

News Release

Director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute at the National Institutes of Health delivers 2007 Alan Bernstein Distinguished Lectureship

VANCOUVER, NOVEMBER 22, 2007 – Elizabeth G. Nabel, MD, Director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute at the National Institutes of Health, will deliver this year's Alan Bernstein Distinguished Lectureship for 2007 at St. Paul's Hospital, part of Providence Health Care.

Dr. Nabel is a renowned physician-scientist who has made numerous contributions to our understanding of vascular biology while at the University of Michigan, including processes important to the development of atherosclerosis and other cardiovascular diseases.

Two years ago, she became Director of National Heart, Lung & Blood Institute at National Institutes of Health (NIH), in Bethesda, Maryland. In this capacity she is leading the world's largest funding agency with a focus on heart, lung, blood, vascular, critical care and sleep disorders. Since taking the post she has led the life sciences community in the United States through extensive strategic planning and has repositioned the programmatic offerings in order to foster continued excellence in cardiopulmonary research across the US and internationally.

Dr. Nabel's presentation, entitled *Genomic Medicine and Cardiovascular Disease*, will be held on November 26, 2007, from 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the New Lecture Theatre at St. Paul's Hospital.

The Lectureship, which is sponsored by the UBC-affiliated iCAPTURE Centre at St. Paul's Hospital, provides the opportunity for the BC scientific community to learn from recognized international research leaders.

Research at Providence Health Care is conducted under the auspices of the Providence Health Care Research Institute. The PHCRI's vision is to dramatically improve the treatment and overall health of patients and residents at Providence Health Care and beyond through relevant, ethical and inspired health research. Research expertise at the PHCRI includes laboratory, clinical, health services and epidemiological research in the fields of HIV/AIDS, heart disease, renal disease, addiction, geriatrics and more.

Note: Media attending the Bernstein Lecture on November 26 are requested to meet at the St. Paul's Hospital Information Desk by 8:30 am.

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Background Information

The James Hogg iCAPTURE Centre for Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Research

The iCAPTURE Centre; a member of the Providence Heart + Lung Institute at St. Paul's Hospital, has nearly 270 personnel, including 31 nationally funded principal investigators and numerous trainees and staff members working to solve the unknowns of heart, lung, and blood vessel diseases. The Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI), the BC Knowledge Development Fund and their partners have awarded over \$20 million to the iCAPTURE Centre at St. Paul's Hospital for infrastructure that will help propel the team to a new level of discovery. The purpose of the iCAPTURE Centre is to link recent breakthroughs in genetic sciences to abnormal gene expression and to changes in the structure and function (phenotype) of cells, tissues, and organs related to the development of heart, lung, and blood vessel diseases.

Elizabeth G. Nabel, MD

Elizabeth G. Nabel, is Director of the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute at the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Nabel oversees an extensive national research portfolio with an annual budget of approximately \$3.0 billion to prevent, diagnose, and treat heart, lung, and blood diseases. A native of St. Paul, Minnesota, she conducted her cardiology training at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, followed by faculty positions at the University of Michigan Medical School where she directed the Division of Cardiology and the Cardiovascular Research Center. As a cardiovascular physician-scientist, Dr. Nabel has made many contributions to basic and clinical research on the pathogenesis and treatment of cardiovascular diseases, especially the molecular genetics of vascular diseases. She has delineated the mechanisms by which cell cycle and growth factor proteins regulate the proliferation of vascular cells in blood vessels, a process important for the development of atherosclerosis and other cardiovascular diseases. Dr. Nabel is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Society of Clinical Investigation, and the Association of American Physicians. She has received numerous awards for her scientific accomplishments and several honorary degrees. Dr. Nabel has served on the editorial board of many scientific journals, the *New England Journal of Medicine*, *Science*, and the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. A partner on 13 patents, Dr. Nabel is the author of more than 200 scientific publications, and she has mentored more than 45 students and fellows.

Alan Bernstein Distinguished Lectureship

Dr. Alan Bernstein, President of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and an internationally renowned molecular biologist, delivered the inaugural Alan Bernstein Distinguished Lectureship in 2002. The Lectureship, presented by the UBC-affiliated iCAPTURE Centre at St. Paul's Hospital, provides local researchers and trainees with the opportunity to learn from recognized leading researchers. Dr. Alan Bernstein is known internationally both as a researcher and as a scientific leader. His pioneering research in the area of cancer, hematopoiesis, and gene therapy remain landmarks in their field. He has also made key contributions to our understanding of embryonic development and formation of the cardiovascular system, and his work has been important in advancing techniques for gene therapy and the genetic analysis of mammalian development.

Providence Heart and Lung Institute at St. Paul's Hospital

Launched in June 2007, the Providence Heart and Lung Institute at St. Paul's Hospital merges and integrates all of Providence's heart and lung research, education and care programs under one umbrella. Its mandate is to transform cardiovascular and pulmonary research and care—transferring new care solutions from the laboratory to the clinics and communities to improve the lives of British Columbians.