

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

London Health Sciences Foundation receives generous \$90,000 donation from sanofi-aventis Canada Inc. for cancer research

The gift will support a Urologic Oncology Fellowship and Locally Advanced Breast Cancer (LABC) Multidisciplinary Virtual Clinic and Database at London Health Sciences Centre's London Regional Cancer Program.

London, Ontario, December 15, 2006 – London Health Sciences Foundation announced today a \$90,000 donation from sanofi-aventis Canada Inc. in support of cancer research at the London Regional Cancer Program (LRCP), London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC). A total of \$50,000 will support the Urologic Oncology Fellowship and the remaining \$40,000 will establish a Locally Advanced Breast Cancer (LABC) Multidisciplinary Virtual Clinic and database.

"Oncology is a key therapeutic area for our company worldwide and in Canada, particularly in the fields of prostate and breast cancer," said Raf Henein, vice-president, business unit - internal medicine and oncology, sanofi-aventis Canada Inc. "This donation reaffirms our commitment to cancer research by providing funding for a talented young investigator's fellowship in urologic oncology. Our support for the virtual breast cancer clinic and database is also one that we hope will help countless patients when faced with this aggressive disease. We are very pleased to make this investment at a world-renowned centre here in London."

"Sanofi-aventis' generous gift of \$50,000 represents important one year funding, in support of a Urologic Oncology Fellowship position," says Dr. Joseph Chin, medical director, surgical oncology, London Regional Cancer Program, London Health Sciences Centre; professor of urology and director of the uro-oncology fellowship program. An integrated position involving medical oncology, urology and radiation oncology, the fellowship is a two-year programme, with one clinical year and one research year.

"The Fellow, while on clinical rotations, will take an active role in clinical trials involving hormone therapy, chemotherapy and alternative therapies, in addition to surgically and radiation-related therapies and epidemiologic studies," says Chin. "In the research year, the Fellow will continue to be engaged in clinical trials." The Fellow complements a strong, established surgical and research team including Dr. Joseph Chin, Dr. Jonathan I. Izawa, assistant professor and program director, urology, UWO; uro-oncologist, LRCP, LHSC, Dr. Eric Winquist, medical director of the GU disease site team, LRCP, LHSC and Dr. Glenn Bauman, director of research, LRCP, LHSC; chair, oncology, Schulich School of Medicine and Dentistry, UWO.

This year's funding from sanofi-aventis has also launched the Locally Advanced Breast Cancer (LABC) Multidisciplinary Virtual Clinic and database, at London Health Sciences Centre's London Regional Cancer Program.

"Sanofi-aventis has been a sponsor of the LABC clinic at Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre in Toronto, Ontario and offered to sponsor a collaborative meeting between the London Regional Cancer Program and Sunnybrook," explains Dr. Muriel Brackstone, surgical oncologist and head of breast multidisciplinary team, LRCP. The collaboration led to the London Regional Cancer Program's LABC multidisciplinary virtual clinic.

Adds Dr. Brackstone, “We have initiated a fast tracking referral mechanism for breast cancer patients – a first for the London Regional Cancer Program, enabling family physicians and community surgeons to refer women with aggressive locally advanced breast cancer to be seen within the week. Offering rapid diagnostic investigations (including breast MRI and tissue biopsies) means patients are seen by both a breast surgeon and medical oncologist, with the aim of initiating chemotherapy within a week.”

Additionally, the gift from sanofi-aventis supported the development of a database to refine and implement a comprehensive database for all these patients. London Health Sciences Centre is sharing this information with other hospitals, including Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto Sunnybrook Regional Cancer Centre and Ottawa Regional Cancer Centre, allowing our hospital to initiate the first province-wide database for patients. The database tools will be used by all of these centres, creating the largest database of locally advanced breast cancer internationally.

Dan Ross, president and chief executive officer, London Health Sciences Foundation says, “The donation from sanofi-aventis is an example of the kind of investment in excellence that will further position London Health Sciences Centre as an international leader in research, attracting key clinician scientists to London in pursuit of innovative discoveries and, ultimately, improve patient care.”

About sanofi-aventis

Sanofi-aventis is the world's third largest pharmaceutical company, ranking number one in Europe. Backed by a world-class R&D organization, sanofi-aventis is developing leading positions in seven major therapeutic areas: cardiovascular, thrombosis, oncology, metabolic disorders, central nervous system, internal medicine, and vaccines. Sanofi-aventis is listed in Paris (EURONEXT : SAN) and in New York (NYSE : SNY). In Canada, sanofi-aventis employs over 1,140 people and has its headquarters in Laval, Quebec.

About London Health Sciences Centre

London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) is one of Canada's largest acute-care teaching hospitals and is dedicated to excellence in patient care, teaching and research. LHSC has pioneered many national and international medical breakthroughs. Located in London, Ontario, LHSC encompasses three sites, South Street Hospital, University Hospital and Victoria Hospital; two family medical centres; and the London Regional Cancer Program. LHSC is the home of the Children's Hospital of Western Ontario and CSTAR (Canadian Surgical Technologies & Advanced Robotics). LHSC is affiliated with The University of Western Ontario. Physicians and staff at LHSC number close to 8,000 and together they provide care for more than 600,000 patients each year.

About London Health Sciences Foundation

For more than a decade, London Health Sciences Foundation has inspired investment in excellence at London Health Sciences Centre. London Health Sciences Foundation is a non-profit, charitable organization established in 1996 through the amalgamation of the University and Victoria Hospital Foundations. The Foundation links donors, health care consumers, the community and health care experts — including physicians, allied professionals, researchers, staff and educators — in pursuit of medical excellence at London Health Sciences Centre.

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For more information, please contact:

Michelle Hancock

Senior Director, Communications, Marketing and Donor Relations Management

London Health Sciences Foundation

Tel 519.685.8073 After Hours 519.859.8580

michelle.hancock@lhsc.on.ca www.lhsf.ca