

## Media Advisory

# Major advances in treating prostate cancer made in BC; win AJT Prize

## *Hear how Dr. Martin Gleave's discoveries significantly benefit patients*

Vancouver, BC | January 14, 2014

Prostate cancer is the leading cancer in BC men and the second leading cause of cancer deaths in men. Global efforts to improve treatment and prevention of prostate cancer have been advanced by Vancouver-based surgeon and scientist Dr. Martin Gleave who has led the way in turning discoveries made in the lab into new drugs and therapies to combat this devastating disease.

The Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR) is honouring Dr. Gleave with the **2013 Aubrey J. Tingle Prize** at a presentation hosted by the Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute on **Tuesday, January 14**. The \$10,000 prize, named after the Foundation's first president & CEO, is presented annually by MSFHR to a BC-based clinician scientist or scholar practitioner whose work in health research is internationally recognized and has significant impact on advancing clinical or health services and policy research.

"Dr. Gleave is a visionary scientist who has taken his passion for basic laboratory research and transformed those discoveries into new, commercially viable treatments for this particularly lethal form of cancer that affects thousands of British Columbians," said Dr. Diane Finegood, MSFHR president & CEO. "He and his team have been pioneers in commercializing their research and paving the way for other organizations to do the same."

At the event, Dr. Gleave will deliver a presentation that outlines how made-in-BC research by the Vancouver Prostate Centre led to global advances in new anti-cancer treatments and approaches. No other research centre in Canada, and only a few world-wide, has had the same success as the Vancouver Prostate Centre in transforming its discoveries into inventions that have been commercialized by biotechnology companies. This work has attracted dozens of millions of dollars in investment to BC and created high-quality, knowledge economy jobs.

"The BC government is proud of its investments in the Vancouver Prostate Centre and of Dr. Gleave's work in establishing successful spin-off companies such as OncoGenex and Aquinox," said the Hon. Andrew Wilkinson, Minister of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services. "He represents the type of scientist and entrepreneur that we need to support in BC as they form the foundation of BC's knowledge economy."

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<p><b>Date:</b> Tuesday, January 14, 2014</p> <p><b>Time:</b> Award presentation: 4 – 4:15 p.m. Lecture: 4:15 – 5 p.m.</p> <p><b>Media availability to follow the lecture</b></p> <p><b>Location:</b> Paetzold Auditorium &amp; Atrium 1st Floor, Jim Pattison Pavilion Vancouver General Hospital 855 West 12th Avenue</p>	<p><b>For more information or to set up an interview with Dr. Gleave, contact:</b></p> <p>Lori Last, Communications Director Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research 604.868.2313 (mobile) or <a href="mailto:llast@msfhr.org">llast@msfhr.org</a></p> <p>Faydra Aldridge, Director Stakeholder Relations &amp; Public Affairs Vancouver Coastal Research Institute 604.875.4111 x66687 or <a href="mailto:faydra.aldridge@vch.ca">faydra.aldridge@vch.ca</a></p>
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*The **Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR)** harnesses the power of health research to improve the health of British Columbians and their health system. It does this by building BC's capacity for world-class research by funding the best scientists; coordinating the sharing of health research resources across the province; and bringing people together for health research planning and action. Learn more at [www.msfhr.org](http://www.msfhr.org).*

***Vancouver Coastal Health Research Institute (VCHRI)** is the research body of Vancouver Coastal Health Authority. VCHRI includes three of BC's largest academic and teaching health sciences centres — Vancouver General Hospital, UBC Hospital, and GF Strong Rehabilitation Centre — as well as many other hospitals and public health agencies across Vancouver Coastal Health. VCHRI is academically affiliated with UBC Faculty of Medicine and is one of Canada's top funded research centres receiving between \$80 – 100 million in research funding annually.*