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1. The Michael Smith Awards for Science Promotion – Call for Nominations

The Michael Smith Awards for Science Promotion focus on people and groups who are inspirational in the way they promote science to the general public.

Science promotion activities with award potential could include activities such as:

- organizing science camps, fairs, clubs or programs with youth organizations;
- creating new learning materials;
- developing science- and engineering-related co-op programs or job shadowing initiatives;
- arranging demonstrations, visits and lectures;
- writing books and articles;
- creating radio or television programs; and
- generating public involvement through multi-media programs.

Nomination Process and Selection Criteria:

- Anyone with direct knowledge of an individual or group's contribution to science and engineering promotion may nominate that candidate for a Michael Smith Award.
- Nominators may be colleagues or people who have benefited from the nominee's contributions, such as teachers, parents, community members, or administrators.
- Individuals and groups can even nominate themselves.
- Nominees will have made a successful and sustained effort to encourage public interest in and an understanding of the natural sciences and engineering (including math and technology) outside the formal education system.
- To nominate a candidate for a Michael Smith Award, fill in the [PDF form](#), print and sign it, and mail it in to NSERC with the application.

Nomination deadline: September 1, 2008

Please visit: http://www.nserc.gc.ca/award_e.asp?nav=smith&lbi=nomination for further information on eligibility and submission requirements.

2. UBC Graduate Scholarship Day

Presenters from NSERC, SSHRC, CIHR, MSFHR, and UBC will be providing information regarding graduate and postdoctoral fellowship funding offered by their respective organizations. Graduate students, prospective graduate students (including senior undergrads), faculty, and graduate program staff are welcome to attend. There is no registration – you are encouraged to attend whichever sessions are relevant to you. Speakers will field questions at the end of their presentations.

The Graduate Scholarships Days are currently scheduled for **Wednesday 10 September and Thursday 11 September 2008**. We are tentatively expecting presenters from NSERC on Wednesday 10 September and presenters from SSHRC on Thursday 11 September. Further details will be posted as the presentation schedule is finalized.

3. Canadian Pandemic Preparedness Meeting: From Discovery to Frontlines Meeting (pdf attached)

The CIHR Institute of Infection and Immunity (CIHR-III) Pandemic Preparedness Strategic Research Initiative (PPSRI), the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) are pleased to announce the first in an annual series of meetings which will feature presentations and discussions by Canadian and international authorities on various aspects of pandemic and influenza research. The meeting will cover recent advances in pandemic preparedness and influenza research in Canada and internationally, as well as an opportunity for networking and collaboration among researchers and those that will use the new research findings.

- Meeting participants will include researchers in pandemic preparedness, influenza and related research areas and knowledge users including health care and public health practitioners, program administrators and policy and decision makers. Space at the meeting is limited.
- To ensure representation of knowledge users, 50 of the 200 meeting places have been reserved for them.
- **The meeting will be held at The Fort Garry Hotel in Winnipeg on November 6-8, 2008.** The agenda is posted on the [CIHR-III website](#).
- Please complete the [registration form](#).

Space is limited and there has been significant interest in the meeting, therefore we encourage you to register as soon as possible - registration will be on a first come first serve basis. Please note that your registration will be confirmed within two weeks of submission.

For more details please visit: <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/36338.html>

4. The BC BioLibrary – 2 Surveys

The BC BioLibrary platform is applying to the CFI for funds to build infrastructure for all biobanks and researchers in BC that depend on high quality biospecimen collection (PDF attached). The BC BioLibrary infrastructure will support population-based research in BC to:

- 1) ensure public & patient engagement & policy guidance for biobank consent & governance by implementing public engagement through deliberative democracy
- 2) build a patient-as-partners web-based application for biospecimen donors to identify preferences for use of their donated biospecimens & data
- 3) implement Biospecimen Collection Units in hospital pathology departments across BC
- 4) create off-site, mirrored, monitored storage for frozen biospecimens

As part of this proposal, we are trying to capture the needs of the local research community. To help make sure the initiative gets funded, could you please complete the appropriate survey below.

