



26th International Congress of Chemotherapy and Infection

INCORPORATING THE AMMI CANADA – CACMID ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2009

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For Immediate Release

H1N1 INFLUENZA A THE MOST SIGNIFICANT SCIENTIFIC AND PUBLIC HEALTH CHALLENGE SINCE THE SARS OUTBREAK

June 15, 2009 (Ottawa) – The 26th International Congress of Chemotherapy and Infection (ICC-09), to be held at the Sheraton Centre Toronto from June 18th - 21st, announces an opening night special addition symposium scheduled on June 18th from 1730 to 1900

“The Emergence of H1N1 Influenza A Virus”

Scheduled Speakers:

-**Frank Plummer**, Scientific Director General of the Public Health Agency of Canada’s National Microbiology Laboratory, Winnipeg, MB

-**Nancy Cox**, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, GA

-**Celia Alpuche**, Mexican Institute of Diagnostic and Epidemiological Reference, Mexico City, Mexico

Progress on diagnostics, vaccine strategies and other key scientific priorities including the genomic sequencing results of H1N1 Influenza A viruses, will be presented.

The opening symposium is co-sponsored by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC), the lead federal agency responsible for protecting Canadians from infectious diseases. PHAC has demonstrated leadership on a number of fronts related to the H1N1 flu virus including priority areas such as public health, international work, public information, monitoring and coordinating, and laboratory testing.

Immediately following the H1N1 Symposium, Dr. Kirsty Duncan, will deliver a special lecture, *“Climate Change – Health Impacts, Responsibilities and Action: Health in a Warmer World”*. Dr. Duncan is a leading expert in the area of environmental change and the impact on human health. While on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, she shared the Nobel Prize with former US Vice-President, Al Gore for evaluating the risks associated with climate change.

“The spectre of climate change is of increasing concern because there is the potential for climate change to impact the nature and distribution of microbial disease, globally,” says Dr. Mark Joffe, ICC-09 Programme Committee Chair. ICC-09 is a major international infectious diseases congress; the AMMI-CACMID annual conference is Canada’s primary infectious diseases meeting. Symposia will also address a broad spectrum of issues related to human infection including the evolution and global epidemiology, pathogenesis, new therapies and controversies in the management of HIV.

This joint international conference is being held in conjunction with:

- The International Society of Chemotherapy (ISC) for Infection and Cancer www.ischemo.org established in 1961 to advance the education and science of chemotherapy
- Association of Medical Microbiology and Infectious Disease (AMMI) Canada www.ammi.ca the national association that represents physicians and researchers specializing in the fields of medical microbiology and infectious diseases
- Canadian Association for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (CACMID) www.cacmid.ca represents medical microbiologists, clinical microbiologists, infectious disease physicians, laboratory scientists, medical technologists, laboratory managers, and research technologists.

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For further information and media inquiries please visit www.ICC-09 or contact:

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