

For Immediate Release

Ontario Tumour Bank Collection Centre Opens at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton

Tuesday, March 10, 2009, Hamilton – The Ontario Tumour Bank (OTB) today opened a collection centre at St. Joseph's Healthcare Charlton Campus in Hamilton. The samples and data collected at the Hamilton site will be used by cancer researchers to develop improved diagnostic tools and new drug therapies for cancer treatment. The announcement was made by Dr. Tom Hudson, President and Scientific Director of the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research and Dr. Ian Rodger, Vice President, Research and Academic and Director of the Father Sean O'Sullivan Research Centre, St. Joseph's Healthcare.

"Organizations like the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research and the Ontario Tumour Bank are part of the reason Ontario is a global leader in cancer research and a magnet for talent," said Minister of Research and Innovation John Wilkinson. "Today's announcement will help build on this leadership – and create new hope for the future."

"We are proud to house one of OTB's collection centres," said Dr. Rodger. "This is a significant milestone for cancer research in Ontario that has important ramifications in the drive to find new therapies that will benefit cancer patients within our community and beyond."

"The high-quality samples collected at OTB sites across Ontario are a vital tool that cancer researchers rely on to make important new discoveries," said Dr. Hudson. "The opening of the Hamilton site at St. Joseph's will increase the number of samples available to researchers and bring us even closer to finding new treatments for people living with cancer."

OTB is a province-wide biorepository and data bank focused on collection of tumour-related human biospecimens. It provides academic and industry cancer researchers with a diverse selection of high quality tumour-related specimens and data. The OTB collection centre at St. Joseph's is the first resource of its kind for the hospital, and the only centre in Hamilton. Other OTB collection centres are located in Kingston, London, Mississauga and Ottawa.

"The opening of the St. Joseph's collection centre is a major step in OTB's continued development," said Dr. Brent Zanke, Vice President of OICR and Director of OTB. "We are looking forward to working with the St. Joseph's research team to bring more samples to more researchers and helping to accelerate cancer research worldwide."

OTB is a program of OICR, an innovative new provincial cancer institute that is moving Ontario to the forefront of discovery and innovation. It is dedicated to research in prevention, early detection, diagnosis, treatment and control of cancer. OICR is a not-for-profit corporation funded by the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Research and Innovation. For more information, please visit the website at www.oicr.on.ca.

St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton is an acute care, teaching and research hospital affiliated with the Faculty of Health Sciences at McMaster University and Mohawk College. It consists of three sites: St. Joseph's Hospital in downtown Hamilton, the Centre for Ambulatory Health Services in the east end of Hamilton, and the Centre for Mountain Health Services on the West Mountain. St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton is dedicated to providing compassionate, sensitive care to its patients and their families and to achieving excellence in health care through our on-going commitment to education and research. For more information visit www.stjoes.ca.

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