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ON WORLD CANCER DAY 2015 PANCREATIC CANCER CANADA LEADS RESEARCH CHARGE TO FIND CURE FOR MOST LETHAL FORM OF DISEASE

Toronto, Canada: As the world marks World Cancer Day 2015, a Canadian charity is taking a huge step in the fight against the deadliest form of the disease.

Pancreatic Cancer Canada (PCC) has announced that the organization has awarded five **Innovative Research Grants** to fund research studies to bring the world one step closer to a cure.

Despite its lethal nature with survival rates still in the single digits, pancreatic cancer has been chronically underfunded receiving less than 1% of cancer research funding and less than 1% of charitable donations. Unless there are breakthroughs in treatment and detection, pancreatic cancer will be the second largest cause of cancer death by 2020.

PCC, Canada's only national volunteer-driven foundation dedicated to raising money and awareness for the disease, has granted \$500,000 over 2 years to these Innovative Research Grants whose recipients include:

Dr. Sachdev Sidhu – University of Toronto

Study: Development and characterization of synthetic antibodies against pancreatic cancer targets

Ralph DaCosta – Cancer Care Ontario Research Chair in Cancer Imaging

Study: Synchronous radiotherapy enhancement of pancreatic cancer with xray induces photodynamic therapy and oxygen generating nanoparticles

Dr. Janel Kopp – University of British Columbia

Study: Cellular origins of Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma

Igor Stagljar – University of Toronto

Study: Elucidation of aberrant K-RAS signaling pathways in Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma (PDAC) using MaMTH, a novel proteomics technology

Dr. Daniel Renouf – BC Cancer Agency

Study: The effects of neoadjuvant metformin on tumour cell proliferation and tumour progression in Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma

The selection from several dozen submissions was based on a rigorous ranking system by leading Canadian experts including **Dr. Malcolm Moore**, Head of Medical Oncology and Hematology at Toronto's Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, and **Dr. Steven Gallinger**, world renowned cancer researcher and surgical oncologist and Head of the hepatobiliary/pancreatic surgical oncology program at Toronto's University Health Network.

"Pancreatic cancer is an area that has been desperately short of research funding," says Dr. Moore. "Pancreatic Cancer Canada's initiative to support innovative projects that are directed towards the prevention, detection, biology and treatment of pancreatic cancer could not come at a better time. The genomic revolution opens up many new opportunities to improve the outcome for the Canadians diagnosed with pancreatic cancer each year."

Toronto survivors are available for interviews as well as **Laurie Ellies**, Executive director, Pancreatic Cancer Canada, **Dr. Malcolm Moore**, and grant recipients.

FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO SUPPORT PANCREATIC CANCER

<http://www.pancreaticcancercanada.ca>

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE INNOVATIVE RESEARCH GRANTS

http://www.pancreaticcancercanada.ca/site/PageServer?pagename=research_innovative_research_fund

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