

## **Canadian Center for Vaccinology and the Sanofi Pasteur Vaccine Challenge Unit opens at the IWK Health Centre**

*For Immediate Release*

July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Halifax, Nova Scotia - The IWK Health Centre, Capital District Health Authority and Dalhousie University, today officially opened the Canadian Center for Vaccinology (CCfV).

This world-class vaccine research facility, located at the IWK, was created to develop, implement and evaluate human vaccine technologies and vaccines for infectious diseases, including the testing and evaluation of an H1N1 vaccine. Research undertaken by the CCfV will have major impact on the future health of Canadians, and for people around the world.

“Halifax is now a major center for vaccine research,” says Dr. Scott Halperin, Director, Canadian Center for Vaccinology. “By facilitating a collaboration of researchers in basic biomedical, clinical and social sciences, we can provide a continuum of vaccine research and evaluation from the laboratory to public policy.”

A major component of the CCfV is the Sanofi Pasteur Vaccine Challenge Unit, which consists of 10 inpatient isolation rooms to be used for vaccine challenge studies and other inpatient research. This unit, also located at the IWK, is the first of its kind in Canada and represents a milestone in vaccinology research in Canada.

“The Sanofi Pasteur Vaccine Challenge Unit is an important and powerful research tool for addressing existing and emerging infectious disease threats,” says Mark Lievonon, President of Sanofi Pasteur Limited. “It will enable the globally-recognized team at the Canadian Center for Vaccinology to collaborate with industry and academic researchers, and provide opportunities for Canadian scientists to conduct innovative clinical research with existing and candidate vaccines.”

The CCfV received funding from the Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI) and the Province of Nova Scotia through the Department of Economic and Rural Development and the Nova Scotia Research and Innovation Trust, which has contributed to the establishment of this state-of-the-art facility.

“The Canadian Center for Vaccinology is a powerful example of what can be achieved when various stakeholders come together as partners,” said Dr. Eliot Phillipson, President and CEO of the CFI. “This facility will provide an outstanding venue and environment for the training of the next generation of Canadian health scientists.”

The IWK Health Centre provides quality care to women, children, youth and families in the Maritimes. In addition to providing a highly specialized (tertiary) care, the IWK is engaged in leading edge research and supports education opportunities for health professionals and other learners; Dalhousie University is a comprehensive, research-intensive university with more than 15,500 students. The *Scientist* magazine, has named it the best place to work as a scientific researcher in Canada; Capital Health has an exemplary track record of supporting advances in therapy, multi-disciplinary approaches to patient care, teaching and research. In any given year over 800 research projects are underway, including 400 clinical trials

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