



For immediate release
May 4, 2010

CAMH connects to ORION and global research grid

TORONTO – The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) is connecting to the global networked innovation community by joining the Ontario Research and Innovation Optical Network (ORION).

CAMH is Canada's largest mental health and addiction teaching hospital, combining clinical care, research, education, policy development and health promotion to help transform the lives of people affected by mental illness and addiction. Its Research Program is among the world's top five in addiction and mental health.

"Our 450 scientists, students, trainees and post-doctoral fellows rely on our ability to deliver the IT infrastructure they need," says Sam Tischler, Director of Research Operations. "All of our research is dedicated to ending stigma and improving the lives of people who cope with mental illness and addiction," he adds.

"Many of our researchers work with brain imaging at our PET (positron emission tomography) centre. Since we have the only PET Centre in the world that is dedicated to mental health and addiction research, our ability to share and analyze these brain images with our colleagues here and world-wide is essential infrastructure. Meanwhile, we will almost double our PET capacity next year, so linking with ORION at this time is a crucial step for us," he says. "This initiative is part of our \$38 million CAMH Research Renaissance Project now underway, so the timing is perfect."

"We are pleased to see the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health join the ORION network," says Phil Baker, ORION President and CEO. "A must for any organization involved in research collaborations, connecting to ORION means researchers can collaborate more effectively and work with partners and colleagues across the country and around the world."

The ORION connection is thanks in part to assistance from the Infrastructure Extension Program (IEP) funding from CANARIE, Canada's advanced research and innovation network. The \$15 million IEP program enables the expansion of advanced network capabilities to Canada's research and education community, and bolsters national and international research collaboration.

CAMH will connect its Toronto sites to ORION's downtown connection facility.

About ORION

The Ontario Research and Innovation Optical Network (ORION) is Ontario's ultra high-speed research and education network. It links 1.7 million Ontario researchers, scientists, students, teachers and staff who depend on ORION for teaching and learning and to enable their research collaborations and discoveries in physics, cancer research, environmental science and technologies, social sciences and the humanities and multiple other disciplines. ORION links uses and institutions to each other, and through CANARIE - Canada's advanced research and innovation network - to high-capacity research and education networks, partners and collaborators across Canada and around the world. Visit www.orion.on.ca.

Media Contact:

Tamara Stoll, Communications Officer

416-507-9860 ext. 224

tamara.stoll@orion.on.ca