



News Release

Contacts: Robert T. Tad Perry, Executive Director
tadp@sdbor.edu

Janelle Toman, Director of Information & Institutional Research
janellet@sdbor.edu

T: 605.773.3455

F: 605.773.5320

www.sdbor.edu

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Collaborative Project Addresses Cancer Research

PIERRE, S.D. – A new research initiative headquartered at South Dakota State University will develop and move discoveries in the prevention, early detection, and improved treatment for cancer from the laboratory to the bedside.

The Translational Cancer Research Center, a collaborative project of South Dakota State University and the Sanford Research/USD Cancer Biology Research Center, was recently designated a 2010 research center by the South Dakota Research and Commercialization Council.

“This research initiative is critical in our efforts to address the health needs of rural and Native populations in South Dakota,” said Gov. Mike Rounds. “Translational cancer research is one of the highest priority areas of the National Institutes of Health and the Department of Defense,” he added.

One of the goals of this initiative is to train high-quality scientists who will further develop South Dakota’s biomedical industry, said Robert T. Tad Perry, executive director of the South Dakota Board of Regents. “This work also is a strong complement to the existing Ph.D. program in pharmaceutical sciences at SDSU,” Perry said.

Richard Benda, secretary of Tourism and State Development, said he expects to see the kind of collaboration that leads to positive results for South Dakota. “The aim is to connect basic scientists with doctors in the clinics to allow innovations in the medical field to move through the FDA approval process, leading to commercialization and increased economic activity in South Dakota,” Benda said.

The center will be under the direction of Dr. Chandradhar Dwivedi (CHAND’-rahd-har DWEE’-vee-de) from SDSU, with Dr. John H. Lee of Sanford Health as project co-director.

Beginning in 2004, the state established seven 2010 research centers aimed at growing the state’s economy by targeting investments in specialized research at South Dakota public universities. State resources supported the centers in their first five years of operation, after which they were to become self-sufficient and sustained only through outside funding. The state funds that had supported the four original centers can now be redirected to this and similar research initiatives, with no additional funds needed to support the new center.