



BULLETIN



CANADIAN GENETIC DISEASES NETWORK

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NETWORK SCIENTIST APPOINTED HEAD OF NEW RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN OTTAWA

Dr. Ronald G. Worton, Associate Scientific Director of the Canadian Genetic Diseases Network, has been appointed Director of the new Ottawa General Hospital Research Institute. Dr. Worton will co-ordinate all research efforts at the Institute and oversee the recruitment of researchers and clinician scientists. He will also continue his own research on neuromuscular diseases and muscular dystrophy. Dr. Worton takes up his new appointment August 1, 1996.

For the last ten years, Dr. Worton has headed the Genetics Department at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto and is a Professor of Molecular and Medical Genetics at the University of Toronto. He is also Chairman of the Canadian Genome Analysis and Technology Program, a federally-funded project contributing to the world-wide effort to sequence the complete human genome.

Speaking from Toronto Dr. Worton said, "The Hospital for Sick Children has been a remarkably stimulating place to be for the last 24 years and my ten years as "Chief" of genetics has been a continuous high point in my research life. Leaving will not be easy."

The Ottawa General Hospital Research Institute will encompass a number of research laboratories in the Hospital, including the existing OGH Eye Institute, a new 20,000 square foot floor devoted to molecular medicine, and the affiliated University of Ottawa Neuroscience Research Institute. The new floor is adjacent

to the new laboratories of the Ottawa Regional Cancer Center.

Dr. Worton added, "The new research facilities at OGH are outstanding, and the substantial endowment and capital equipment fund will ensure us a competitive edge, over the next three years, in building a critical mass of outstanding researchers to rival the best centers in the country."

In his role as Associate Scientific Director of the Canadian Genetic Diseases Network, Dr. Worton has co-managed the Network's successful program in human genetics research with Dr. Michael Hayden at the University of British Columbia and Dr. Charles Scriver at the Montreal Children's Hospital Research Institute.

Dr. Michael Hayden, Scientific Director of the Network, said "I know I speak for all of Dr. Worton's Network colleagues in saying how delighted we are that he will be building and leading one of the foremost research institutes in molecular medicine in Canada. We look forward to future collaborations with Dr. Worton's team and the Ottawa General Hospital."

The Canadian Genetic Diseases Network is a consortium of 38 of Canada's leading geneticists who are linked with 12 universities, 9 hospitals, and 11 core facilities across the country. The Network performs leading-edge research on common genetically transmitted diseases and works with industry partners on methods of detection and treatment of the diseases. Funding for Network programs is provided by the federal Networks of Centres of Excellence Program through the Medical Research Council of Canada.

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