

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Urology research grant focused on improving patient care

CUA Astellas Research Grant Program now accepting proposals for 2013 competition

Markham, ON, December 12, 2012: Improving patient care is the ultimate goal of a research grant program, designed to support Canadian scientific discovery and innovation in urology.

Researchers are invited to submit a proposal to the CUA Astellas Research Grant Program, a joint initiative of the Canadian Urological Association (CUA) and Astellas Pharma Canada, Inc. (Astellas).

This is the second year of the grant program, which supports peer-reviewed research and promotes excellence in urological research. Astellas has pledged \$750,000 CAD over a period of five years to support Canadian investigators in urology.

For the 2013 competition, the primary focus is to support research in functional urology, including overactive bladder (OAB), lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS), pelvic floor disorders, voiding dysfunctions, and neurogenic bladder. The secondary focus is to support other urology research areas such as urologic cancer and other community-based research.

Three research grants will be awarded (each with a maximum value of \$50,000 CAD) based on scientific validity, integrity, clinical relevance, and feasibility. Grant recipients are expected to demonstrate improved understanding of the specific research area and/or directly contribute to improving patient care.

Dr. Blayne Welk, a 2012 grant recipient based at University of Western Ontario, says the funding has provided him with an exciting opportunity to pursue his research interests among patients with neurogenic bladder dysfunction.

"I am sure the CUA Astellas grant's commitment to support voiding dysfunction research will inspire new researchers with an interest in this area and build on existing high-quality Canadian research," Welk says.

Dr. Ben Chew, also a 2012 grant recipient, strongly encourages other Canadian urology researchers to apply to the grant program. He says his laboratory at the University of British Columbia is most appreciative of this funding, adding that it "really relays the commitment that Astellas has to supporting urologists, research, and ultimately patients and their health."

"With these funds, it will allow us to fund enough experiments to obtain important preliminary data and then apply for national funding agencies such as CIHR or NSERC for further funding," says Chew, whose research is on the physiology of ureteral peristalsis and the effects of stone passage and ureteral stent insertion. "Without money from the CUA Astellas Research Grant, our research would not be able to expand."

Michael Tremblay, President of Astellas Pharma Canada, Inc., says Astellas is proud to support the efforts of researchers in the Canadian urology community because of the direct impact their work will have on patient care and health.

“Quality of life is a huge issue for patients with urologic conditions,” says Tremblay. “Through Astellas’ grant partnership with the CUA, it is our hope that the resulting research will ultimately lead to ground-breaking new therapies that will transform patient lives – that is what it is all about.”

For more information about the CUA Astellas Research Grant, including eligibility criteria and the application process, please visit www.cua.org or www.astellas.ca. The deadline to submit a research proposal is January 13, 2013, at 5 p.m. EST.

About the Canadian Urological Association (CUA)

The CUA Mission is to represent and provide a voice for all Canadian urologists and to foster dedication of all members of the profession toward ensuring the highest possible standard of urologic care for Canadians.

The goals of the CUA are to:

- To foster and promote excellence in urologic practice through education and research.
- To provide leadership in promoting evidence based clinical practice through the development of practice guidelines.
- To foster and promote life-long learning by Canadian urologists through continuous professional development.
- To provide leadership in public education for urologic diseases.
- To represent Canadian urology in developing and fostering partnerships while maintaining the highest educational and ethical standards.
- To represent the Canadian urologic community in relationships with national and international medical societies.

More information about CUA can be found at www.cua.org

About Astellas Pharma Canada, Inc.

Astellas Pharma Canada, Inc., headquartered in Markham, ON, is a Canadian affiliate of Tokyo-based Astellas Pharma Inc. Astellas is a pharmaceutical company dedicated to improving the health of people around the world through the provision of innovative and reliable pharmaceutical products.

The organization is committed to becoming a global category leader in focused areas by combining outstanding R&D and marketing capabilities. In Canada, Astellas has an intense commercial focus on five therapeutic areas – Urology, Immunology, Infectious Disease, Dermatology and Oncology.

For more information about Astellas Pharma Canada, Inc., please visit the corporate website: www.astellas.ca



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