

Alberta endMS Regional Research and Training Centre Fact Sheet

Leadership:

- Director and steering committee member: Dr. V. Wee Yong, Hotchkiss Brain Institute, University of Calgary
- Steering Committee
 - Dr. Penny Smyth, University of Alberta
 - Dr. Christopher Power, University of Alberta
 - Dr. Shalina Ousman, University of Calgary
 - Dr. Gerlinde Metz, University of Lethbridge

Institutional Representation of Faculty Collaborators:

- University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta
- University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta
- University of Lethbridge, Lethbridge, Alberta

Number of Faculty Collaborators (as of May 2009): 30

Number of Trainees Working with Faculty Collaborators (as of May 2009): 50

Select Activities to be Launched in 2009:

- New program will provide scientists and clinicians from other fields opportunities to conduct MS-focused research through newly-created trainee positions
- Inaugural 2-day Alberta endMS RRTC research retreat in which trainees will have the opportunity to interact with experienced researchers and present summaries of their MS-focused work to date; to be launched in November / December 2009
- Provide trainees with portable funding: trainees can travel to collaborating labs with money for costs they incur while learning new techniques or working on a project.

Quotes from Dr. V. Wee Yong:

- "With ongoing training and mentorship these scientists will form the backbone of MS research in Canada."
- "By tracking our training program and quantifying our progress we will be able to track our successes and failures thus allowing us to make adjustments which will benefit our trainees."
- "Our training program will increase the capacity to conduct MS research in Canada because we will bring people into an environment which is rewarding, offering them a life-time of opportunities for growth and development."
- "By creating a research environment that exceeds global standards our centre should be very competitive in attracting high calibre trainees from abroad or within to conduct MS research in Canada."

Financial Support:

- \$100,000/year for 3 years beginning in 2009 funded through the MS Society of Canada's endMS capital campaign