

## Western Pacific endMS Regional Research and Training Centre Fact Sheet

### Leadership

- Director: Dr. Peter Rieckmann, UBC MS Clinic, University of British Columbia
- Dr. Katherine Knox, Saskatoon MS clinic director, University of Saskatchewan

### Participating Centres/Affiliated Organizations

- University of British Columbia in Vancouver and Okanogan, British Columbia
- Simon Fraser University in Vancouver and Burnaby, British Columbia
- British Columbia Network of Multiple Sclerosis Clinics in Vancouver, Burnaby, Victoria, and Prince George, British Columbia
- BC Ministry of Health, Victoria, British Columbia
- BC Cancer Agency, Vancouver, British Columbia
- University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
- Saskatoon MS Clinic, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
- International Collaboration on Repair Discoveries, Vancouver, British Columbia

**Total Number of Collaborators (as of May 2009): 35**

**Total Number of Trainees Working with Faculty Collaborators (as of May 2009): 48**

### Select Activity to be Launched in 2009

- **MS Research and Training week – June 1-6/09**
  - **June 5** - MS Research Workshop for undergraduate students
  - **June 6** - Brain Research Day, the role of inflammation in degeneration and regeneration of the central nervous system
  - Additional MS lectures taking place at secondary and post-secondary institutions
- **Special program on imaging and enhancing repair in multiple sclerosis** - taking advantage of the close cooperation between research groups in repair discoveries, magnetic resonance imaging and rehabilitation.
- **Increase capacity to conduct MS research** by engaging in new partnerships to look at: improving clinical scales, identifying disease modifying genes, developing rehabilitative strategies and evaluating the economic impact of MS care.

### Quotes from Dr. Peter Rieckmann/Dr. Katherine Knox

- "Our mission is to end MS by an integrated approach of basic and applied sciences at the level of research, training and health care provision, which will facilitate a better translation of newly acquired knowledge into everyday practice." - Dr. Peter Rieckmann
- "I see a tremendous need to train the next generation of MS researchers and provide them the resources and fertile environment to build an academic career as clinician scientists. I am totally convinced that through the endMS Research and Training Network we can create hubs of activity for the next generation of MS researchers." Dr. Peter Rieckmann
- "The Western Pacific endMS RRTC involves diverse specialties spanning two provinces. Trainees and researchers will have the opportunity to visit different laboratories related to their research topics and thereby allow them to establish early on their own communication network." - Dr. Katherine Knox

- “I believe collaboration between clinicians and researchers is essential to establish clinically relevant questions and answers that will improve the care I deliver daily to patients. I am a new clinician researcher and will value greatly the mentorship provided by the RRTC collaborators. The RRTCs provide the infrastructure and support for research that will lead to improved patient care in our centres and globally. I am delighted to be a part of it.” – Dr. Katherine Knox

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