

Investment by the CFI, Government, Confirm Confidence in Imaging Research in London

(January 18, 2007) London, ON - A \$26,975,700 project will boost healthcare in London and allow for the continuation of leading-edge research in hybrid imaging.

The Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) recently announced that \$12,998,300 has been awarded to St. Joseph's Health Care, London and Lawson Health Research Institute and its collaborators. This major investment will fund new infrastructure to enable the continuation of research that has already led to major discoveries in the areas of cardiovascular diseases, mental health disorders, cancer and conditions such as chronic pain and neonatal brain injury. The balance of the funding will come from private sector partners; as well a match to CFI is presently under review from the provincial government.

This successful grant is the result of the joining of two previous independent CFI awards to the imaging and cancer programs at Lawson, led by Drs. Frank Prato and Jim Koropatnick respectively, resulting in a single, cross-disciplinary effort.

According to Drs. Prato and Koropatnick, the timing of this award is perfect. "Our current imaging modalities can no longer support the type of leading-edge research we are proposing. The new infrastructure will support research in the area of hybrid imaging, which involves combining different imaging modalities into one platform, improving data acquisition and patient diagnosis and therapy."

Lawson's Scientific Director, Dr. David Hill comments, "the talented team of researchers involved in this award has been exceptionally productive and is considered to be the most cohesive and collegial imaging research team in Canada.

This award will ensure that they maintain their leadership and help put London on the map as the Canadian centre for hybrid imaging."

"The CFI's support of cutting-edge research infrastructure over the past ten years has resulted in breakthroughs that lead to improved quality of life for Canadians," said Dr. Eliot Phillipson, President and CEO of CFI. "Investments like these have allowed London to become a destination of choice for some of the world's top research talent and an important training environment for the next generation of Canadian researchers."

The vast majority of the award will support state-of-the-art equipment at St. Joseph's Hospital, with the remaining infrastructure going to the London Regional Cancer Program at London Health Sciences Centre, Robarts Research Institute, The University of Western Ontario and Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto.

105 researchers in London, 26 Canadian researchers outside London and 23 from outside Canada will use this new equipment.

About Lawson Health Research Institute

The Lawson Health Research Institute in London, Ontario, is the research institute of London Health Sciences Centre and St. Joseph's Health Care, London. Lawson is one of the largest hospital-based research institutes in Canada and is dedicated to helping people live healthier lives by advancing the knowledge of how to prevent, diagnose and treat disease.

About Canada Foundation for Innovation

The Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) is an independent corporation created by the Government of Canada to fund research infrastructure. The CFI's mandate is to strengthen the capacity of Canadian universities, colleges, research hospitals, and non-profit research institutions to carry out world-class research and technology development that benefits Canadians.

For more information, please contact:

Michele Martin
Communications and Public Relations Manager
Lawson Health Research Institute
(519) 646-6100 ext. 64680, pager 10699
Michele.martin@sjhc.london.on.ca

Angus McKinnon
Coordinator, Media Relations
Canada Foundation for Innovation
Tel.: 613-996-3160
Cell.: 613-447-1723
angus.mckinnon@innovation.ca