CJD Foundation Conference

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www.prioninstitute.ca
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
• $77.5 million over 16 years (to expire in March 2021)
Alberta Prion Research Institute

• Summative Evaluation
  – New prion units allowed Alberta researchers to compete with the best prion and prion-like diseases researchers in the world
  – The Prion Institute’s strong leadership in building partnerships, knowledge transfer and exchange activities provided significant value to researchers and policy makers.
Research Findings

• Sabine Gilch: peptide aptamers inhibit prion propagation and infection of cells
• Judd Aiken: identification of new candidates for biomarkers in cerebrospinal fluid
• David Wishart and Burim Ametaj: lipopolysaccharide coverts biosynthetic prions into misfolded forms
Current Research Projects

• Amir Sanati-Nezhad: blood-brain barrier on a chip
• Ted Allison: engineering zebrafish to enable in vivo drug screens
• Michael Woodside: examining the unfolding of prion proteins and compounds that modify it
• Stefanie Czub: ability of forms of “non-classical” BSE to infect other cattle
• Hermann Schätzl & Stefanie Czub: infectivity of chronic wasting disease prions in non-human primates
International Discussion on Emerging Issues in Prion Diseases

- April 4-5, Calgary, Alberta
- Brought together over 30 international researchers, policymakers and industry members to discuss emerging issues in prion diseases – BSE, CWD, scrapie, CJD
- Report on issues identified for additional research to be available soon
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• “Under New Management”
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