



CJD Foundation Conference

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Alberta Prion Research Institute

- Created in 2005 in response to the 2003 BSE crisis
- Funding research on animal prion diseases and human prion and prion-like diseases
- \$50 million over 10 years (expired in March 2015)
- Applied for five more years of funding through March 2020

Research Findings

- Tim McAllister: reducing the infectiousness of specified risk material during composting
- Michael James: 3-D structure of prion protein to identify where antibodies and drugs could bind
- Valerie Sim: conditions under which prions can take different shapes in the brain
- Tim McAllister: prions bind to but are not taken up by wheat plants
- David Westaway: cellular prion protein is reduced early in many types of prion infection

Current Research Projects

- Tsetsui Shegeki: simple, sensitive blood test for Alzheimer's disease
- Jack Jhamandas: glycolytic modulation of amyloid-astrocyte interactions
- Satyabrata Kar: enzyme levels that spike prior to the degeneration of neurons
- Holger Wille: distinguishing sporadic from familial forms of human prions
- Valerie Sim: prion disease therapies trial

International Discussion on Specified Risk Materials

- March 26-27, 2015 in Canmore, Alberta
- Brought together 40 international researchers, policymakers and industry members to discuss the food safety, scientific and trade issues associated with SRM
- Extensive discussion about variant CJD