

## **PROVINCE ANNOUNCES \$2 MILLION FOR ICAV**

### *Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation Supports International Consortium on Anti-Virals (ICAV)*

**[PETERBOROUGH]** At an event held today at the Greater Peterborough Innovation Cluster, MPP Jeff Leal announced on the behalf of the Ministry of Research and Innovation (MRI) that the Ministry would be providing \$2 Million in funding for the International Consortium on Anti-Virals (ICAV). ICAV, a Cluster partner, is a not-for-profit drug development organization dedicated to the discovery, development and delivery of anti-viral drugs for neglected and emerging infectious viral diseases around the world.

Dr. Jeremy Carver, CEO of ICAV, accepted the funding that will be used for supporting the preclinical development on potential new anti-viral drugs and seeking regulatory approval for clinical trials.

The announcement was held in the DNA Building at Trent University and included dignitaries and officials from ICAV, Trent University, and the Greater Peterborough Area Economic Development Corporation.

The Cluster is home to the ICAV head office. Cluster staff have been actively working to support the efforts of ICAV since 2004 and would like to express their congratulations to ICAV, and appreciation to local MPP Jeff Leal for his commitment to innovation for the Peterborough region.

"We applaud the Ontario government's decision to support the International Consortium on Anti-Virals and specifically thank our local MPP Jeff Leal for his efforts. ICAV continues to draw international talent and awareness to Trent University and research institutions across Ontario while contributing to public health and safety. The Greater Peterborough Innovation Cluster has been a partner in these efforts and, as an expanding research cluster, is stimulating investment in Peterborough and contributing to improvement of the quality of life for us all," said Andy Mitchell, President, Greater Peterborough Innovation Cluster.

"To ensure Ontario can compete and win in the global economy, our government is investing in world-class research and the skills and knowledge of our people," John Wilkinson, Minister of Research and Innovation, said. "The strong partnerships among our government, top researchers and the global biopharmaceutical industry will help attract the expertise needed to bring exciting new health-care discoveries to market faster in this province, resulting in high-value jobs and a higher quality of life for all Ontarians."

"Today's investment builds on the considerable talent at Trent University and our provinces leadership in growing sectors such as anti-viral research," said Leal. "It's part of our government's strategy to boost Ontario's economy, support better healthcare and create the jobs of the future."

With the funding by the Ministry of Research and Innovation, ICAV has a Provincial match to a previous Federal contribution made in March 2007. The Cluster is proud of the growth and development that ICAV represents in the application of science on human disease, as well as demonstrating innovation within the Peterborough region.

The Greater Peterborough Innovation Cluster is a not-for-profit corporation with a mission to facilitate and advance life sciences, environmental, DNA and other innovative research in the Peterborough region to help promote and sustain a strong local knowledge-based economy.