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Marketing Communications
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MANITOBA RESEARCHERS PARTNER TO IMPROVE ORGAN TRANSPLANTATION

Part of New Canadian National Transplant Research Program

A team of seven Manitoba researchers from the University of Manitoba, CancerCare Manitoba, Transplant Manitoba, Manitoba Institute of Child Health and St. Boniface General Hospital are part of a new national research program launched today with funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).

The Canadian National Transplantation Research Program (CNTRP) includes researchers from across Canada collaborating on six national research projects to improve clinical outcomes for transplant recipients, supported by two national core platforms. It is led by Dr. Lori West at the University of Alberta, and includes 105 researchers and 86 collaborators at 13 centres and universities in nine provinces. The CNTRP is the first program in the world to unite and integrate the solid organ transplant, bone marrow transplant and the donation and critical care research communities together in a ground-breaking national research endeavour.

"The federal government funding of this program is a key step to improving access to transplantation and ensuring the highest quality of care for Canadians with end-organ failure," says Dr. Peter Nickerson, Professor of

Medicine and Immunology, Associate Dean (Research, Flynn Family Chair in Renal Transplantation, University of Manitoba.

“This historic collaboration of solid organ and blood/marrow transplant specialists with basic scientists and health outcome specialists will transform transplantation in Canada,” says Dr. Donna Wall, Professor, University of Manitoba; Director, Manitoba Blood and Marrow Transplant Program; Director, Cellular Therapy Laboratory, CancerCare Manitoba. “The ultimate goal is to eliminate transplant wait lists and help transplant recipients lead healthy normal lives.”

For detailed project descriptions go to the National news release available online at <http://www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/e/46632.html>

<http://www.cntrp.ca/>

The Manitoba researchers are members of the following project teams:

Core 2 - Platforms supporting transplant correlative studies, database registries, training and interventional clinical trials

Dr. Peter Nickersen, Professor of Medicine and Immunology, Associate Dean (Research), Flynn Family Chair in Renal Transplantation, University of Manitoba

Dr. Donna Wall, Professor, Pediatrics and Child Health, Immunology, Internal Medicine University of Manitoba; Director, Manitoba Blood and Marrow Transplant Program; Director, Cellular Therapy Laboratory, CancerCare Manitoba

Dr. Kristjan Paulson, Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Manitoba; Hematologist, CancerCare Manitoba

Project 1 - Increasing solid organ and hematopoietic cell donation in Canada

Dr. Darren Freed, Associate Professor of Surgery, University of Manitoba and St. Boniface General Hospital.

Project 3 - Favouring engraftment and preventing rejection/graft-vs-host disease through targeted disruption of danger and death signals: From cells to patients

Dr. Julie Ho, Assistant Professor of Medicine, University of Manitoba

Dr. David Rush, Professor of Medicine, University of Manitoba; Medical Director, Adult Kidney Program, Transplant Manitoba - Gift of Life program

Dr. Peter Nickerson, Professor of Medicine and Immunology, Associate Dean (Research, Flynn Family Chair in Renal Transplantation, University of Manitoba

Project 4 - Translating strategies for immunomodulation and transplantation tolerance

Dr. Donna Wall, Professor, Pediatrics and Child Health, Immunology, Internal Medicine University of Manitoba; Director, Manitoba Blood and Marrow Transplant Program; Director, Cellular Therapy Laboratory, CancerCare

Manitoba

Project 6 - Personalizing immunosuppression to improve age-related transplant outcomes

Dr. Tom Blydt-Hansen, Associate Professor Pediatrics, University of Manitoba; Medical Director, Pediatric Kidney Program, Transplant Manitoba; Research Scientist, Manitoba Institute of Child Health; Past President, Canadian Transplantation Association

For further information on the Manitoba research projects please contact:

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TRANSPLANT MANITOBA – Gift of Life Program

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