28 and March 1, 2012 by CIHR and its partners

The following is a list of funding opportunities which CIHR and its partners posted between January 28 and March 1, 2012.

To view these opportunities, please use the CIHR Funding Opportunity Database at

<http://www.researchnet-recherchenet.ca/rnr16/search.do?fodAgency=CIHR&fodLanguage=E&all=1&search=true&org=CIHR&sort=program&masterList=true&view=currentOpps>

- \* Catalyst Grant : Health Services and Systems for an Aging Population
- \* Chair : GlaxoSmithKline Partnered (2012-2013)
- \* Dissemination Events : Spring 2012 Competition
- \* Dissemination Events : Spring 2012 Priority Announcement (Specific Research Areas)
- \* Other : PHAC/CIHR Influenza Research Network
- \* Planning Grants : Spring 2012 Competition
- \* Planning Grants : Spring 2012 Priority Announcement (Specific Research Areas)
- \* Team Grant : Community-Based Primary Healthcare

Please direct specific inquiries on the funding opportunity to the contact person listed at the bottom of the funding opportunity.

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## SAVING LIVES AT BIRTH: Round 2 Request for Applications



On February 23, 2012, the Saving Lives at Birth partnership launched its second call for innovative prevention and treatment approaches for pregnant women and newborns in poor, hard-to-reach communities around the world.

With the launch of this second round, the Saving Lives at Birth partnership - Grand Challenges Canada, U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Government of Norway and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation -

welcomes a new partner, the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID).

Over the course of the program, the partners aim to invest at least \$50 million in groundbreaking and sustainable projects with the potential to accelerate substantial progress against maternal and newborn deaths and stillbirths at the community level.

Launched on March 9, 2011, Saving Lives at Birth issued its first global call for innovative ideas. The partners received over 600 submissions from the global community and, through a competitive process, selected 24 innovators as award recipients who demonstrated the most potential to tackle this Grand Challenge. Click [HERE](#) to watch videos of the recipients from our first call for solutions.

In the second round, the Saving Lives at Birth partners anticipate funding even more transformative approaches that cut across three main domains: (1) science & technology; (2) service delivery; and (3) demand-side innovation. The partners anticipate awarding 25 seed grants and 5 transition-to-scale grants as a result of the Request For Applications (RFA). Actual number of awards in each category may vary.

Learn more and answer the call for innovative ideas - A copy of the RFA can be found at

[www.savinglivesatbirth.net](http://www.savinglivesatbirth.net). **Applications are due no later than April 2, 2012** at 2:00 pm EST. Any questions on the RFA can be sent to [grandchallenge2012@usaid.gov](mailto:grandchallenge2012@usaid.gov) by February 29, 2012 at 5:00 pm EST.

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## The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

### Development of Immunity Assessment Tool – deadline March 27th

The purpose of this RFLOI is to solicit inquiries toward the development of a prototype and commercialization plan for an easy-to-use tool that rapidly assesses the immune status of children against selected vaccine- preventable diseases (e.g. tetanus, measles, etc.). The ideal tool would be low cost and easy to use in the field by those working in national immunization programs. This tool would be used as an adjunct to current vaccination coverage surveys to help more accurately determine and validate coverage levels and assess population-level immunity.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation is now accepting Letters of Inquiry for the development of an easy-to-use tool that rapidly assesses the immune status of children against select vaccine-preventable diseases. Inquiries will be welcome that focus on prototype development and detail plans for future commercialization possibilities. Applicants can be at any experience level; in any discipline; and from any organization, including colleges and universities, government laboratories, research institutions, non-profit organizations and for profit companies.

Letters of Inquiry are being accepted online until **10:00 AM Pacific Time, March 27, 2012**. A full description of the Request for Letter of Inquiry and application instructions are available at: [www.gatesfoundation.org/vaccines/Pages/rfp-immunity-assessment-tool.aspx](http://www.gatesfoundation.org/vaccines/Pages/rfp-immunity-assessment-tool.aspx).

