



UBC five at the forefront

UBC's research community recently received a significant boost in financial support for five research hubs that will join the Centre for Brain Health as newly appointed national Centres of Excellence for Commercialization and Research (CECR). Out of the 11 CECRs that were granted funding by the Government of Canada, five have UBC affiliations. These centres, noted below, will share approximately \$75 million to bring major discoveries from the lab to the marketplace within the next five years.

The Prostate Centre's Translational Research Initiative for Accelerated Discovery and Development (PC-TRIADD)

Located at Vancouver General Hospital, PC-TRIADD facilitates the seamless management of translational prostate cancer research from discovery to preclinical development to clinical research. *(Profiled in frontier Issue 3)*

Prevention of Epidemic Organ Failure (PROOF)

PROOF targets successful prevention and early-detection strategies, as opposed to drug-only strategies, in an effort to improve patient outcomes for those faced with vital organ failure.

Centre for Drug Research and Development (CDRD)

Combining a research arm with a commercialization arm, CDRD provides critical infrastructure to effectively realize the potential of academic medical discoveries and generate the necessary investment to become new medicines. *(Profiled in frontier Issue 3)*

Pan-Provincial Vaccine Enterprise (PREVENT)

PREVENT is a national initiative designed to accelerate vaccine development for infectious diseases of significant public health concern. Although headquartered at the University of Saskatchewan's Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization, the centre is partnered with the British Columbia Centre for Disease Control at UBC.

Advanced Applied Physics Solutions, Inc. (AAPS)

AAPS aims to improve quality of life through the development of technologies arising from subatomic physics research. These technologies will offer a range of applications such as medical isotope production.

Economics in esteem

Two UBC economics professors were recognized with separate Bank of Canada awards: the Research Fellowship 2008 and the Governor's Award.

Known for his expertise in open-economy modeling and international economics, Michael Devereux received Bank of Canada's Research Fellowship 2008 with Shouyong Shi of the University of Toronto. The award is designed to encourage and develop expertise in Canada in the areas of macroeconomics, monetary economics, international finance and the economics of financial markets and institutions.

As recipient of Bank of Canada's first Governor's Award, Henry Siu's research focuses on the analysis of business cycles, the conduct of monetary policy and fiscal policy in the face of economic shocks. The Governor's Award was launched in September 2007 to recognize the exceptional academics of a researcher in the early stages of his/her career.

From matter to the mind

UBC's Brain Research Centre has received \$25 million from the Province of BC to establish a new facility focused on translational brain research. Named the Centre for Brain Health, it will provide clinical care to patients while conducting advanced research into neurological disorders such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's and psychological problems like depression and addiction.

The Centre for Brain Health is a partnership between the Brain Research Centre, the Division of Neurology and the Department of Psychiatry and aims to give those suffering from brain diseases access to the most advanced treatments available. It is expected to open its doors in the next few years.