

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Huntington Society of Canada Opens 2015 Research Competitions

(Kitchener, ON) January 15, 2015 – Bev Heim-Myers, Chief Executive Officer of the Huntington Society of Canada (HSC), is pleased to announce that the 2015 NAVIGATOR and NEW PATHWAYS Research Competitions are now open.

The universal goal for international Huntington disease (HD) research is to find treatments that reverse, slow or prevent the progression of HD. HSC and Canadian HD researchers are a key part of this effort and the Society has a unique role to play. HSC invests in the most promising peer-reviewed basic and clinical research, leading to viable treatments for HD. The Society continues to partner with world-class organizations to leverage the best resources and expertise that will positively influence the direction of HD research in Canada and globally.

NAVIGATOR RESEARCH PROGRAM 2015 COMPETITION - The long-standing NAVIGATOR Research Program supports basic scientific research of direct and immediate relevance to HD in Canada with the aim of providing a platform for the recruitment of outstanding investigators to HD research, to facilitate research collaboration nationally and internationally, and to support research that is relevant to other neurodegenerative disorders. The competition is run once per year and will provide funding up to \$75,000 per year for one or two years. Letters of Intent are due by 3 p.m. EST on February 4, 2015.

NEW PATHWAYS RESEARCH PROGRAM 2015 COMPETITION - Introduced in 2007, this program is targeted to fostering innovative lines of inquiry that will eventually lead to the next generation of targets for the treatment of HD. This global competition will provide funding up to CAD\$150,000. Projects are expected to run for up to one year. The competition is open to all researchers. Letters of Intent must be submitted by 3 p.m. EST on February 4, 2015.

The Society is calling internationally for research proposals which specifically address any of the objectives listed below:

- Explore early mechanisms of disease in Huntington disease through unbiased analysis of genetically defined tissues or cells with a goal of uncovering or sharing the discovery of new pathways or processes affected in HD;
- Elucidate the normal biological functions of the huntingtin protein, with experiments involving either endogenous normal huntingtin or huntingtin protein in a full-length context;

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- Further the understanding of the impact on HD of increasing numbers of alleles or repeats and the CAG DNA expansion process;
- Further the analysis of modifier genes to determine the impact on various aspects of HD.

Details on the above opportunities can be found at www.huntingtonsociety.ca under Research.

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

Huntington disease (HD) is an inherited, 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. Huntington disease is devastating for both the body and the mind. The symptoms, which may include uncontrollable jerking movements and relentless cognitive and emotional impairment, usually present between the ages of 30 and 45, and gradually worsen over the 10-25 year course of the disease. Eventually they lead to total incapacitation and death.

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