

Canada Leads the Way in Diabetes Research

A Message from Dr. Anne Phillips

At GlaxoSmithKline we believe the benefits of health science research impact all Canadians. It is this belief that has driven us to become – at more than \$100 million per year – one of the top 20 contributors to research and development (R&D) in Canada across all industries.



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

Canada is home to some of the leading scientists in the world, and their work has led to important research discoveries in many fields, from HIV/AIDS to cystic fibrosis and diabetes. As one of Canada's leading research-based pharmaceutical companies, GlaxoSmithKline is committed to fostering an environment where Canadian scientists have access to the resources and support necessary to continue that tradition of scientific excellence.

This issue of GSK News outlines a few of the exciting and innovative programs that have made GlaxoSmithKline a leader in Canadian health research.

With major funding support from GlaxoSmithKline as well as other partners, McMaster University in Hamilton has begun one of the largest clinical trials on diabetes prevention ever conducted in the world. The DREAM (**D**iabetes **R**eduction **A**pproaches with ramipril and rosiglitazone **M**edications) trial is an international study that will be spearheaded by two world-renowned researchers in diabetes and cardiovascular disease.

Dr. Hertzell Gerstein, Director of the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism and Dr. Salim Yusuf, Director of the Division of Cardiology and the Population Health Institute will lead the trial involving 4,000 patients worldwide who are at risk of developing type 2 diabetes.

Treating diabetes in Canada costs between \$7 and \$10 billion per year, making it a tremendous burden on healthcare resources. Research into new treatments has the potential to reduce the staggering economic impact of the disease.

"This clinical trial is another step forward for Canada as a leader in diabetes research," said Donna Lillie, National Director of

Research and Professional Education for the Canadian Diabetes Association. "We anticipate this will enhance our understanding of diabetes and related risk factors."

The DREAM trial is a partnership between McMaster University, the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Aventis Pharma Inc. of Canada, King Pharmaceuticals Inc. of the US, and GlaxoSmithKline. It will evaluate the role of two medications, Avandia® (rosiglitazone) and Altace® (ramipril), in preventing the onset of the disease. At more than \$28 million, GlaxoSmithKline is a primary source of funding for the approximately \$62 million trial.

"This is an incredibly exciting trial that is exploring ways to potentially prevent a disease that has reached staggering proportions in Canada and around the world," said Dr. Anne Phillips, Vice President of Research & Development and Chief Medical Officer at GlaxoSmithKline. "GlaxoSmithKline is proud to be a driving force behind such an important study by two highly respected Canadian scientists."

The study's investigators have already begun to enrol patients. As many as 1,500

■ continued on reverse



patients in the trial will be from Canada and it will involve approximately 65 Canadian investigators in more than 45 centres across the country. The other trial sites are located primarily in the US, Europe and South America.

The hypothesis behind the DREAM trial was developed from another study conducted by Drs. Yusuf and Gerstein that yielded some unexpected results. The HOPE (Heart Outcomes Prevention Evaluation) trial was designed to evaluate the role of ramipril in the reduction of heart attack and stroke. But at the end of the trial, Drs. Yusuf and Gerstein also saw a significant reduction in the number of people who developed diabetes.

GSK's Diabetes Commitment

GlaxoSmithKline is committed to finding new treatments to reduce the burden of illness associated with diabetes. In addition to the DREAM trial, we are involved in five ongoing Canadian clinical trials in diabetes.

Together these studies involve:

- ▶ 92 Canadian sites
- ▶ 155 investigators
- ▶ More than 1,000 patients

Because the HOPE trial was not designed to effectively evaluate the results in the reduction of diabetes, further study was necessary. The DREAM trial is now thoroughly exploring that important finding, and is expected to be completed in about five years.

\$10M Pathfinders Fund for Leaders in Canadian Health Science Research

As part of our ongoing commitment to supporting Canadian R&D and the country's best scientists and researchers, GlaxoSmithKline established the *Pathfinders Fund for Leaders in Canadian Health Science Research*. This \$10 million initiative promotes excellence in Canadian health science research by helping to establish research positions at all 16 medical schools across the country.

The fund will provide opportunities for attracting and retaining top Canadian scientists and researchers to conduct their important discovery work in Canada, and transform a brain drain into a brain gain.

Among the *Pathfinders Fund* announcements to date are the following:

- ▶ *Research Chair in Molecular Genetics* at the Clinical Research Institute of Montreal.
- ▶ *Endowed Research Chair in Gastroenterology* at McMaster University.
- ▶ *Endowed Research Chair in Structural Biology* at the University of Saskatchewan.
- ▶ *Professorship in Stroke* at the Neurosciences Research Institute, University of Ottawa.
- ▶ *Professorship in Diseases of Aging* at the Loeb Health Research Institute, University of Ottawa.
- ▶ *Endowed Research Chair in Pharmaceuticals* at the University of Toronto.
- ▶ *Endowed Research Chair in Virology* at the University of Alberta.
- ▶ *Post-doctoral Fellowship in Metabolic Diseases* at the Atlantic Research Centre, Dalhousie University.
- ▶ *Natural Science & Engineering Research Council Chair* at York University to support the study of new technology in chemistry.
- ▶ *Studentship in Biostatistics* at the University of Waterloo.



Dr. Stephen Collins is one of Canada's leading gastroenterologists and holds the Endowed Research Chair in Gastroenterology at McMaster University.

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.

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