



# 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
- \$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 converts 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

# Alberta Prion Research Institute

- “Under New Management”



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