



**Thunder Bay Regional
Health Sciences
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Northern
Cancer Fund



Northern
Cardiac Fund



Health Sciences
Discovery Fund

Media Release
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The Genetics of Aboriginal Populations in Northwestern Ontario:

A presentation of the Health Sciences Discovery Fund GEEE! In GENOME Speakers' Series

What are the implications of discovering the gene causing abnormally high prevalence of type 2 diabetes in the Oji-Cree in Northern Ontario?

Find the answers at the next presentation in the Health Sciences Discovery Fund GEEE! In GENOME Speakers' Series. *The Genetics of Aboriginal Populations in Northwestern Ontario* will be presented at 7:30 pm on Tuesday, October 14 with guest speaker Dr. Robert Hegele.

Dr. Hegele is Director and Scientist at Blackburn Cardiovascular Genetics Laboratory, Professor in the Departments of Medicine & Biochemistry University of Western Ontario and Scientific Director at the London Regional Genomics Centre; Microarray Facility and DNA Sequencing Facility.

As a scientist, his laboratory has focused on research in dyslipidemia, diabetes, atherosclerosis, hypertension and obesity in Canadian sub-populations and aboriginal communities. Alone or collaboratively, his laboratory has discovered the molecular genetic basis of ten human diseases, including Oji-Cree type 2 diabetes (HNF1A gene). He has also studied genetically isolated Canadian populations, including Ontario Oji-Cree, in order to identify the contributions of candidate genes to common complex traits such as diabetes.

Dr. Hegele's laboratory has described more than 100 human mutations in known genes that contribute to dyslipidemia, diabetes and atherosclerosis. The HNF1A G319S mutation is present in 40% of Ontario Oji-Cree with type 2 diabetes mellitus. His presentation will focus on the genetics of type 2 diabetes in the Sioux Lookout Zone (Sandy Lake).

All Health Sciences Discovery Fund GEEE! In GENOME Speakers' Series presentations will be held at Thunder Bay Art Gallery. Admission is free.

The GEEE! In GENOME exhibit is open to the public at Thunder Bay Art Gallery until November 2, 2008. The national touring exhibition explores the ABCs of the exciting world of genomics in a fun, interactive exhibition for all ages!

Through The GEEE! In GENOME Speakers' Series, the Health Sciences Discovery Fund is bringing discovery to life! The Health Sciences Discovery Fund raises funds to support excellence in medical research in Northwestern Ontario, including the activities of the Thunder Bay Regional Research Institute of the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre.

The GEEE! In GENOME is produced by the Canadian Museum of Nature and presented nationally by Genome Canada, presented locally by the Ontario Genomics Institute, the Thunder Bay Regional Research Institute, and the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre in partnership with RBC Royal Bank.

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For further information, or **to arrange an interview** with Health Sciences Discovery Fund GEEE! In GENOME Speakers' Series **guest speaker Dr. Robert Hegele**, please contact:

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