

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**World-Renowned International Huntington Neurologists and Researchers to be Featured at the Huntington Society of Canada’s National Conference**

(KITCHENER, ON) [November 4, 2016] —On November 4 & 5, 2016, the Huntington Society of Canada (HSC) will host their National Conference in Halifax, NS at the Holiday Inn Halifax Harbourview Hotel. This biannual conference brings together world-renowned international researchers, social workers, healthcare professionals and families to share the latest news in Huntington disease research and best care practices.

This year’s conference features cutting edge research topics, coping strategies and management techniques for Huntington disease. HSC is also proud to feature a number of notable professionals recognized internationally for their progressive contributions to Huntington disease research and care.

Speakers include:

**Dr. Ed Wild, PhD, Lecturer in Neurology UCL Institute of Neurology**

Dr. Ed Wild studied medicine at Cambridge University and has worked in neurology since 2005. His PhD research on Huntington disease was undertaken at UCL Institute of Neurology with Prof. Sarah Tabrizi. His post-doctoral research focuses on cerebrospinal fluid and clinical trials in HD. He has authored six book chapters and over 40 peer-reviewed scientific publications. Since 2009, he has been collaborating with Dr. Jeff Carroll to make HD research news accessible to the global HD community through HDBuzz.net. Dr. Wild was a proud recipient of HSC’s 2012 Michael Wright Community Leadership Award.

**Dr. Jeff Carroll, PhD, Assistant Professor at Western Washington University**

Dr. Jeff Carroll trained as a post-doctoral fellow in the lab of Marcy MacDonald at Massachusetts General Hospital/Harvard Medical School after completing his PhD under the supervision of Dr. Michael Hayden at UBC in Vancouver. His research is focused on understanding the links between metabolism and CAG-expansion in the huntingtin gene. As well as conducting research, Dr. Carroll is a member of an HD family and carries the mutation that causes the disease. He also co-founded and serves as co-editor-in-chief of HDBuzz.net with Dr. Ed Wild. Dr. Carroll was a proud recipient of HSC’s 2012 Michael Wright Community Leadership Award.

### **Dr. Ray Truant**

Dr. Truant has been with McMaster University since 2000. He has been the recipient of the CIHR New Investigator Award 2001-2006 and is a Fellow of the Howard Hughes Medical Research Institute, Duke University 1996-1999. Dr. Truant achieved his PH. D in Toronto, at the C.H. Best Institute of Biomedical Research and is supported by CIHR and CHDI Inc. His career to date includes over fifty career manuscripts. Dr. Truant was a recipient of the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for public service in 2012, and is now a full Professor at McMaster University and Chair of the Scientific Advisory Council for the HSC, as well as, External Scientific Advisor for HDBuzz.net.

### **Dr. Tamara Maiuri**

Dr. Tamara Maiuri is a research scientist and postdoctoral fellow in Dr. Ray Truant’s group at McMaster University in Hamilton, Canada. Prior to joining the Huntington disease field, Tamara obtained her PhD from the Medical Biophysics Department at the University of Toronto where she studied the cell biology of cancer-related genes. Her work in the Truant lab focuses on the normal biological functions of the huntingtin protein in hopes of understanding how they may be disrupted upon inheritance of the mutant huntingtin gene that causes HD and how small molecule drug candidates may restore them.

### **Jay Ingram, Science Broadcaster and Writer**

Co-host of Discovery Channel’s science show, Daily Planet, for 16 years, Jay Ingram has earned two ACTRA Awards over the course of his career, including one for Best Host. He has also hosted The Talk Show, a series about language, for which he won a Science in Society Journalism Award. For his efforts to popularize science, Jay was awarded the Sandford Fleming Medal from the Royal Canadian Institute in 1984 and the Royal Society of Canada’s McNeil Medal for the Public Awareness of Science in 1997. In 2000, Jay was awarded a Michael Smith Award for Science Promotion by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada. Jay has also written 13 books, including many bestsellers, and is the 2015 recipient of the Walter C. Alvarez award for medical writing given by the American Medical Writers Association. He is currently a columnist for Canadian Wildlife magazine.

### **Terry Kelly**

Terry Kelly’s passion for life has gained him international recognition as a renowned motivational speaker, an accomplished athlete, an award-winning singer/songwriter, and a consummate entertainer. In the athletic field, Terry has distinguished himself as the third blind person in the world to run the mile in under five minutes. As a musician, this Newfoundland native has released seven full-length recordings, resulting in seven East Coast Music Awards and nominations for four Canadian Country Music Awards and a JUNO. He is most recognized for his inspirational song “A Pittance of Time”. Terry has used his life experiences to touch the hearts of many and to motivate tens of thousands to live their lives to the fullest and, by his example, overcome personal challenges of all types.

The Huntington Society is grateful to the sponsors of the 2016 Huntington Society of Canada's National Conference, which include Kindred Home Care and Clearwater.

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**Huntington disease (HD)** is a debilitating brain disorder that is fatal and incurable. About one in every 7,000 Canadians has HD and approximately one in every 5,500 is at-risk of developing the disease. Many more are touched by HD whether as a caregiver, a family member, or a friend. HD causes cells in specific parts of the brain to die. As the disease progresses, a person with Huntington's become less able to manage movements, recall events, make decisions and control emotions. The disease leads to incapacitation and, eventually, death.

The **Huntington Society of Canada (HSC)** is a respected leader in the worldwide effort to end Huntington disease. HSC is the only Canadian health charity dedicated to providing help and hope for families dealing with Huntington disease across Canada.

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