



## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

**Wednesday October 14, 2009**

### **Mini Med School available live across the province**

***Get the facts from health experts on Pandemic H1N1 Flu (Oct. 28) and Childhood Cancer (Nov. 18)***

**(Vancouver – October 14, 2009)** – How do you improve a community outreach event that's filled to capacity year after year? Answer: make it available on live streaming video and open it up to the province.

For the first time, people from across B.C. and beyond can attend Mini Med School online. Mini Med School presents leading edge research in a way that is accessible and interactive. The public is invited to take part through live streaming video at [www.cfri.ca/minimed](http://www.cfri.ca/minimed) or in person at the Child & Family Research Institute.

School will be in session for two events:

- **Get the Facts: Pandemic H1N1 Flu**  
**October 28, 2009, 7-9 p.m.**

How do I know if I have pandemic H1N1 influenza? How does the virus spread? How will a pandemic affect me? Leading health researchers will separate fact from fiction in this interactive session.

“This is a chance for people to cut through the confusion surrounding pandemic H1N1 and hear directly from experts in the field,” says Dr. Stuart Turvey, moderator for this Mini Med School session. “We’ll tackle this international health issue from a local perspective. We’ll tell you what’s going on in B.C. and how to best protect your family and yourself.” Dr. Stuart Turvey is a scientist with CFRI; a pediatric immunologist at BC Children’s Hospital, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA); and an assistant professor with the Division of Infectious and Immunological Diseases, Department of Pediatrics, UBC.

Speakers include:

- **Dr. Eva Thomas** on how viruses spread and how they make you sick, as well as current strategies for testing for pandemic H1N1. Dr. Thomas is Associate Head of the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine at BC Children’s and BC Women’s Hospital & Health Centre, a PHSA agency. She is also a clinical professor with the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine, UBC.
- **Dr. Simon Dobson** on the history of H1N1, the difference between a pandemic and epidemic, and the early signs of a pandemic. Dr. Dobson is a specialist in pediatric infectious diseases at BC Children’s; a member of the Infection Control Service, PHSA; a researcher at the Vaccine Evaluation Centre, CFRI; and a clinical associate professor with the Department of Pediatrics, UBC.
- **Dr. David Scheifele** on how the pandemic H1N1 vaccine works, how it was developed and trials to determine the vaccine’s safety. Dr. Scheifele is head of the Vaccine Evaluation Centre at CFRI and a professor with the Division of Infectious and Immunological Diseases, UBC.

- **Get the Facts: Childhood Cancer**  
**November 18, 2009, 7-9 p.m.**

What’s the latest in research? How has care improved? What’s next for treatment? This event will delve into innovative childhood cancer research and future directions of care.

“Cancer is the leading cause of death from disease in children over one year of age,” says Dr. Kirk Schultz, the session’s moderator. “We will introduce people to the concept of targeted treatments. This concept of attacking only the disease while sparing the rest of the body has developed strongly in childhood cancer research and is having a huge impact on research in other fields.”

Dr. Schultz is the head of Childhood Cancer research and a clinician scientist at CFRI, a pediatric oncologist at BC Children’s and an associate professor with the Division of Hematology/Oncology/BMT, Department of Pediatrics, UBC.

Speakers include:

- **Dr. Mason Bond** on how treatment for childhood cancer has advanced over time and how these advances have dramatically increased survival rates. Dr. Bond is the acting head of the Division of Hematology/Oncology/BMT, UBC, a clinical investigator with CFRI; and a pediatric oncologist at BC Children’s.
- **Dr. Rod Rassekh** on serious adverse drug reactions associated with today’s cancer treatments and new research aimed at predicting who is vulnerable to these complications. Dr. Rassekh is a clinical investigator with CFRI, a pediatric oncologist at BC Children’s and a clinical assistant professor with the Division of Hematology/Oncology/BMT, UBC.
- **Dr. Sandra Dunn** on new research into the cellular causes of cancer and how this research is identifying potential targets for drug development. Dr. Dunn is a scientist with CFRI and an associate professor with the Division of Hematology/Oncology/BMT, UBC.
- **Dr. Kirk Schultz** on the research and development of new treatments that take aim at the cellular environment that supports cancer cells.

#### **How to Participate:**

- **Online** through live streaming video at [www.cfri.ca/minimed](http://www.cfri.ca/minimed)  
Viewers are invited to participate during the session by submitting questions to [minimed@cfri.ca](mailto:minimed@cfri.ca).
- **In Person** at the Chan Centre for Family Health Education at CFRI  
950 West 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver B.C.  
A limited number of seats are available. To register, email [minimed@cfri.ca](mailto:minimed@cfri.ca).

#### **About CFRI:**

CFRI conducts discovery, clinical and applied research to benefit the health of children and families. It is the largest institute of its kind in Western Canada. CFRI works in close partnership with the University of British Columbia, BC Children’s Hospital and Sunny Hill Health Centre for Children, BC Women’s Hospital & Health Centre, agencies of the Provincial Health Services Authority, and BC Children’s Hospital Foundation. CFRI has additional important relationships with BC’s five regional health authorities and with BC academic institutions Simon Fraser University, the University of Victoria, the University of Northern British Columbia, and the British Columbia Institute of Technology.

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#### **For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact:**

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