NEWS RELEASE
For Immediate Release

Research Manitoba Announces New Initiative in Collaboration with the pharmaceutical and health tech industry for patients living with Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease and Familial Hypercholesterolemia in Manitoba

June 15, 2022 – Winnipeg, Manitoba

Research Manitoba, in collaboration with Novartis Canada and MindSet, is proud to announce an exciting new research project which will focus on the evaluation of LDL cholesterol treatment, cardiovascular events, and healthcare costs among individuals with [atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease](#) (ASCVD) and [Familial Hypercholesterolemia](#) (FH) in Manitoba.

Currently, ASCVD is a leading cause of morbidity and mortality worldwide and FH is estimated at about 1/300 persons worldwide. ASCVD is a hardening and narrowing of the arteries caused by cholesterol plaques lining the artery over time and can put blood flow at risk as arteries become blocked. FH is a hereditary disorder and causes LDL (bad) cholesterol levels to be very high. The condition begins at birth and can cause heart attacks at an early age. *[Canadian Journal of Cardiology, Volume 34 (2018) 1553-1563](#)*

Research Manitoba and Novartis Canada are providing the financial investment over two years and MindSet (Manitoba's INtegrated Data Set) and Novartis are collaborating to operationalize the research project. The project objective is to identify the most effective strategy for lowering LDL-C and costs.

"The health of Manitobans and strengthening healthcare in Manitoba is our government's top priority," said Health Minister Audrey Gordon. "Our government continues to search for and support innovative ways to address significant challenges to the health-care system exemplified by this research collaboration with Novartis Canada, MindSet and Research Manitoba. We look forward to the affect research such as this will have on the health-care system in Manitoba and for all Canadians."

"We are pleased to collaborate with Novartis Canada and MindSet on this innovative research project that will use integrated real-world data to evaluate the impact of a therapeutic treatment to improve patient health outcomes," said Karen Dunlop, CEO of Research Manitoba.

The research project team will conduct a retrospective study using health administrative databases to report the point prevalence of ASCVD in Manitoba and to describe this population in terms of demographic, clinical characteristics, treatment received, and health care resource utilization. Additionally, data from the study will support the creation of a HEOR model to estimate the impact in Manitoba of using inclisiran in the management of hypercholesterolemia in an ASCVD population.

"Public Private Partnerships can be a powerful way to solve large-scale healthcare challenges. With this data-driven project, Novartis is committing to partnering with Manitoba on the pressing healthcare issue of ASCVD in ways that both meet the province's goals, needs, and priorities and accelerates the identification, treatment, and support of patients," said Andrea Marazzi, Country President, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc. *"I commend Research Manitoba and MindSet for their innovative approach to addressing the immense burden this disease has on our healthcare system health and on the health and well-being of Canadians."*

This initiative marks an innovative public-private collaboration that will bridge the gaps in real-world evidence for the treatment of ASCVD and FH. The goal is for the findings to support the lowering of LDL-C and improving patient health outcomes and healthcare costs for Canadians.

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For more information please contact:

Tammy Hildebrand, Manager, Communications
Research Manitoba
P: 204.797.3258
E: tammy.hildebrand@researchmb.ca

About Research Manitoba

Research Manitoba promotes, supports, and coordinates the funding of research excellence and innovation in health, natural and social sciences, engineering, and the humanities in Manitoba. Research Manitoba supports local talent development by providing research support to early career researchers and graduate students, along with fostering strategic partnerships to strengthen research and innovation in Manitoba. Learn more at www.researchmanitoba.ca.

About Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc.

Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc., a leader in the healthcare field, is committed to the discovery, development and marketing of innovative products to improve the well-being of all Canadians. Over the last 5 years, our average annual research and development investment in Canada was $47 million. Located in Dorval, Quebec, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc. employs approximately 1,000 people in Canada and is an affiliate of Novartis AG, which provides innovative healthcare solutions that address the evolving needs of patients and societies. The company prides itself on its commitment to diversity and to nurturing an inclusive and inspiring environment. Novartis is recognized as a Great Place to Work®, ranked among the Top 50 Best Workplaces™ in the country and is proudly named on the 2021 Best Workplaces™ for Women in Canada and Best Workplace™ for Mental Wellness lists. For further information, please consult www.novartis.ca.

About MindSet

MindSet is a large collaborative undertaking, with major contributions from over 40 clinicians, scientists, patients, health system decision-makers, and information technologists, as well as ten partner organizations. MindSet is led by accomplished clinical and research experts from the University of Manitoba, CancerCare Manitoba, Seven Oaks Hospital Chronic Disease Innovation Centre (CDIC), and the George and Fay Yee Centre for Healthcare Innovation (CHI). Learn more at www.mindsetmb.ca.