*** Survey for Access to Biospecimen Collections Across BC:**

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=jLuZXApQ_2fjncXbubGBMgiA_3d_3d

*** Survey for Long Term Biospecimen Storage Needs:**

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=H3mbuCelgGJYUOIJVOyt4w_3d_3d

5. Research Orientation Day for New Faculty – online registration closes August 1

Date: Tuesday, August 26, 2008
Time: 8:45 am - 5:00 pm
Location: Cecil Green House, 6251 Cecil Green Park Road

This workshop is being held for new faculty members (who started after January 1, 2006 or will start before December 31, 2008) to assist them in starting their research and scholarly activities at UBC. Targeted at both recent PhDs and experienced senior faculty joining UBC from elsewhere, this workshop is intended to introduce the issues, opportunities, and procedures for carrying out research at UBC.

For further details and to register, visit the VP Research website at <http://www.research.ubc.ca/EventView.aspx?eventID=196>.

PDF poster available [here](#).

6. NSERC Discovery Grant - NOI due: August 1, 2008

All researchers who intend to apply for a NSERC Discovery Grant (including a Project Research Grant in Subatomic Physics) in the 2009 competition must submit a Notification of Intent to Apply for a Discovery Grant (Form 180) and related documents. The deadline date for receipt of these documents is August 1st.

Potential applicants are asked to consult the NSERC Web site to access the necessary information and to complete and submit the electronic version of Form 180. A copy of the memorandum to potential applicants is available on the NSERC Web site at http://www.nserc.gc.ca/professors_e.asp?nav=profnav&lbi=a1_memo. The 2008 version of literature and forms will be available on our Web site as of August 5. However, applicants may start preparing their application prior to that date using the current version of the forms.

NOI Deadline: August 1, 2008, full application November 1, 2008

7. Heart & Stroke Foundation – Request for Applications for Focus on Stroke VIII

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada is pleased to announce the launch of a Request for Applications for Focus on Stroke VIII. Doctoral Research Awards, Research Fellowships, and Research Scholarships are available through this initiative.

Application Deadline: October 31, 2008

Please note that the objectives of the Focus on Stroke program have changed.

The aim of this year's program is:

1. to build stroke research capacity in the later pillars: **clinical, health services/systems, or population health**;
2. to support stroke research by **health professionals** including, but not limited to, nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech therapists, nutritionists, pathologists, pharmacologists, and medical doctors.

This strategic initiative is supported by the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada and our partners: the Canadian Stroke Network, and the CIHR Institute of Aging and Institute of Circulatory and Respiratory Health.

For more information on this Request for Applications, please visit:

<http://www.hsf.ca/research/images/PDF/fos8%20rfa%20v05.pdf>.

The Michael Smith Awards for Science Promotion



Nomination Form

This nomination is for (check one only):

an individual an organization

Complete this form and forward it with one copy of the following information requested in the Call for Nominations section of the Michael Smith Awards Web site:

- A description of the nominee's promotion activities (maximum three pages)
- Three signed letters of recommendation
- Support materials, such as publications (maximum four pages or equivalent)

Name and title of **nominee**:

Name and title of **nominator**:

Organization (if applicable):

Organization (if applicable):

Mailing address:

Mailing address:

Tel.: _____ Fax: _____

Tel.: _____ Fax: _____

E-mail: _____

E-mail: _____

Signature: _____

Signature: _____

All applications must be received at NSERC on or before September 1, 2008.

Send your nomination to:

Michael Smith Awards
Life Sciences and Special Research Opportunities Division
NSERC
350 Albert Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 1H5
Tel.: 613-996-1417 Fax: 613-992-5337
E-mail: michaelsmithawards@nserc.ca

The decisions of the Michael Smith Awards Committee are final. If no nominations are deemed suitable, no award will be made. Nominators must provide the nominees' written consent to their nomination, to the information mentioned therein, and, if selected for a Michael Smith Award, to the release of their name and a brief description of their activities. Any additional disclosures will be made in consultation with the recipients, but no claim may be made against NSERC as a result of such disclosures. The signature of the nominee constitutes his/her agreement to be bound by these rules.

