

REGION OF OTTAWA-CARLETON
RÉGION D'OTTAWA-CARLETON

REPORT
RAPPORT

Our File/N/Réf.
 Your File/V/Réf.

DATE 23 June 1999

TO/DEST. Committee Co-ordinator
 Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee

FROM/EXP. Executive Director, Economic Affairs

SUBJECT/OBJET **LOEB HEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTE - CAPITAL GRANT**

RECOMMENDATION

That the Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee consider Council approve the granting of \$300,000 to the Loeb Health Research Institute for the development of a Regional Protein Chemistry Centre. Funds are available in Account #010-301005, Health Care Facilities Reserve Fund.

DISCUSSION

Attached is a brief report submitted by the Chief Administrative Officer of the Loeb Health Research Institute and the Executive Director of the Ottawa Life Sciences Council requesting support from Regional Council for the granting of \$300,000 for the development of a Regional Protein Chemistry Centre.

The report was presented to and reviewed by The Ottawa Partnership (TOP) at its meeting of 21 June, 1999. TOP, in its discussions, highlighted the fact that it does not have the mandate nor the ability to decide how Regional funds are expended but recognized its role in providing a framework to facilitate the decision-making process.

Accordingly, TOP offered the following observations with respect to the grant requested:

- life science has an ability to be a significant economic generator in our community
- the Loeb Health Research Institute has a demonstrated ability to manage funds well and bring significant contributions to economic development
- public sector support has been demonstrated to be a key generator in other communities to attract economic development.

TOP also observed that there are likely other organizations which will apply for capital grants in the future and that these future requests will need to be considered on an equitable basis.

At this time, there is funding available from the Health Care Facilities Reserve Fund, #804-85151-000 and should Corporate Services and Economic Development Committee and Council approve the capital grant request of \$300,000, it is recommended that the funding be made available from that account.

Réjean Chartrand

FINANCE DEPARTMENT COMMENT

The unencumbered balance in the Health Care Facilities Reserve Fund at March 31/99 was \$420,268.

*T. Fedec on behalf
of the Finance Commissioner*

Attach. (1)

Loeb Health Research Institute at the Ottawa Hospital

June 21, 1999

Funding Request

The Loeb Health Research Institute (LHRI) requests a \$300,000 capital grant from the Regional Municipality of Ottawa Carleton (RMOC) for the construction and the equipment for a new \$6 million Regional Protein Chemistry Centre.

Background

The Loeb Health Research Institute was established in the early 1980's by the Ottawa Civic Hospital. Hospital officials recognized the need to establish an internationally recognized centre for the pursuit of life saving medical research in order to ensure that the latest treatments would be available for the residents of Ottawa-Carleton.

Since that time, the LHRI has had tremendous success in attracting and retaining some of Canada's best and brightest Health Researchers. Many were recruited back to Canada following their post graduate training at prestigious US Universities (e.g. Harvard, Yale, Duke, Stanford). Today the institute employs over 225 medical and research staff and trains about 100 new high school, college, and university (undergraduate, graduate, and post graduate) students each year.

The RMOC provided the LHRI with a critical grant of \$200,000 toward the development of its last major construction project in 1996. Since that time the LHRI has increased its annual external funding from \$7 million to \$11 million. The LHRI attracts this funding to the region from over 70 agencies and corporations at the provincial, national and international level.

The LHRI is leading the way with a successful transfer of its technology into the market place. For example, the Ottawa Ankle Rule was developed at the LHRI by physician researcher Dr. Ian Stiell. This new decision aid which is now in use around the world has helped reduced the number of unnecessary ankle x-rays by 30%. The savings in Ontario are equal to the total cost spent by the province on cardiac angiograms. In addition, a new DNA vaccine developed at the LHRI has been licensed to a private sector company for an application in the aquaculture field.

Regional Protein Chemistry Centre

The advances in medical research, particularly in the fields of genomics and the new emerging field of proteomics (protein chemistry and regulation), are revolutionizing medicine and the development of new therapeutics and treatments for some of our most devastating and chronic diseases.

The Regional Protein Chemistry Centre is an integral part of a larger regional genomics and proteomics initiative currently under development (facilitated by the Ottawa Life Sciences Council). The Centre when established will provide researchers, clinicians and private sector companies with access to state of the art equipment, facilities and people.

Funding

To date, the LHRI has received funding support from the following sources:

Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI)	\$1,600,000
Ontario Innovation Trust (OIT)	\$1,600,000
The Ottawa Hospital.	\$1,000,000

The CFI and OIT are mandated to only fund research initiatives that are national or international in caliber and have a high likelihood of benefiting the economy. Dr. Chretien the LHRI CEO and Scientific Director since January 1, 1998 will be the leader of the new Regional Protein Chemistry Centre.

The Centre will provide unique and specialized equipment and expertise for protein chemistry research. The LHRI will use funds obtained for the Centre to recruit world-class researchers and increase research into proprotein convertases as they apply to a multitude of disease states such as Alzheimer's disease, atherosclerosis, obesity, diabetes, cancer and viral diseases, including AIDS. It will also develop additional expertise in the design of novel DNA Vaccines.

The LHRI continues to seek additional funds from local, national and international sources to support this project. The capital grant request to the RMOC will be essential to leverage donations from private and/or governmental or non governmental agencies.

The initial operating cost for this new facility will be funded by a 7-year partnership agreement with industrial collaborators and the Ontario Research and Development Challenge Fund, each sector contributing \$4.6 million. By 2001 it is expected that the Centres researchers will attract over \$1 million of new peer reviewed grants per year.

The RMOC support will help ensure that the LHRI will continue to provide the critical infrastructure to maintain this momentum.