The explosion of new knowledge in life sciences has the potential to significantly advance human healthcare as clinical practice is revolutionized. Not only does Pfizer Canada recognize that Canadian researchers are achieving impressive results in the quest for new solutions and continue to rank among the best in the world, but we also believe that supporting leading research teams and institutions is essential to reaching the ultimate goal of improving world health.

What is the PROOF Centre for Excellence?

The Centre of Excellence for Prevention of Organ Failure (PROOF Centre), led by Director, Dr. Bruce McManus and hosted by the University of British Columbia, is one of 11 inaugural Centres of Excellence for Commercialization and Research (CECR’s) announced by the Government of Canada in February 2008. PROOF Centre received nearly $15 million in the initial award from the Networks of Centres of Excellence.

The PROOF Centre of Excellence for Commercialization and Research discovers, develops, commercializes and implements biomarkers - biological molecules that indicate disease - to predict, diagnose and manage heart, lung and kidney failure. The PROOF Centre takes an advanced, multi-disciplinary approach, serving as a hub for industry, academia and government, as well as for health care, patients and the public. The operational facilities for patient cohorts, information management and technology platforms are situated in Vancouver and other locales of British Columbia, Alberta and around the world. The PROOF Centre’s focus on biomarkers is driven by a desire to lead in the pursuit of “personalized medicine” — giving each individual the right treatment or preventative, at the right time, in the right amount — in order to reduce the enormous burden of organ failure around the world.

At Pfizer, we believe that innovations don’t always come in the form of a new medication. In our effort to support promising new innovations that will move new knowledge from bench to bedside and community, or that have the potential to transform clinical practice, Pfizer Canada will contribute $1 million to the PROOF Centre over a 5 year period between 2009 and 2013. The funding will go towards new biomarker initiatives and eventually will expand to cover relevant projects led by the Centre and focusing on the translation of biomarkers into clinical practice.

Who are the Co-Creators?

PROOF Centre of Excellence for Commercialization and Research was imagined and developed by leaders from many sectors, working with Dr. McManus and his colleagues who have pursued biomarker solutions for transplantation patients over the past several years. The academic health sciences environment of Vancouver at St. Paul’s Hospital in partnership with the University of British Columbia has been very fertile for the establishment of leading translational research programs and it is not unexpected that PROOF Centre would have emerged here. The mandate of PROOF Centre has catalyzed partnerships like that with Pfizer Canada Inc., as well as with several other pharma and biotech organizations, information management firms, health authorities, and academic institutions.
What are the Objectives of the Centre?
The PROOF Centre of Excellence builds on communities from industry, healthcare and academia in order to draw on existing research and commercialization strength, infrastructure, networks and funding sources to enhance capacity; attract top research and business talent (including post-graduate and post-doctoral students and internationally recognized business leaders) from around the world; provide high quality post-graduate and post-doctoral training in innovative and internationally competitive translational initiatives; strengthen domestic collaboration to address significant health care challenges and ensure benefits spill over to a wide array of firms, sectors and regions of the country; open up new opportunities for Canadian firms and researchers to access world-class research equipment, facilities and networks; and develop relationships with major international centres and research programs, especially in regards to heart, lung and kidney failure.

What New Knowledge will the Co-Creators develop?
The PROOF Centre strives to discover, development, commercialize, and implement biomarkers for prediction, diagnosis, prognosis and therapeutic guidance for patients with organ failure; identify and develop novel, promising technologies to help bridge the commercialization gap; develop a better understanding of disease risks; create new opportunities to allow for growth and development of British Columbia’s and Canada’s biotechnology community; and provide biomarker discovery and development expertise, management of validation trials, and single-point access to cohorts and technology platforms.

For more information:
www.proofcentre.ca
www.nce.gc.ca/cecrs_e.htm