

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## WHEELS ARE IN MOTION TO FORM A GREAT PARTNERSHIP

**HALIFAX, NS: 24 July 2003** - The Brain Repair Centre is partnering with the Vancouver-based Rick Hansen Institute to put the *Wheels in Motion* to advance research on spinal cord injury in Atlantic Canada.

The Wheels in Motion initiative is a fundraising project launched coast-to-coast this year. A portion of the funds raised in June at the Halifax event will support the work of Dr. Sean Christie, a researcher with the BRC. As a result of the partnership, half of the net proceeds raised locally each year will remain in the community to support research conducted at the BRC. The other half will continue to support quality of life initiatives.

The partnership announced today is a result of a meeting which took place last spring when Rick Hansen visited the BRC laboratories. Today's announcement is a result of discussions between the internally recognized advocate and fundraiser, and Dr. Ivar Mendez, chair of the BRC. The partnership also coincides with efforts by the Rick Hansen Institute to build a network of leading researchers and people with spinal cord injury to access and participate in studies.

"Today's announcement is wonderful news, not only for the BRC and Atlantic Canada, but more important, for patients around the world who could benefit from the advancements in the field of spinal cord injury research," remarked Dr. Mendez. "Our work in brain repair for Parkinson's Disease has opened our eyes and opened the door to advances in other fields such as spinal cord repair. We look forward to working with the Rick Hansen Man in Motion Foundation."

"We are very pleased to be partnering with the world-renown researchers at the BRC," said Mr. Hansen. "Our goal is to advance research in the field of spinal cord damage and this dynamic partnership builds on the expertise resident at both the Institute and the BRC."

The mission of the Rick Hansen Man in Motion Foundation is to accelerate improvements to the quality of life of people with spinal cord injury (SCI). Ten million Canadians have some connection to people with SCI. To date, the Foundation has impacted the field of spinal cord injury research by raising over \$148 million.

The Brain Repair Centre (BRC) is a multidisciplinary collaboration linking more than 100 world-class researchers and physicians specializing in groundbreaking treatments and technologies in the field of brain repair. They range from surgeons who replace tissue in the human brain to recover lost capability, to scientists in the field of imaging, stem cell neurobiology, pharmacology, psychiatry, ophthalmology, neurology and cognitive neuroscience. As leader in the growing life sciences sector, the BRC encourages technology transfer, partnership, commercialisation and economic development.

For more information or to request a photo op contact:

Administration  
Brain Repair Centre  
Phone: (902) 473-3355

RHWIM Chair  
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation  
CDHA - Nova Scotia Rehabilitation Centre  
Phone: (902) 473-1409