



## News Release – Manitoba

April 22, 2015

### **PROVINCE INVESTS \$5.95 MILLION IN CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH TO IMPROVE MANITOBANS' HEALTH OUTCOMES**

The province of Manitoba is investing \$5.95 million to support health research. Funding through Research Manitoba will help support cutting-edge initiatives that advance the province as a national and international leader in health research.

Today's announcement is recognizing the Collaborative Research Team/Cluster Development Program's first recipients:

- The Manitoba DEVelOpmenTal Origins of chronic diseases In children Network (DEVOTION) - led by Dr. Jonathan McGavock, Department of Pediatrics and Child Health, College of Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Manitoba
- The Manitoba Personalized Lifestyle Research (TMPLR) Program - led by Dr. Peter Jones, Department of Food Science, Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences, University of Manitoba
- An Innovative Cancer Research Model: Integrated Multidisciplinary CCL Research Cluster led by Dr. Spencer Gibson, Departments of Biochemistry and Medical Genetics and Immunology, College of Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Manitoba and Director of CancerCare Manitoba's joint cancer research centre with the University of Manitoba

The research includes work on:

- How lifestyle, genetics and gut micro-biota relate to how Manitobans can develop chronic conditions
- Understanding on how biological factors influence chronic disease in children
- How to improve patient care for people with chronic lymphocytic leukemia

To support these initiatives and others like it, the province of Manitoba is providing \$17 million to Research Manitoba per year. Created in 2014, Research Manitoba is an agency which supports research in the health, natural and social sciences, engineering and the humanities in Manitoba. These three initiatives will receive a total of \$ 5.95 million so top researchers will be able to conduct research that contribute to meaningful future health improvements for Canadians.

“One of the goals of the program is to support innovative and cutting-edge research that encourages collaboration among researchers from several disciplines and also patients, families, healthcare providers, and funders to address pressing healthcare concerns,” said Christina Weise, Chief Executive Officer at Research Manitoba. “We would like to acknowledge the University of Manitoba, CancerCare Manitoba, the Children’s Hospital Research Institute of Manitoba, and the Lawson Foundation for their support.”

Weise said the structure of this program is unique as it encourages investments from other partners like post-secondary institutions, hospitals and their associated foundations, research institutes, health charities in developing and sustaining these clusters.

“The continued support of the Province of Manitoba and Research Manitoba to the research being conducted at the University of Manitoba and our partner institutes is critical to the improvement of the health of Manitobans,” said Dr. Digvir Jayas, Vice-President (Research and International) and Distinguished Professor at the University of Manitoba.

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#### **About Research Manitoba**

Research Manitoba promotes, supports, and coordinates the funding of, research in the health, natural and social sciences, engineering and the humanities in Manitoba. Research Manitoba was established in June 2014 as a new provincial research funding organization that brought together Manitoba’s existing research funding sources (the Manitoba Health Research Council (MHRC), the Manitoba Research and Innovation Fund, the Health Research Initiative, and the Manitoba Centres of Excellence Fund). Research Manitoba advises the Minister of Jobs and the Economy on matters related to research and from moneys received from the Province provides funds for research through a number of grants and awards programs. For more information, visit: [www.researchmanitoba.ca](http://www.researchmanitoba.ca).