



## BULLETIN



### CANADIAN GENETIC DISEASES NETWORK

#### **CANADA'S HUMAN GENOME PROJECT STANDS TO BENEFIT FROM BREAKTHROUGH AGREEMENT BETWEEN RESEARCHERS IN TAIWAN AND CANADA. TAIWANESE DELEGATION TO VISIT VANCOUVER.**

Vancouver: September, 2000: A ground breaking agreement that could play an important role in advancing Canada's contribution to the human genome project has been made between the Canadian Genetic Diseases Network (CGDN) and the Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI) of Taiwan.

The agreement between the two non-profit research institutes commits to promoting cooperation on technology development in genomics research together with commercialization and dissemination of technical information. A signing ceremony was held in Taiwan in the Spring where Dr. Chen Sun, Chairman of ITRI, and Dr. Martha Piper (CGDN Board member) witnessed the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding by Dr. Johnsee Lee (ITRI) and Dr. Woznow (CGDN).

A delegation from ITRI, led by Dr. Johnsee Lee, is making a first official visit to Canada to meet with CGDN scientists and to investigate projects of mutual interest.

A collaborative partnership between the two non-profit research institutes would position CGDN and ITRI to take a major step in investigating the cause of genetic disease: that is, to mine the wealth of new data unearthed by the international effort to map the human genome. With the completion of a working draft of the map of human DNA announced to the world in June 2000, and a finished, high quality sequencing of the genetic blueprint slated for 2003, scientists now have access to the most complete public data ever assembled to assist them with decoding individual genes and their specific functions. The respective expertise of CGDN and ITRI in discovery research, bioinformatics, and leading-edge technologies is a significant base for joint research projects which support the objectives of the human genome project.

ITRI specializes in applied research and technical services. It was founded in 1973 by the Ministry of Economic Affairs of the Republic of China to attend to the technological needs of Taiwan's industrial development and has since grown

to twelve research divisions which are dedicated to forward-looking technological R&D.

CGDN aims to lead Canada in the discovery and translation of products and services in gene based medicine. With teams led by 50 senior scientists in universities and institutes

across Canada, our research programs focus on the molecular and cellular causes of common diseases such as cancer, heart disease, and Alzheimer's disease.

For further information contact:

Carol Smith

Canadian Genetic Diseases Network

Tel. (604) 822-7217 Fax (604) 822-7945 [csmith.cgd@ubc.ca](mailto:csmith.cgd@ubc.ca)