



ICAV

International Consortium on Anti-Virals

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Minister of State (Public Health) to speak at Canadian – led International Consortium on Anti-Virals

September 20, 2005, Peterborough Ontario

The Honourable Carolyn Bennett, Minister of State, Public Health, will address the closing dinner of The International Consortium on Anti-Virals' (ICAV) Third International Symposium, September 24th at 8pm. The Symposium and Workshop, entitled 'Combating Global Pandemics', being held at Trent University September 23-25, stresses the urgent need and will for a global solution to emerging pandemic disease.

"Minister Bennett's presence underlines that pandemic viral disease is a high priority for Canada," says Dr. Jeremy Carver, ICAV's Chief Executive and Scientific Officer. "SARS, with 44 deaths, made it perfectly clear to Canadians that pandemic viral threats are very real. ICAV is a made-in-Canada global initiative to combat existing and emerging viral threats. The significance of 15 countries already participating in the ICAV initiative cannot be understated, especially in light of Health Canada's recent announcement to hold an international meeting of Ministers of Health and experts to enhance global collaboration and coordination in advance of a possible pandemic influenza. ICAV provides an opportunity to strengthen Canada's and the global community's pandemic planning strategy."

ICAV, founded in 2004 and affiliated with Trent University, is mobilizing medical experts, scientists and governments around the world with its platform to develop new, '*enhanced-spectrum*' anti-virals to combat existing and emerging serious viral disease. Targeting the virus/host interaction,

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anti-virals are used to treat infected individuals and their contacts, in contrast to vaccines, which are used in advance of infection. Anti-virals increase the ability to protect against constantly mutating viruses and are seen as an essential part of a comprehensive pandemic strategy. ICAV's initial focus is Pandemic Influenza, HIV/AIDS, and Hepatitis. With national and international government support, ICAV would see new drugs on the market within 4 years.

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