



Canada Foundation for Innovation  
Fondation canadienne pour l'innovation

## BACKGROUND

The \$3.8 million CFI investment in the Canada-Kenya project will provide powerful research tools for Canadian and international scientists by building on the strengths of existing research programs in Kenya. It will also strengthen the unique Canadian capacity for infectious disease research residing in institutions across the country.

Through a close collaboration with the University of Nairobi and other international partners such as Oxford University and the University of Washington, the University of Manitoba has, over two decades, developed a world-class multidisciplinary research program on HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases in Kenya. The recent emergence of a partnership between five Canadian universities (listed below) has created significant new opportunities for international research on infectious diseases.

- The University of Manitoba
- The University of British Columbia
- The University of Toronto
- Université de Montréal
- Université Laval

The enhanced infrastructure in Nairobi and the expanded collaboration will contribute to Canada's capacity for innovation by enabling for research ranging from the social sciences to fundamental biomedical research that would otherwise not be possible for Canadian scientists.

The funding will be used for the following activities:

- Expansion of the Centre for Infectious Diseases Research at the University of Nairobi: The construction of additions to the existing Medical Microbiology Annex, which houses the current Canada-Kenya project. This will lead to a 250% increase in research space once completed.
- Furnishing and equipping the centre with laboratory equipment that will develop and enhance the capacity for research.
- Construction of a level 3 biosafety viral hemorrhagic fever laboratory (isolated from the main laboratory where staff change into laboratory clothing prior to entering the laboratories and must shower before leaving). Level 3 laboratories are specially constructed using "box-within-a-box" negative air pressure zone principles. In addition, specific building materials and techniques are used to ensure that all systems and surfaces are sealed to permit safe work on viral hemorrhagic fevers (e.g. Ebola, Marburg, Congo-Crimean, Dengue).