### Grand Challenges Explorations – deadline May 15, 2012

**Grand Challenges Explorations**, an initiative to encourage innovative and unconventional global health and development solutions, is now accepting grant proposals for its latest application round. Applicants can be at any experience level; in any discipline; and from any organization, including colleges and universities, government laboratories, research institutions, non-profit organizations and for profit companies.

#### **Proposals are being accepted online until May 15, 2012 on the following topics:**

- o New Approaches for the Interrogation of Anti-malarial Compounds - **NEW**
- o Aid is Working. Tell the World - **NEW**
- o Design New Approaches to Optimize Immunization Systems
- o Explore New Solutions in Global Health Priority Areas
- o Protect Crop Plants from Biotic Stresses From Field to Market

Initial grants will be US \$100,000 each, and projects showing promise will have the opportunity to receive additional funding of up to US \$1 million. Full descriptions of the new topics and application instructions are available at: [www.grandchallenges.org/explorations](http://www.grandchallenges.org/explorations).

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## Summer Program on Global Health Law and Governance

**June 18-22, 2012 at Washington DC USA**

*O'Neill Institute's inaugural Summer Program on Global Health Law and Governance* will include practitioners, policymakers, advocates and leading academics in global health to learn the foundations of global health law and governance

To apply, please visit the following website: <http://bit.ly/wDUf10>.

Over a five-day period, the Summer Program will bring together practitioners, policymakers, advocates and leading academics in global health to learn the foundations of global health law and governance. *Georgetown Law and is open to all (lawyers and non-lawyers).*

Participants will explore such cutting-edge issues as:

- International trade and health
- The International Health Regulations
- The Framework Convention on Tobacco Control
- Health and human rights
- Non-communicable diseases

The Summer Program is co-directed by Professors Lawrence Gostin and Allyn Taylor.

The faculty of the Summer Program consists of other leading global health law experts from the O'Neill Institute, international institutions, such as the World Health Organization, World Trade Organization, academia, and legal practice.

To apply for the O'Neill Institute Summer Program applicants should complete and submit the application form by **May 1, 2012**. Limited tuition assistance is available and may be awarded based on financial need and demonstrated potential for excellence within the field of global health.

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## Upcoming Events

### 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 epigenetics 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:** Monday 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 [baconway@mail.ubc.ca](mailto:baconway@mail.ubc.ca) or 604-822-2390.

Seating is limited. Download poster [here](#).

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### BC Forum of the Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research Inaugural Global Health Conference

**Knowledge to Action: Identifying BC's Contribution to Global Health Research.**

**Date:** **March 16 – 17, 2012**

**Location:** The Wosk Centre for Dialogue and SFU Harbour Centre Campus, Vancouver, BC

For more information on the venue, hotels, travel and speakers, please go to

<http://www.ngdi.ubc.ca/3296-2/>

Early Bird Registration has been extended until **Friday, March 2, 2012**. Don't hesitate – Register now for this inaugural BC event!

Regular \$100.00

Student \$ 35.00

After March 2<sup>nd</sup> the rates increase to \$120.00 and \$40.00.

**Register now at:** [https://cars-ebmsweb.its.sfu.ca/reg/reg\\_p1\\_form.aspx?oc=05&ct=STANDARD&eventid=8595](https://cars-ebmsweb.its.sfu.ca/reg/reg_p1_form.aspx?oc=05&ct=STANDARD&eventid=8595)

## Keynote Speaker

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

**Brief Keynote: Dr. Diane Finegood**, President and CEO, Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research

## Panel Topics & Speakers Friday March 16

### Indigenous Health Research

*"Canada's 1st First Nations Health Authority: Changes to Health Research"*

This important change to health care in BC will be discussed and the implications on research examined.

Moderator: **Dr. Patricia Spittal**, UBC

**Ms. Miranda Kelly**, *interim* First Nations Health Authority

**Ms. Mary Teegee**, Carrier Sekani Family Services

**Dr. Chris Lalonde**, University of Victoria

**Dr. Leah Walker**, University of British Columbia

**Dr. John O'Neil**, Simon Fraser University

### Global Environmental Change and Health

*"The Extractive Sector—A Health Perspective"*

The importance of stakeholder collaboration and knowledge translation in addressing corporate social responsibility (CSR) within the practices of mining companies.

