

Media Release

100th Patient benefits from PET/CT

(Thunder Bay, April 7, 2010) - Today marks the 100th patient scanned on the PET at the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre.

This includes patients referred through the PET Registry, Ontario Clinical Oncology Group feasibility study for Diagnosis of Recurrent Cancer (also called PETREC) and PET Access; the use of PET scans in cases where conventional diagnostic tests have not answered the clinical question.

“The PET allows us to offer patients the opportunity to participate in a clinical trial or a registry that could provide information that could improve care, and that is worth celebrating,” says Tarja Heiskanen, Director of Translational Research.

On May 1st 2008 The Thunder Bay Regional Research Institute and Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre (TBRHSC) unveiled the new PET imaging program. The PET unit, the 64-Slice Philips Gemini TF, is considered the most advanced technology in PET imaging. After licensing requirements and commissioning, which included the construction of a radiopharmaceutical/dispensing lab, the PET program went live in September of 2009.

“PET research allows us to detect cancer more precisely because we’re looking at it on a molecular level. It is reducing the impact of more invasive procedures like surgery and assisting in treatment planning,” says Michael Power, Vice President of Regional Cancer Care.

What is PET/CT?

PET stands for Positron Emission Tomography. The imaging device gives a more detailed view of the activity in the body and therefore treatment and diagnosis can be more precise.

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