



In November, 2008, the new Translational Research Building was officially opened. Located on the campus of the BC Children’s Hospital and the BC Women’s Hospital and Health Centre, the Translational Research Building reflects the Provincial Health Services Authority’s (PHSA) interest in integrating research and practice. The new building embodies translational research and brings together teams of scientists studying basic science and clinical and population health research. Investigators are examining genes, molecules and cells to discover the mechanisms of disease, as well as analyzing health and disease patterns in different communities in order to identify population risk factors, trends, and needs.

The 3rd floor of the new building houses

the 18,000 square foot Translational Research Hub of the BC Mental Health and Addiction Research Institute (BCMhari). The Translational Research Hub is a critical milestone in the development of the BCMhari and has been built thanks to the vision and collective efforts of many individuals, including in particular:

- Dr. William Honer, Scientific Director, Translational Research Hub, BCMhari
- Dr. Patrick Smith, Vice President of Research, Networks and Academic Development, BCMHAS
- Leslie Arnold, President, BCMHAS
- BC Mental Health Foundation Board and its Board Chair Donna Bryant
- BCMhari Board and its Founding Chair, Michael Frances

The close proximity of the child and adolescent mental health and addiction programs and the mental health and addiction programs on this site help both researchers and clinicians alike. It will encourage greater integration between research and clinical practice and will ensure that research is clinically relevant and spans the critical developmental stages of childhood and adolescence.

The collaborations represented by this building benefit the health of British Columbians as well as people around the world as new knowledge is discovered and applied to improve health care practice globally. PHSA’s agencies and research partners, academic partners, donors, funders and government have all collaborated to make the building a reality.



“Our steadfast commitment to the critical link between research and knowledge exchange ensures that we can fast-track knowledge into action to promote evidence-informed change of practice and system-wide improvements. Having our Provincial Specialized Mental Health and Addiction Networks supported by and linked to our

translational research provides an opportunity to close the “knowing-doing” gap so that we can ensure that British Columbians have access to the best possible services and supports.”

Leslie Arnold, President
BC Mental Health & Addiction Services

“Since the creation of the PHSA, BC Mental Health and Addiction Services has been working to bring together the best of the research from Riverview Hospital, the Forensic Psychiatric Services, and the



Child and Adolescent Mental Health and Addiction Programs. We have a legacy of strong research across these various components of the BCMHAS that we want to leverage and develop. While the BC Mental Health and Addiction Research Institute (BCMhari) will continue to have researchers at our other sites, the new Translational

Research Hub of the BCMhari, located on the Oak Street site, provides the opportunity to bring together a core of our nationally and internationally recognized researchers working across these areas to conduct research that promises to change our understanding and the treatment of mental disorders such as bipolar disorder, psychosis, and complex addictions and concurrent disorders.”

Patrick Smith, PhD
Vice President, Research, Networks & Academic Development
BC Mental Health & Addiction Services



Photography by Ian Durning, Children's & Women's Health Centre of BC

The new BC Mental Health & Addiction Research Institute occupies the third floor in this new facility on the campus of BC Children's Hospital and the BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre. It operates under the auspices of BC Mental Health & Addiction Services, an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority.



William G. Honer, MD, FRCPC Scientific Director,
Translational Research Hub, BCMHARI

The new Translational Research Hub of the BC Mental Health & Addiction Research Institute (BCMARI) occupies the third floor in the new Translational Research Building on the campus of BC Children's Hospital and the BC Women's Hospital and Health Centre. It operates under the auspices of BC Mental Health & Addiction Services (BCMHAS), an agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority (PHSA).

Facility Offers Exciting Opportunities

In addition to offering a cutting edge facility for world class researchers in mental health and addictions, it also offers exciting opportunities for research collaborations, says Dr. Bill Honer, Scientific Director of the new Hub.

"One of the main attractions of coming to this site was to be close to other research groups, like the Centre for Molecular Medicine and Therapeutics (CMMT), whose research in genetics and the effects of medication is very compatible with some of our work," says Dr. Honer. He also sees great potential for connections with many other research programs across the Child & Family Research Institute (CFRI).

"Half of the people with psychosis experience their first psychotic episode in their teenage years," says Honer, "so

being on this site and having access to the expertise of people working in adolescent medicine is another huge benefit."

Although Honer acknowledges that using virtual networks to connect with distant colleagues can support great collaborative work, he believes there are powerful advantages to being just down the hall from people working from different perspectives and disciplines on similar research issues. In fact, the Institute's facilities were designed for open space to help foster synergy and promote the cross-fertilization of ideas from different perspectives. The arrangement also supports a strong linkage between clinical and research trainees.

"The ability to custom design a facility for your research needs is something that scientists rarely, if ever, have the opportunity to do," says Honer. "It's working out wonderfully."

