

Institute for Breast Cancer Research – Background

The Institute for Breast Cancer Research (IBCR) is located at Princess Margaret Hospital, in Toronto and will be led by Dr. Tak W. Mak, world-renowned and award-winning scientist.

Focus of Discovery: We are entering an important era of discovery. Decades of investment in basic science have given scientists new understanding of the mechanisms that fuel cancer growth. It is yielding important new targets for cancer research into developing mechanistically based drugs — ones that pinpoint a specific genetic or cellular process in the cancerous cell — including examples of the newest generation such as Gleevac and Avestin. The focus of IBCR will be to apply these lessons to breast cancer and develop new drugs and surgical and radiation therapies that are more effective, less toxic and can increase a patient's quality and length of life. IBCR aims to be a world-leading program in breast cancer by linking basic, translational and clinical research. This coordinated and comprehensive approach should lead to dramatic breast cancer breakthroughs.

Recruiting the Best and Brightest Research Team: Under the leadership of Dr. Mak, IBCR will recruit a team of scientists and clinician-scientists dedicated to breakthroughs in breast cancer research. Three members of the team, all highly reputable young scientists in the field of cancer research, have already been working with Dr. Mak. These members are (*see Biography page for additional information*): Dr. Pamela Sumiko Ohashi, Dr. Lea Harrington, Dr. Wen-Chen Yeh.

Links to other Researchers and Institutions Around the World: The IBCR is not an institution with limited possibilities. It is an institute with global reach that will raise the bar in cancer research for years to come. IBCR will work alongside the Ontario Cancer Institute, also located at Princess Margaret Hospital. The IBCR has also been strongly supported by Dr. Alan Hudson, President and CEO of Cancer Care Ontario, which will provide strong linkages to regional cancer treatment facilities. The new institute also will build on its national and international associations. Support from across Canada includes the National Cancer Institute of Canada's Clinical Trials Group and a strong collaboration with the British Columbia Cancer Agency. On the international scale, IBCR has partnered with UCLA, to widen the scope of collaborative science.

Significant Funding Commitment and Quest for More Support: To run effectively, IBCR will operate on a budget that will build to \$125 million over five years. At its launch, IBCR has a total of \$60 million committed — \$35 million from the Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation and \$25 million from the hospital's annual fundraising event the Weekend to End Breast Cancer (\$5 million annually for five years). Another \$65 million will be raised from private donors, corporations, granting agencies and other sources (\$20+ million from private donors is already in the final stages of confirmation).

Structured for Success: To ensure the success of the IBCR, a remarkable group of physicians and professionals has been assembled to create a strong operational structure. The Advisory Board is comprised of breast cancer doctors at Princess Margaret Hospital, senior leadership from University Health Network and representatives of Princess Margaret Hospital Foundation and the Weekend to End Breast Cancer. Under the Advisory Board will be the Director and clinical and translational science Program Leaders.