

New GSK Professorship in Inflammatory Lung Disease Established at University of Calgary

The University of Calgary and GlaxoSmithKline Partner to Advance Vital Research in the Area of Chronic Lung Disease

Calgary, AB (June 3, 2005) – The University of Calgary and GlaxoSmithKline Inc. (GSK) announced today the establishment of the new *GSK Professorship in Inflammatory Lung Disease*. Made possible by a \$1 million endowment from GSK, the new Professorship will dedicate research efforts to advance the understanding and treatment of respiratory illness.

“Key collaborations such as this enable us to attract and retain leading talent,” said Dr. Dennis Salahub, Vice-President Research and International, University of Calgary. “With the number of people suffering from chronic respiratory disease on the rise in Canada, the Professorship will enable us to continue to focus our innovation and expertise on leading edge research and education.”

Funding for the new *GSK Professorship in Inflammatory Lung Disease* comes from the GlaxoSmithKline *Pathfinders Fund for Leaders in Canadian Health Science Research*, an initiative that encourages health science research and innovation in Canadian universities. The partnership is the first of its kind between GSK and the University of Calgary.

“We’ve seen how respiratory diseases such as asthma and chronic lung disease impact people’s lives and we recognize there is a critical need for continued research in this area,” said Dr. John Dillon, Vice-President, Research and Development and Chief Medical Officer, GlaxoSmithKline Inc. “As a leading developer of respiratory medicines, we are proud to partner with the University of Calgary on this initiative to help continue to advance the understanding of respiratory diseases.”

“In many cases, with appropriate treatment and education, we can help patients with asthma and COPD successfully minimize some of the symptoms of their disease,” said Dr. Chris Mody, Professor and Chief, Division of Respiratory, University of Calgary. “Understanding these respiratory illnesses is critical, as currently there is no cure, and for many patients, even a control is out of reach. This important new research position will undoubtedly enable us to continue to expand our knowledge of inflammatory lung disease and help identify new and innovative solutions to improve patients’ lives.”

The University of Calgary is currently in the early stages of recruitment for the new *GSK Professorship in Inflammatory Lung Disease*. The specific research focus will be formalized upon selection of the appropriate candidate. It is anticipated that the selected candidate will strengthen the University of Calgary’s productive and influential group of scientists that are investigating airway disease and infections.

About Asthma and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

Chronic respiratory diseases, including asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), are on the rise in Canada and account for nearly \$12 billion of healthcare expenditures.¹

Asthma, one of the most commonly recognized respiratory illnesses, affects more than three million Canadians and causes recurrent attacks of breathlessness, chest tightness and/or coughing.²

In Canada, asthma is among the most common causes of emergency room visits, hospitalizations and unscheduled doctor visits.³ Approximately 500 Canadian adults die each year from asthma, and it is estimated that the majority of these deaths could be prevented with proper asthma education and treatment.⁴

COPD, also known as 'smoker's lung', is an irreversible and disabling lung disease that can result in death. COPD symptoms progress slowly over a period of years and include shortness of breath, cough and sputum production.⁵

In Canada, an estimated 750,000 Canadians suffer from COPD.⁶ COPD is the fourth leading cause of death in the country.⁷ By 2020, it is estimated that COPD will be the third leading cause of death worldwide.⁸

About the Partners

The Faculty of Medicine at the University of Calgary is a national leader in health research with an international reputation for excellence and innovation in health research, education and delivery. Through its educational programs, the Faculty of Medicine trains the physicians and scientists who will lead the next generation of health practitioners. Through its clinical work, continuing medical education programs, and close relationship with the Calgary Health Region, the Faculty of Medicine moves new treatments and diagnostic techniques from the laboratory bench to the hospital bedside efficiently and effectively, improving patient care.

GlaxoSmithKline Inc. – one of the world's leading research-based pharmaceutical and health-care companies – is committed to improving the quality of human life by enabling people to do more, feel better and live longer. In Canada, GlaxoSmithKline is a top 20 investor in research and development, contributing more than \$130 million annually. GSK is an Imagine Caring Company, and is recognized as one of the 50 best companies to work for in Canada.

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For more information, please contact:

Alison Steeves / Melinda McInnes
GlaxoSmithKline Inc.
(905) 819-3363

Greg Harris
University of Calgary
(403) 220-3506

References:

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- 2 Asthma Society of Canada, January, 2004; <http://www.asthma.ca/adults/about/whoGetsAsthma.php>
- 3 The Lung Association. Asthma Facts and Statistics. www.lung.ca/asthma/facts.html Accessed February 8, 2005.
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Health Canada Respiratory Disease in Canada, 2001.
- 6 K.R. Chapman, J. Baourbeau and L.Rance. The burden of COPD in Canada: results from the confronting COPD survey. *Respiratory Medicine*. 2003; vol.97 (supplement c), S23-31.
- 7 <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/15973.html> Accessed May 17, 2005.
- 8 Murray CJ, Lopez AD. Alternative projections of mortality and disability by cause 1990-2020; Global Burden of Disease Study. *Lancet* 1997; 349; 1498-504.