**NEWS RELEASE**

Dr. Anthony W. Chow, Professor of Medicine and Director of the MD/PhD Program at the University of British Columbia, has launched a new **CIHR-UBC Strategic Training Program for Translational Research in Infectious Diseases (TRID)**. A 6-year award totally $1.8 million ($300,000 per year, April 2003 – March 2009) has been awarded to Dr. Chow and his associates to launch the Training Program at the University of British Columbia. The Training Program is funded by the Institute of Infection and Immunity of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), as part of a federal strategic training initiative to build capacity within Canada. The Vancouver Hospital VP Research Office has also agreed to supplement the Training Program at $20,000 per year for 5 years.

Translational research in Infectious Diseases defines two processes: 1) the translation of knowledge gained from basic research into new or improved methods for the diagnosis, treatment and prevention of infectious diseases in patients; and 2) the translation of clinical insights into hypotheses that can be validated in the laboratory.

The specific aims of the TRID Program are: 1) to promote and strengthen the national capacity for translational research in infectious diseases through an integrative Training Program, 2) to raise the national standards in the training of health researchers, and 3) to cultivate and facilitate transdisciplinary and translational research in infectious diseases.

The funding received will provide support for five categories of research trainees in Infectious Diseases, including: 1) Medical students and undergraduate co-op students; b) MD/PhD students; c) PhD doctoral students; d) MD, PhD, MD/PhD postdoctoral research fellows; and e) MD Clinician Investigator Program (CIP) trainees. These trainees are drawn from undergraduate Co-op Programs at UBC, Simon Fraser University (SFU), the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC) and University of Victoria (UVic), the UBC MD and MD/PhD Programs, the UBC Clinical Investigators Program, as well as graduate training programs from Adult and Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Medical Microbiology, Pathology & Laboratory Medicine, Experimental Medicine, Microbiology & Immunology, Biochemistry & Molecular Biology, Genetics, and Health Care & Epidemiology.
The Goal of the TRID Program:

The goal is to provide a longitudinal experience for trainees that facilitates "tracking" into future career options. It is anticipated that maximum synergistic interactions will take place among these trainees within the Training Program, and that the more advanced trainees will also serve as mentors for new recruits. This approach is particularly important for the nurturing of future physician-scientists because for the first time ever, there is a funding mechanism for tracking candidates right from the undergraduate level through either MD/PhD or MD paths to the CIP level.

The Research Themes of the TRID Program are:

1) Molecular pathogenesis, innate immunity, cell signaling and immunomodulation
2) Pathogenomics, proteomics, vaccine development, diagnostics (including SARS)
3) Antibiotic resistance and novel therapeutic targets
4) Food and water-borne infections
5) HIV/AIDS, STD, Hepatitis C and blood-borne infections

Partnerships of the TRID Program include:

**Faculty:**
- Adult and Pediatric Infectious Diseases
- Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (Medical Microbiology)
- Microbiology and Immunology
- Health Care and Epidemiology

**Institutions:**
- University of British Columbia
- Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI)
- St. Paul's Hospital
- BC Research Institute for Children's & Women's Health (BCRICWH)
- BC Cancer Agency (BCCA)
- BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC)

**Centres:**
- UBC Centre for Microbial Diseases and Immunity Research (CMDR)
- Canadian Bacterial Diseases Network (CBDN)
- UBC Centre for Disease Control (CDC)
- UBC Biomedical Research Centre (BRC)
- Vancouver Hospital Immunity & Infection Research Centre (IIRC)
- Vancouver Hospital Centre for Clinical Epidemiology & Evaluation
- Vaccine Evaluation Centre

**Biotechnology & Pharmaceutical Industries:**
- Inimex Pharmaceuticals Inc.
- QLT Inc.
- Wyeth-Ayerst Canada Inc.
- Micrologix Biotech Inc.
- Kinetek Pharmaceuticals Inc.
- Kinexus Bioinformatics Corp.
- AnorMED Inc.

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