

The
Way
Forward



李嘉誠基金會
LI KA SHING FOUNDATION



April 23, 2010

Alberta launches new research institute with support from renowned international philanthropic organization

Edmonton... Fighting the devastating effects of viral infections such as Hepatitis and H1N1 on human health and society is the focus of the newly established Li Ka Shing Institute of Virology at the University of Alberta.

Supported by a \$52.5 million investment from the Government of Alberta and Alberta Innovates, as well as a \$25 million grant from the Li Ka Shing Foundation (Canada), the institute aims to develop new drugs, vaccines and diagnostic tests that would enhance human health world wide and reduce the impact of viral infections on the global economy. The institute will also recruit top-level researchers to provide world-class learning opportunities to talented graduate and undergraduate students in virology and related disciplines.

"Our government put innovation and technology commercialization at the forefront of our agenda, and as a result, this incredible institute will bring benefits to Albertans for generations to come," said Premier Ed Stelmach. "Our investment today will draw more of the world's best researchers to Alberta and add to the incredible pool of talent already here." The donation, the largest cash gift in the university's history, will add the U of A to an elite global health science research network facilitated by the Li Ka Shing Foundation.

"This generous gift, along with the funding from the Government of Alberta, represents a truly transformative moment in the U of A's history," said Indira Samarasekera, President and Vice-Chancellor of the university. "Our researchers have been at the forefront of virology research for decades, including Dr. Lorne Tyrell and his work developing a treatment for hepatitis B. The Li Ka Shing Institute of Virology will provide a state-of-the-art home to some of the world's very best researchers in virus-based diseases and will help place the university in its rightful place among top centres of such work."

Li Ka Shing (Canada) Foundation was incorporated in Canada in 2004 in recognition of the warm welcome the country has extended to Mr. Li Ka Shing and to his group of companies over the years. As with other charitable organizations established by Li, the foundation was established to nurture a culture of giving. Li believes that this can be accomplished by focusing on capacity empowerment through education and the building of a caring society through medical and health care projects. Over the past few years, the Li Ka Shing (Canada) Foundation has, among other projects, supported St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, Ontario and the University of Calgary.

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