

CCSIP – Delivering Results

Since its inauguration in 2006, CCSIP has stimulated new cross-border RD&D collaborations that promise to deliver economic and social benefits to the citizens of California and Canada.

Canada and California Join Forces to Gain a Better Understanding of the Role Cancer Stem Cells Play in the Development of the Disease

In January 2006, the Stem Cell and Regenerative Medicine Working Group convened at the first Summit of the Canada-California Strategic Innovation Partnership and committed to pursue a single, powerful objective: to identify and eliminate the root cause of cancer.

Building on the initial ideas proposed by this group, Canadian stakeholders founded the Cancer Stem Cell Consortium (CSCC) in 2007. With national and provincial partners such as Genome Canada, the Canada Foundation for Innovation, Canadian Institutes of Health Research, the Stem Cell Network, and the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research, this non-profit corporation aims to:

- Coordinate an international strategy for cancer stem cell research and translational activities to allow the biomedical community to move quickly and effectively from discoveries to clinical applications
- Establish partnerships among organizations from Canada, California and other jurisdictions to accelerate and synergize research and translation opportunities related to cancer stem cells
- Secure investments from governments, private foundations and the private sector for sustained and stable research funding

One year following the launch of the Canadian-led Consortium, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor of California, and the Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Health, Government of Canada, announced a landmark partnership between the CSCC and the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM), with a pledge of \$100 million from Canada.

These organizations will explore collaborative approaches to evaluate, fund and monitor cancer stem cell research projects leading to the discovery, development and delivery of new cancer therapies or diagnostics. It is the first partnership of its kind in the world.

“California is committed to being a leader in stem cell research, but no one state or nation should do this alone,” said Governor Schwarzenegger. “Entering into collaborations such as this, which bring together leading medical research capabilities, have great potential in improving the lives of not only Californians, but people around the world.”

“This is an historic agreement,” said the Honourable Tony Clement, Minister of Health, Government of Canada. “Canadian researchers have been at the forefront on stem cell research. Now we are working together across borders, bringing together the best minds from both countries with the goal of learning how to prevent and treat cancer for the benefit of all of our citizens.”

CIRM Disease Team Grants are among the first collaborations under consideration. These grants will provide an opportunity for researchers in California and Canada to collaborate, broadening the potential pool of expertise that can be applied toward research in a specific area.

The partnership between Canada’s CSCC and CIRM creates new opportunities to conduct ground-breaking research that could transform the detection, diagnosis and treatment of cancer over the next decade.

Source: http://www.cirm.ca.gov/press/pdf/2008/06-18-08_b.pdf



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Linkage of Canada's and California's High-Speed Internet Research Infrastructure Enables New RD&D Projects in Health Care and Digital Media

The Information and Communications Technology (ICT) working group that assembled at the inaugural Canada-California Strategic Innovation Partnership Summit aimed to exploit ultra-high-speed Internet networks and provide university researchers with a competitive edge by enabling virtual collaboration and online access to some of the best research resources in California and across Canada.

Building on the ideas of this CCSIP working group, CANARIE (Canada) and CENIC (Corporation for Education Network Initiatives in California) undertook the linkage of Canada's and California's ultra-high bandwidth research infrastructure.

It is a collaborative RD&D project that has broad reach, as the national research network managed by CANARIE serves universities, colleges, schools, government labs, research institutes, hospitals and other organizations across Canada, while CENIC, provides services to all the campuses of the University of California, the University of Southern California, Stanford University, Caltech University, and California State University.

Today, this initiative is enabling a variety of new RD&D projects in health care and digital media. For example:

- Canada's newest medical school – the Northern Ontario School of Medicine – is using this high-speed connection to deliver a three-dimensional anatomy course to multiple students in different regions, at the same time. The program allows professors, researchers and students in universities across Northern Ontario (Canada) to view and manipulate the most comprehensive collection of high-definition cadaver dissections in the world – stored at Stanford University in California. This innovative program promises to help address the shortage of qualified doctors in this remote Canadian region.
- Researchers at the Montréal Neurological Institute (Québec, Canada) and the University of California are collaborating on the development of a global brain imaging research network. The network will aim to accelerate the detection and diagnosis of brain disorders; reduce the associated costs of treatment; and help to improve quality of life for those who suffer from neurological diseases.
- Researchers at the University of San Diego and Ryerson University (Toronto, Ontario, Canada) are participating in CineGrid, a consortium of global labs that enables filmmakers, visualization specialists and digital media experts to experiment with the production, use and exchange of high-quality digital media content. This promises to help strengthen Canadian and Californian competence in digital cinema production and post-production.

As described by CANARIE, the result of this RD&D collaboration is a 'Canada-California superhighway' for data that provides individual researchers with the dedicated capacity required support enormous streams of data that would typically overwhelm a conventional shared network such as the Internet.

Source: http://www.canarie.ca/press/releases/06_06_22.html

