

Canada's Brain Gain in Stroke Research

A Message from Dr. Anne Phillips

GlaxoSmithKline conducts a significant amount of research in Canada, but we know that collaborating with others can help to achieve even more life-saving discoveries. In order to improve health, scientists, research institutions, not-for-profit organizations, governments and industry need to identify areas where research is required and to work together.



Dr. Anne Phillips,
Vice President,
Research &
Development
GlaxoSmithKline Inc.

It is an exciting time to conduct medical research in Canada, and our country is becoming an increasingly important player on the world stage. By providing an environment where medical research can prosper, the scientists we attract and retain will continue to make important contributions to scientific discovery in many disease areas.

This issue of GSK News outlines some important collaborative projects — both research-based and philanthropic — that will benefit Canadians and people around the world.



Dr. David Park, recipient of the Pathfinders Professorship in Stroke, left the US to pursue his brain research at the University of Ottawa.

While there has been considerable concern about a brain drain of Canadian scientists to the US, Dr. David Park's choice to conduct stroke research at the University of Ottawa has led to a brain gain for Canada.

The 34-year-old native of Michigan moved to Canada in 1998 to pursue his interest in stroke research, which he developed while training as a post-doctoral fellow at Columbia University. Dr. Park is the recipient of the *Pathfinders Fund for Leaders in Canadian Health Science*

Professorship in Stroke at the Neurological Research Institute located at the University of Ottawa, which includes a \$500,000 grant provided by GlaxoSmithKline.

Last year his innovative work examining the processes of brain cell death earned him the *Dr. Michael Smith Promising Scientist Award*, given by the Ottawa Life Sciences Council to scientists who have been involved in life sciences research for less than 10 years, but have made significant contributions in their field.

■ continued on reverse



GlaxoSmithKline Helps Children of Chernobyl

GlaxoSmithKline has donated more than \$850,000 of much-needed medication to Health Partners International of Canada (HPIC) to aid many of Chernobyl's youngest victims being cared for in Cuba.

Thousands of Ukrainian children are still suffering from severe health problems following the Chernobyl nuclear disaster — the result of sustained exposure to contaminated food and drinking water. Since 1986, Cuba has provided approximately 17,000 Ukrainian children with a place to stay and medical care so that their weakened immune systems can strengthen.

GlaxoSmithKline's donation was made to Montreal-based HPIC, a non-profit medical relief and development organization that works with Canadian healthcare companies to provide life-saving medical aid to needy people around the world.

"Considering the devastation of Hurricane Michelle, this donation could not have come at a more important time," said John Kelsall, President, HPIC. "The donation from GlaxoSmithKline will enable the Cuban government to care for the Children of Chernobyl while freeing up much needed medical resources to help with the recovery effort following the recent hurricane."

In the past, GlaxoSmithKline has worked extensively with HPIC to provide more than \$11 million in donated medications to thousands of needy people. These medicines have aided relief efforts in disasters such as Hurricane Mitch and the earthquake in Turkey.

Included among the most recently donated products are Flovent® (fluticasone propionate) and Ventolin® (salbutamol), two leading asthma medications, as well as



Accompanied by her family, a child from Chernobyl fights serious disease with medicines donated to Cuba by GSK and HPIC.

Ceftin® (cefuroxime axetil) and Septra® (cotrimoxazole), antibiotics for the treatment of infectious diseases and eye/ear infections.

"As one of Canada's leading research-based companies and charitable donors, we're committed to fighting disease and improving the health of Canadians, as well as those less fortunate in developing countries," said Paul Lucas, President and CEO, GlaxoSmithKline. "Our donation of over \$850,000 in much needed medicines is part of our longstanding partnership with Health Partners, and our commitment to support important humanitarian efforts overseas by supplying critical medical treatments to those most in need."

Ceftin®, Flovent® and Ventolin® are registered trademarks, used under license by GlaxoSmithKline Inc.
Septra® is a registered trademark, GlaxoSmithKline Inc.

■ continued from cover

By developing a better understanding of what happens to brain cells when they die, Dr. Park hopes to one day reduce the devastating impact of stroke.

"We have seen that when cell death occurs certain signals are activated that shouldn't be. Some of these signals control cell division. In a neuron which should never divide, this causes many problems," said Dr. Park. "Now we are trying to inhibit the process to determine what, if any impact, this has on stroke damage."

He believes that stopping certain cells from dying may allow patients to recover more fully from stroke.

The grant from the *Pathfinders Fund* has allowed Dr. Park to purchase equipment and materials, and to maintain a staff of eight full-time research associates. The research being conducted in his lab is also laying a foundation for work in other neurological diseases that are impacted by cell death, such as Parkinson's disease. It is this type of innovative research that led Dr. Park to choose a position in Canada over others in the US.

"I'm truly amazed at the significance and the productivity of the scientific research that comes out of Canada," he said. "The *Pathfinders Fund* is important for Canadian research because aside from the financial support, it helps to attract researchers to Canada and establishes links between academia and industry. As we get into the specifics of diseases it is important to bridge both worlds and share common knowledge."

In addition to stroke, the *Pathfinders Fund* is helping to further Canadian research excellence in a wide variety of fields, including gastroenterology, molecular genetics and virology.

GlaxoSmithKline in Canada

GlaxoSmithKline is committed to bringing the power of science to the needs of people to help them do more, feel better and live longer. GlaxoSmithKline is a leader in four major therapeutic areas – anti-infectives, central nervous system (CNS), respiratory and gastro-intestinal/metabolic, as well as in the increasingly important area of vaccines.

GlaxoSmithKline Corporate Communications 905-819-3000