



## Oxford University Regius Professor of Medicine delivers iCAPTURE Centre 2005 Alan Bernstein Distinguished Lectureship

### For immediate release

(VANCOUVER – November 15, 2005) Dr. John Bell, Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford University, will deliver the prestigious Alan Bernstein Distinguished Lectureship for 2005 at St. Paul's Hospital, part of Providence Health Care.

Dr. Bell is the Founder of the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics and has led the significant expansion in biomedical research activities in the Clinical School in Oxford since 1992. His research has contributed to clearer understanding of genetic determinants of susceptibility in Type 1 diabetes and rheumatoid arthritis.

Dr. Bell's presentation, entitled *Understanding complex disease – from molecules to populations* will be held on November 21, 2004, from 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. in the New Lecture Theatre at St. Paul's Hospital.

"We are absolutely delighted that Dr. John Bell will be here with all of us in the UBC community to deliver the 4th annual Alan Bernstein Distinguished Lecture. Dr. Bell's insights into the genetics of human disease and the horizons that we face in prevention, prediction, diagnosis and treatment will generate a robust discussion with the scientists, clinicians and trainees he visits." said Dr. Bruce McManus, Scientific Director of the Canadian Institute of Circulatory and Respiratory Health (ICRH) and Co-Director of the iCAPTURE Centre.

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

"At Providence Health Care, an important aspect of our vision for teaching and research is the creation a culture of mutual inspiration," said Dr. Yvonne Lefebvre, Vice President, Research and Academic Affairs and President, Providence Research Institute. "Events such as the Bernstein Lecture—named for the inspirational first President of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research—brings high-calibre, thought-provoking speakers to the city each year and serves to expand knowledge and stimulate discussion within BC's health-care research community."

Dr. Bell sits on a wide range of advisory panels for public and private sector bodies responsible for biomedical research in Canada, Sweden, Denmark, France, Singapore and the UK.

**Note: Media attending the Bernstein Lecture on November 21 are requested to meet at the St. Paul's Hospital Information Desk by 8:30 am.**

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## 2005 Alan Bernstein Distinguished Lectureship

### **iCAPTURE Centre Background Information:**

The iCAPTURE Centre builds on a 25-year legacy of health research begun by Drs. Jim Hogg and Peter Pare when they moved to Vancouver from McGill University in 1977. The iCAPTURE Centre now has over 250 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.

### **Dr. Bell Background Information:**

Professor John Bell is the Regius Professor of Medicine at Oxford University. Professor Bell went to Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar to train in medicine and undertook postgraduate training in London and at Stanford University. At Stanford he developed research interests in the area of immunology and genetics with a particular focus on characterizing the molecular events associated with susceptibility to autoimmune diseases. He returned to Oxford as a Wellcome Trust Senior Clinical Fellow in 1987 and was elected to the Nuffield Professorship of Clinical Medicine in Oxford in 1992. In 2002, he became the Regius Professor of Medicine.

Professor Bell has been extensively involved in the development of research program in genetics and genomics and in the development of a clinical research program across the UK. He was the Founder of the Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics and has led the significant expansion in biomedical research activities in the Clinical School in Oxford since 1992. His research program has contributed to clearer understanding of genetic determinants of susceptibility in Type 1 diabetes and rheumatoid arthritis and also of the molecular interactions on the surface of the T-lymphocyte associated with immune activation. He has helped to pioneer a large number of high-throughput genomic methodologies applied to biomedical science, including programs in structural genomics, ENU mutagenesis and genetics.

Professor Bell sits on a wide range of advisory panels for public and private sector bodies responsible for biomedical research in Canada, Sweden, Denmark, France, Singapore and the UK. He sat on the Scientific Advisory Board for Astra Zeneca from 1997 to 2000 and has sat on the Scientific Advisory Board of the Roche Palo Alto facility since 1998. He is a non-executive director of Roche AG (since 2001). He is a founding director of three biotechnology start-up companies. Professor Bell has been a member of MRC Council and is currently a Council Member of the Academy of Medical Sciences. He is a Board Member of the UK Clinical Research Collaboration and chairs the Science Committee of UK Biobank and is Chairman of the Oxford Health Alliance, a private public partnership that sponsors Oxford 2020 Vision. He chairs both the Partnership Board of the Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism, and the Management Committee of the Richard Doll Building for Trials and Epidemiology in Oxford. He is a member of Oxford University Council.

## 2005 Alan Bernstein Distinguished Lectureship

### **Alan Bernstein Distinguished Lectureship Background Information:**

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. Bernstein received his PhD in Medical Biophysics at the University of Toronto in 1972. Following postdoctoral work at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund Laboratories in London (UK), he joined the Ontario Cancer Institute and the University of Toronto in 1974. He has been a Professor of Molecular and Medical Genetics since 1984. In 1985, Dr. Bernstein moved to Mount Sinai Hospital as Head of Molecular and Developmental Biology of the Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute. He became Director in 1994, a position he held until June 2000, when he was appointed the inaugural President of CIHR. 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. He is the author of over 200 refereed articles.