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## CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON WORLD-CLASS NEUROIMAGING FACILITY FOR BRAIN REPAIR CENTRE

**HALIFAX, NS: 20 September 2002** – Education Minister Jane Purves joined Dr. Ivar Mendez, Chair of the Brain Repair Centre (BRC) and representatives from the National Research Council Canada (NRC), Capital Health, Dalhousie University and the QEII Health Sciences Centre Foundation today, to mark the start of construction of a world-class neuroimaging research facility and the future home of the BRC's 4.0 Tesla magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) system.

Construction of the centre will begin Monday, September 23, on land adjacent to the Halifax Infirmary site provided by Capital Health. Construction costs are approximately \$1.8 million. The building is being funded through a \$1.25 million contribution from the Province of Nova Scotia and a \$250,000 contribution from the NRC. In addition, the QEII Foundation will contribute up to a maximum of \$350,000 to the facility. The Halifax-based East Port Properties Ltd. is the developer for the project and is expecting the new facility to be ready for the installation of the MRI by March 2003.

In June 2002, the NRC announced their investment to develop a state-of-the art 4.0 Tesla MRI system and accompanying research facilities. In addition to providing the \$4.2 million MRI system, the NRC is contributing an additional \$3 million to fund several research and technical positions, plus operating costs, ensuring the sustainability of the project.

"Today, we are one step closer to opening the doors of this world-class neuroimaging research centre," said Dr. Mendez. "The BRC represents a dynamic combination of the best researchers and physicians, partnered with sound institutional and commercial groups committed to the advancement of brain repair research. This building is an example of the strength and commitment of this partnership."

"The research performed at the BRC will improve the diagnosis and treatment of neurological disorders affecting millions of Canadians," said Dr. Arthur Carty, NRC President on behalf of Allan Rock, Minister of Industry and Minister responsible for the National Research Council. "NRC is pleased to be part of this collaboration which is not only essential to development of the Halifax Life Sciences cluster, but will also bolster regional economic prosperity and contribute to the quality of life of all Canadians."

The BRC is a multidisciplinary collaboration linking more than 100 world-class researchers and physicians specializing in the field of brain repair. Together they will be leading research in neurological disorders that include Parkinson's, Huntington's, Alzheimer's diseases, multiple

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sclerosis, epilepsy, cancer, spinal cord injury, vision disorders, stroke and serious mental illness. The MRI project will also add to the growing infrastructure of the Life Sciences Research Village, a virtual and actual research community including researchers, entrepreneurs, industry, technology professionals and organizations that support the life sciences sector in the region. NRC works hand in hand with partners from industry, government and universities to help ignite the spark of innovation in communities across the land and to give Canadian companies a competitive edge in today's marketplace.

- 30 -

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