Moderator: **Dr. John Calvert**, Professor, Health Sciences, SFU

**Dr. Craig Janes**, Simon Fraser University

**Mr. Doug Horswill**, Teck Resources Inc.

**Mr. Jonathan Smith**, Yale University

**Drs. Ts. Sodnompil and Lkhagvasuren Oyun**, Mongolia

### Corporations and Public Health

*"What is the business sector's role in tackling non-communicable diseases?"*

The speakers on this panel will debate the most appropriate and effective role for the corporate sector in tackling non-communicable diseases.

Moderator: **Dr. Victoria Lee**, Fraser Health Medical Health Officer

**Dr. Kelley Lee**, Simon Fraser University

**Dr. Diane Finegood**, Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research

**Dr. Stephen Kline, Professor**, Simon Fraser University

## Networking & Capacity Building Saturday March 17

The cornerstone of the CCGHR is building a network of global health researchers and building capacity within and for the next generation.

### Networking Reception—Day One

Centre for Dialogue Atrium 4:30—6:00 pm

Refreshments will be served and a cash bar available.

### Poster Competition—Day One

Centre for Dialogue Atrium 4:30—6:00 pm

Posters will also be displayed during Day Two at lunch.

### Effective Networking—Day Two

Mitacs Step is Canada's only comprehensive program providing business-ready skills to up and coming researchers.

Facilitator: Dr. Jennifer Gardy

### Building BC's Research Clusters—Day Two

This workshop is designed to create linkages for faculty members for quick collaboration opportunities.

Additional workshops for Day Two:



Next Generation University: An Opportunity to Democratize Health Science Knowledge  
Doing "Global Health" Even when You Can't Travel Abroad  
Social Determinants of Health – Social Justice Movements Around the World  
Making Student Research Count: How to Plan and Execute Student Research in a Global Health Setting to Achieve a Real Impact  
Where There is no Proctor: Undertaking Health Research in a Less Developed Country  
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## UBC World TB Day



**WORLD TB DAY**  
**23 MARCH 2012**

**SYMPOSIUM LSC1330 10:00-12:30**  
FOUR TALKS FROM UBC AND BCCDC TB RESEARCHERS

**KEYNOTE LSC3 1:30-2:30**  
**TED COHEN HARVARD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**THE CURRENT THREAT AND UNCERTAIN FUTURE OF DRUG-RESISTANT TUBERCULOSIS**

**CTDR** **CC** **THE LUNG ASSOCIATION™** **TB VETS**  
University of British Columbia BC Centre for Disease Control British Columbia TB Vets Charitable Foundation

Organized by the Centre for Tuberculosis Research, the BC Centre for Disease Control, the Department of Microbiology & Immunology, the Life Sciences Institute, the BC Lung Association, and the TB Vets Charitable Foundation.

The Centre for Tuberculosis Research is hosting its third annual World TB Day event. Speakers include: Isarael Casabon, Jennifer Gardy, Jan Burian and Annalee Yassi. The Keynote address is by Dr. Ted Cohen, Harvard School of Public Health. His talk is titled, "The current threat and uncertain future of drug resistant tuberculosis".

**Date:** Friday, March 23, 2012

**Time:** 10:00 am - 2:30 pm

**Location:** Life Sciences Centre, Vancouver Campus

Confirmation of attendance should go to Santi Ramon at [ramon@interchange.ubc.ca](mailto:ramon@interchange.ubc.ca)

Download poster [here](#).

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## Conference: How To Talk About Science

**Date:** May 25-27, 2012

**Location:** University of Victoria,  
Victoria, BC, Canada

**Early Bird Registration Deadline:** February 27, 2012

Strategic outreach is vital if you want to affect policy, bring media attention to your work or spark a lifelong interest in science in everyone you meet. It's also the only way you'll be able to directly communicate the results of your work for social benefit.

After attending two days of interactive sessions at the **How To Talk About Science** conference, you'll have the tools to fine-tune your outreach strategies using pointers from some of the top scientists and media working in science communications today.

For more information, [click here](#).

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