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Internationally recognized researcher, Dr. Diane Finegood, appointed MSFHR president and CEO

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Dr. Diane Finegood, an internationally recognized expert in obesity and diabetes, has been appointed president and CEO of the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR).

Currently a professor in the Department of Biomedical Physiology and Kinesiology at Simon Fraser University and Executive Director, the CAPTURE project (Canadian Platform to Increase Usage of Real World Evidence), an initiative of the Canadian Partnership against Cancer, Dr. Finegood will join the Foundation on March 1, 2012.

"I am thrilled at this opportunity to lead MSFHR into its second decade," says Dr. Finegood. "It is a privilege to step into the role of president and CEO of an organization that takes its name from BC's Nobel Laureate, Dr. Michael Smith. His creativity and passion will inspire me as I take on the many challenges of my role and seek out new opportunities."

Dr. Finegood was offered the position of president and CEO following an extensive international search. She will further the organization's efforts to help build a world-class community of health researchers in British Columbia and support the translation of their work to improve health and the health care system.

"I want to welcome Dr. Finegood to her health research leadership role at the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research," says Health Minister Michael de Jong. "I also want to thank Dr. Bruce Clayman for his work as interim president and CEO. The Foundation plays a pivotal role in addressing health system challenges by bringing together BC's universities, health authorities, non-profit organizations and government for health research planning and action."

From 2000-2008, Dr. Finegood was inaugural scientific director, Institute of Nutrition, Metabolism and Diabetes, part of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. In that role, she guided the national health research agenda across that Institute's mandate and within its own strategic priority of obesity and healthy body weight. Dr. Finegood's efforts helped stimulate obesity research and knowledge translation through support of innovative research platforms and partnerships.

"Dr. Finegood brings a track record of leadership in health research to the Foundation, along with a passion for translating and applying health research to real life situations," says Ms. Sue Paish, MSFHR

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board chair. “Her combination of academic and leadership experience and her practical orientation to research will ensure that the Michael Smith Foundation continues to be recognized as a world leader in health research and as a catalyst for the development of meaningful progress in health and health related issues, in British Columbia and beyond.”

Dr. Finegood has received numerous awards, including the 2006 Canada’s Top 100 Women Award in recognition of her trailblazing and trendsetting work and the 2008 Frederick G. Banting Award from the Canadian Diabetes Association for her leadership and significant contributions in the Canadian diabetes community.

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About the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research:

The Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR), funded by the government of British Columbia, is the province’s health research support agency. MSFHR’s mandate is to strengthen BC’s health research enterprise — which in turn improves the health of British Columbians, their health system and their economy. MSFHR is dedicated to the memory of Nobel Prize recipient Dr. Michael Smith, a pre-eminent BC scientist with a long-standing commitment to supporting researchers throughout their careers.

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