

Canadian breast cancer research highlighted at conference

Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation proud supporter of Canadian Cancer Research Conference

TORONTO, ON (November 29, 2011) – This week's Canadian Cancer Research Conference brings together researchers and funding agencies from across Canada to highlight their work, share new knowledge and strategize about how to achieve a future without cancer. The conference, which is being held in Toronto through Wednesday, is organized by the Canadian Cancer Research Alliance, comprised of 33 cancer research funding agencies – including the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation. The conference is dedicated to identifying transformative cancer research initiatives, coordinating pan-Canadian research and highlighting made-in-Canada research achievements.

Among the over 1,000 participants, an estimated 330 researchers with a focus on breast cancer attended this year's conference, including many Foundation-funded researchers. Foundation-funded research highlighted at the conference ranged from studies on the importance of determining receptor status in patients with primary and metastatic tumours in an era of personalized medicine, to an analysis of the impact breast cancer diagnosis can have on the male partners of female patients. On Monday the conference featured a session entitled "Progress and Challenges in Breast Cancer" and a Tuesday plenary on "Screening and Early Detection." The conference kicked off Sunday at the Sheraton Centre in Toronto with a public forum, which saw members of the public learning first hand from top cancer researchers about the latest developments.

"The Foundation is excited about this conference not only to showcase the impact of our donor dollars at work in research, but also for the opportunity it provides for networking and collaborations, which are essential ingredients to innovative world class research" said Sandra Palmaro, Chief Executive Officer of the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation - Ontario Region. "In these times of uncertainty in the changing research funding landscape, the Foundation remains committed to supporting, growing, and engaging the research community."

This year, the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation launched a new National Grants Competition in Earlier Detection of Breast Cancer, and continues to support regional research through annual grant competitions, including operating grant funding, through its Regional offices.

Last week, the Foundation's Prairies/Northwest Territories Region announced \$10 million in funding for 36 projects, through the Region's 2011 Breast Cancer Research Program, Breast

Health Education and Awareness Community Grant Program and Opportunity Grant Program to support innovative and catalytic projects throughout Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories.

Since 1986, the Foundation has allocated over \$248 million nationally to fund vital research and community health grants that have led progress in breast cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care.

About the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation – 25 Years of Progress

For the last 25 years, the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation has been at the forefront of a nation-wide movement to raise awareness and mobilize action on breast cancer. Today, the Foundation is the leading organization in Canada dedicated to creating a future without breast cancer. Since 1986, from coast to coast, we have invested over \$248 million to fund vital research and community health grants that have led progress in breast cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care. Visit cbcf.org and join the movement.

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For more information please contact:

Paul Cantin
Director of Communications and Public Relations
Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation – Central Office
pcantin@cbcf.org
416-596-7659