

## **Introducing ... the Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute**

**A message from Elizabeth Eisenhauer (former President, NCIC and a member of the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) Board of Directors), Jimm Simon (Chair, CCS Board of Directors), Barbara Whylie (President and Chief Executive Officer, CCS) and Michael Wosnick (Vice President, Research, CCS and Scientific Director of the Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute)**

The integration of the Canadian Cancer Society and the National Cancer Institute of Canada formally took place on February 1, 2009. The new organization is still known as the **Canadian Cancer Society**, while the research activity of the Society is known as the **Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute (CCSRI)**. This name was chosen to indicate the central importance that the Society places on cancer research, and the Society's commitment to carry on the 60-year-old NCIC tradition of excellence. The choice was based on a survey of Society and NCIC board members, other scientists and Society representatives.

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### **New Canadian Cancer Society Board Membership**

The Integration Agreement states that three positions on the Society's national board of directors will be research community representatives. Dr Elizabeth Eisenhauer (professor of oncology at Queen's University in Kingston) currently serves as co-chair of the Society's board. Dr John Bell (senior scientist in cancer therapeutics at the Ottawa Health Research Institute) and Prof. Richard Gallagher (head of the cancer control research program at the BC Cancer Agency) have also been appointed to serve on the board effective October 2008.

The Society's national board is planning to host a dinner for the NCIC board in February to thank them for their leadership and acknowledge their contribution to cancer research in Canada.

The Board of Directors has changed the title of the CEO's position to President and CEO. The volunteer head of the board is known as Chair.

### **Leadership - Vice President Research**

Dr Michael Wosnick is vice president of research for the Canadian Cancer Society, as well as the scientific director of the Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute. As a member of the Society's national office executive team (senior staff) and the transition leadership team (senior staff and senior volunteer leadership) overseeing the integration effort, he has been a major force in developing the structure and activities of the new Canadian Cancer Society. An important priority for Michael will be to work with both the research community and the Society to develop a research

strategic plan as an integral part of a new overarching strategic plan for the whole Society.

Should you have questions, please contact Michael Wosnick at [mwosnick@cancer.ca](mailto:mwosnick@cancer.ca)

## Key updates

Many initiatives are underway to ensure the integration enables the growth of research and research excellence in the years ahead. A summary of some of this work is provided below. Should you require more information, please let us know at [ccsri@cancer.ca](mailto:ccsri@cancer.ca)

### **Scientific Advisory Council**

The Integration Agreement outlined the intent to establish an advisory committee to provide high-level strategic advice on cancer research to the Society's national board. The membership for the council is still being confirmed and will be announced soon.

### **Continuation of Advisory Committee on Cancer Research (ACOR) and review panels**

ACOR and the review panels will continue as in the past. As before, the Society will continue to be directly represented on ACOR. Maureen Summers, executive director of the Society's Nova Scotia Division, will be a member of ACOR this year.

### **Research funding**

The grant review panels are well underway and the peer review process remains the same. A few months ago we announced a slightly revamped lineup of review panels to meet the changing times, and a new panel was also created: Cancer Genetics and Genomics. There are now 15 standing grant review panels.

### **Research Strategic Plan Development**

The Society will build on NCIC's strategic plan for the new organization encompassing research across the cancer continuum and delving into areas of opportunity or need. The process is beginning under Michael's leadership and will begin to roll out over the next few months. Engagement of the research community and the Society in this process will be critical.