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## **MEDius HEALTHcare NEWSletter**

*Your Weekly Comprehensive Canadian Medical Newsletter*

**Welcome to the MedHealthNews! As always, do not hesitate to [contact me](#) with questions, suggestions or feedback.**

### **INTERNATIONAL**

- Ground-breaking new sample collection and preparation technologies which could enable simple and effective tuberculosis (TB) testing in the community, helping to reach the 3 million patients missed by healthcare systems each year, have been developed by life sciences tools and technologies developer QuantuMDx and leading academic institute St George's, University of London. The partnership is marking World TB Day (24 March) by announcing the imminent completion of 'Q-TB', a two and a half year Innovate UK funded £1.7m development project to tackle the biggest challenges in TB testing. [Full article.](#)
- The Knight Cancer Institute at Oregon Health & Science University and Intel Corporation are expanding participation in the Collaborative Cancer Cloud, a distributed precision medicine analytics platform, to include Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Ontario Institute for Cancer Research. The institutions will join the OHSU Knight Cancer Institute in leveraging Intel's technology to securely share and analyze their collectively large amounts of data, while preserving the privacy and security of patient data at each site. [Full article.](#)

### **NATIONAL**

- Amid ongoing controversy over the fees pharmaceutical companies pay doctors, 10 Canadian-based firms have agreed to divulge how much cash they hand over to physicians and health organizations every year. They say the voluntary program should make the financial ties between pharma and medicine more visible – and help “neutralize” charges of conflict of interest. The firms plan to start publishing statistics on their overall payments to health professionals next year, though will stop short of releasing figures for individual physicians, as now required in the United States. [Full article.](#)
- People on the move (March 2016). A monthly roundup of ‘people on the move’ in Canada’s life science and biotech sectors. [Full article.](#)

## **ALBERTA**

- A 30 per-cent increase in suicides in the first six months of 2015 has focused efforts to ensure people in crisis are able to access resources in Edmonton. “Half way through the year it was a really frightening trend,” said Mark Snaterse, director of addiction and mental health with Alberta Health Services in Edmonton. Snaterse says AHS is focused on ensuring Albertans know how to access services when they are in need. In the past six months AHS has increased the resources to mental health teams embedded in emergency rooms at the Royal Alex and University hospitals. [Full article.](#)

## **SASKATCHEWAN**

- Doctors now have a much-improved tool to assess individual kidney function, thanks to the work of an international team led by University of Saskatchewan (U of S) medical imaging specialists Drs. Carl and Michal Wesolowski. “The most popular method is probably not the best method, because the best method is hard to use,” said Carl Wesolowski, explaining their new approach is much simpler and gives “best method” results. The team’s work is described in a paper published in the March 2016 issue of the European Journal of Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging. [Full article.](#)

## **ONTARIO**

- Adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) have more health issues than other adults, but they are less likely to receive preventative care. A new toolkit, developed by Health Care Access Research and Developmental Disabilities Program (H-CARDD), will help family health teams provide better, more proactive care for this vulnerable and underserved population. [Full article.](#)

- The Ontario government's plan to reduce autism treatment wait times by gradually eliminating intensive therapy for children five years and older is being harshly criticized by two Ottawa-area parents of children with autism. "[It's] a horrible blow to our family and so many other children that will be taken off the wait list, that have not even had the opportunity to get services through the program," said Tanya Corey, whose four-year-old son Lucas has been on the intensive therapy wait list for 17 months. In the \$133-billion budget, tabled in February, the Liberals promised \$333 million to "redesign and consolidate" services for children and youth with autism. [Full article.](#)

## QUEBEC

- For each additional month of paid maternity leave offered in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), infant mortality is reduced by 13%, according to a new study by researchers from McGill University and UCLA Fielding School of Public Health. The finding, published in the journal *PLoS Medicine*, marks the first time that research has examined the impact of paid maternity leave on infant mortality in LMICs. Previous work has shown that paid time off is consistently associated with lower mortality of babies under one year old in high-income countries. [Full article.](#)
- Purdue Pharma Canada announces it has become an industrial partner of the NEOMED Institute, a public-private organization focused on drug discovery and the development of therapeutics up to human proof-of-concept. Purdue Pharma Canada is a research-based pharmaceutical company with its headquarters, R&D operations, and manufacturing located in Pickering, ON. The company's R&D focus is in medicines for the treatment of pain and central nervous system disorders. [Full article.](#)

## NOVA SCOTIA

- There will be no super hospital to replace the Victoria General Hospital in Halifax, Premier Stephen McNeil said Thursday. Speaking with reporters following a cabinet meeting, McNeil said the province is considering an approach that would use the province's existing healthcare facilities in conjunction with new structures to meet the health needs of Nova Scotians for decades to come. [Full article.](#)

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES & EVENTS

[MEDEC's 2016 MedTech Conference](#)

[Measuring Return on Investment in Health Care](#)

[Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Conference \(QUIPS\)](#)

[4th International Conference and Exhibition on Pathology](#)

[4th National Summit on Data Analytics for Healthcare](#)

[Advanced Health Leadership Program](#)

[12th Annual Mobile Healthcare](#)

[The 26th annual Baycrest Rotman Research Institute Conference – Healthy Brains](#)

[National Health Leadership Conference](#)

[Annual OACCAC Conference](#)

[Canadian Patient Relations Conference](#)

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Medius International Inc.  
1871, St-Louis Street, Suite 1A  
Montreal, Québec, Canada, H4M 1N5  
Tel 514-695-0162 | Fax 514-695-2515  
[www.mediuseducation.com](http://www.mediuseducation.com)

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Editor: Nick Courmanopoulos  
[www.medhealthnews.ca](http://www.medhealthnews.ca)

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