Submissions and support material become the property of NSERC and will not be returned.



BC's BioLibrary – Partnering with Patients on the Journey to Personalized Healthcare

Estimated Total Project Cost: \$10 million in BC, \$5 million in Alberta

Principal Applicants: Peter Watson (Lead), Rick Hegele, Ian Mackenzie, David Huntsman, Bruce McManus, Mark Wilkinson, Mike Burgess, Bruce Ritchie, Ru Tan, TBD

Canadian healthcare is at a crossroads between traditional Western and personalized medicine. The realization of personalized medicine requires targeted guidance and products that predictably provide effective and safe treatment and prevention. The path to personalization involves creating alternatives to drug treatment-only strategies through better definition of disease categories and identification of better predictives and diagnostics. Matching the right preventive or treatment with the right patient at the right time becomes plausible as we understand human biology using -omics tools, powerful computational strategies, and environmental, behavioral and genetic data in an integrated framework. Unprecedented progress has been made in -omics, molecular imaging and drug discovery, however, the potential for drug discovery remains largely untapped and the gap between the pace of advances and the successful exploitation of such knowledge for human benefit continues to grow. The lack of high quality, annotated biospecimens representative of diseased populations is a contributor to this chasm. Major issues that need to be solved include increased quality of biospecimens, enhanced capacity through collection at multiple sites, improved representation of the population and spectrum of disease, and maintenance of public trust.

The Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research funded the creation of 5 provincial, cross-cutting technology/methodology platforms with a mandate to enhance health research across British Columbia, of which the BC BioLibrary is one. The BC BioLibrary will acquire, organize, and distribute human biospecimens to research studies, clinical trials and biobanks. The strategic solution used includes components that are novel for the biobanking community; primarily the repatriation of biobanking accrual to the source of biospecimens, the clinical discipline of pathology. The BC Biolibary initiative currently encompasses major academic health sciences centers within Vancouver. The proposed infrastructure will extend the vision of this recent initiative from a tertiary care center to a representative population-scale accrual network across health centers in BC.

The BC BioLibrary is proposing the following infrastructure to support population-based research:

- 1) Implement BC public engagement to build a patient-as-partners environment for biospecimen donors to participate in biobanking.** This is essential to enhance ongoing biobanking as a promoted activity in BC and also to explore possible ways to improve the efficiency and acceptability in the ways in which biobanks engage consented donors
- 2) Implement Biospecimen Collection Units in hospital pathology departments across BC.** This is essential for higher and standardized quality of biospecimens and to enable biospecimen collection at multiple sites across centers and regions. These enhancements will raise the capacity, capability and competitiveness of translational research for all of us in BC.
- 3) Create off-site, mirrored, monitored storage for frozen biospecimens.** This is essential to lower research costs in current institutions by moving ever expanding freezer space to readily accessed, secure, and cheaper available space outside our research laboratories. It is also essential to create backup storage space for our increasingly valuable study and biobank collections in the event of local disasters.

The primary areas of research enabled by the infrastructure include the spectrum of research performed on human biospecimens. In particular, initiatives that utilize population-based cohorts for biomarker discovery, validation, qualification, and translation, for disease risk assessment and stratification, personalized healthcare initiatives, or any form of translational research will be particularly enabled. The vision of the current application will be enabled by formation of strategic, cross-disciplinary and cross-sector partnerships between patients, the healthcare system, private entrepreneurs and policy makers, scientific disciplines, departments, and stakeholders in disease categories and across geographic regions. The focus of the current proposal is to enable infrastructure in British Columbia and Alberta that will produce research breakthroughs related to a range of burdensome healthcare issues and in translation of advances into the clinic.