

## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Dr. Michael Hayden to receive the Order of British Columbia**

For immediate release: Monday, September 14, 2009

**(Vancouver – September 14, 2009)** – Health researcher Dr. Michael Hayden will receive the Order of British Columbia on September 16, 2009. The Order of British Columbia recognizes provincial leaders who have served with the greatest distinction and excelled in a field of endeavour benefiting the people of B.C. and beyond.

Dr. Hayden is the Director of the Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics (CMMT) at the Child & Family Research Institute (CFRI), Killam University Professor of Medical Genetics at the University of British Columbia (UBC), and Canada Research Chair in Human Genetics and Molecular Medicine.

An internationally-renowned medical geneticist, Dr. Hayden has conducted pioneering genetics research with a specific focus on Huntington's and other neurodegenerative diseases. He provided the first evidence of a cure for Huntington's disease in a mouse model and identified the genes for eight other disorders. Dr. Hayden also discovered the ABCA1 gene, the primary determinant of high density cholesterol levels, and revealed the involvement of this gene in insulin secretion and the development of Type 2 diabetes.

In 2008, Dr. Hayden was named Canada's Health Researcher of the Year by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research. Prior to receiving this prestigious award, he received the 2007 Prix Galien Canada (Research), which represents one of the highest honours in the field of biopharmaceutical sciences.

"I have had the privilege of knowing Michael for the past 20 years and his many outstanding research successes during this time have been an inspiration to me and many others," says Maurice Mourton, Chair of the CFRI Board of Directors. "This long overdue award is so well deserved and I congratulate Michael on behalf of both myself and CFRI."

CMMT is a synergistic group of scientists and researchers who share a strong sense of commitment to solve the many genetic questions surrounding human illness and well-being. Affiliated with UBC and CFRI, CMMT conducts discovery research and translates that research into effective clinical and therapeutic strategies to promote health. For more information, visit [www.cmmt.ubc.ca](http://www.cmmt.ubc.ca).

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 UBC, 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. For more information, visit [www.cfri.ca](http://www.cfri.ca).

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#### **Media Availability**

Dr. Michael Hayden will be available for telephone interviews on:

**Wednesday, September 16, 2009 between 10:00-11:00 a.m. Pacific Time.**

#### **Contact**

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