THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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MEMORANDUM

November 28, 2006

To: Senate
c/o Lisa Collins, Manager of Secretariat Services

From: George A. Mackie
Vice President Academic and Provost *pro tem*

George A Mackie

Re: Establishment of the Centre for Hip Health, Faculty of Medicine

Recommendation:

I recommend that Senate approve the establishment of the Centre for Hip Health within the Faculty of Medicine, effective January 1, 2007

Rationale:

The proposal to establish the Centre for Hip Health within the Faculty of Medicine was approved by the Faculty's executive on May 16, and by Faculty on November 6, 2006. The executive summary of the proposal, forwarded by Dr. Gavin Stuart, Dean, Faculty of Medicine, is attached.

Musculoskeletal diseases – diseases of bone and joint – are one of the most significant burdens both to the healthcare system and to society. Between 1987 and 2001, falls ranked third as a cause for mortality in BC, and account for 78% of injury-related deaths in seniors. When the direct and indirect costs of major injuries resulting from falls are combined with those associated with musculoskeletal diseases they account for about 15% of the economic burden of illness in BC.

The goal of the integrated research program of the Centre for Hip Health is to achieve scientific breakthroughs in the areas of prevention of hip fractures; detection of the early onset of hip osteoarthritis; and the development of more effective surgical solutions for the degenerative and fractured hip.

/cp
Attachment: The Centre for Hip Health – Executive Summary

The Centre for Hip Health - Executive Summary

The Centre for Hip Health is a multidisciplinary research centre focused on addressing critical problems in the area of bone and joint health that threaten to compromise Canada's healthcare system. The Centre's first major commitment is to enhance the prevention, detection and treatment of bone and joint problems affecting the hip.

Canada's population base is aging. The proportion of the population over 65 is increasing rapidly; in the province of British Columbia the fastest growing sector of the population is the very elderly, those over 80 years of age. This group is expected to double in the next 20 years (http://www.injuryresearch.bc.ca/fallsPrevIndex.htm).

Musculoskeletal diseases - diseases of bone and joint - are one of the most significant burdens both to our healthcare system and to our society in general.

- Musculoskeletal diseases were ranked as the number one healthcare problem in British Columbia in 1998, when direct and indirect costs were combined.
- Approximately 85% of Canadians over 75 years of age have osteoarthritis, and its overall prevalence in Canada is 2.5 times greater than heart disease and 6 times greater than cancer.
- The cost of musculoskeletal diseases in the US now approaches 3% of GDP which is equivalent to a mild recession (WHO 2003).

Falls ranked third as a cause for mortality in British Columbia between 1987 and 2001 and falls account for 78% of injury-related deaths in seniors.

- 95% of hip fractures are the result of a fall and represent the most common cause of injury among senior citizens.
- Hip fractures, many of which are potentially preventable, result in death in approximately 20% of cases, and disability (change in the ability to walk or care for oneself) in 50% of those who survive.

When the direct and indirect costs of major injuries resulting from falls in the elderly are combined with those associated with musculoskeletal diseases, these two issues alone currently account for up to 15% of the economic burden of illness in British Columbia.

To meet the needs of our aging population today and to prepare for the demographics of tomorrow there is an urgent need to develop more effective solutions to prevent, detect and treat musculoskeletal diseases, to develop effective programs for falls-related injury prevention, to provide better assessment for those elderly at-risk for falls, and to improve treatment for the elderly who do fall. Without better solutions, the number of people requiring direct or indirect healthcare support will escalate and soon outstrip society's ability to provide appropriate care.

The goal of the integrated research program of the Centre for Hip Health is to achieve scientific breakthroughs in three key areas, and to translate these findings to the relevant user communities or stakeholder groups including the public. These three key areas are:

- **Prevention of hip fractures**
- **Detection of the early onset of hip osteoarthritis**
- **Development of more effective surgical solutions for the degenerative and fractured hip**

Due to the uniqueness of the collective talent within the Centre for Hip Health, researchers are able to study the problems of bone and joint disease using innovative and comprehensive approaches. Research programs carried out at the Centre look at bone and joint problems from the earliest onset to the end stage. Seeking to understand the continuum of the problem instead of focusing exclusively on one stage or treatment modality provides unique opportunities for collaboration and innovation across previously disparate research disciplines.

The Centre is built on the wide range of internationally recognized bone and joint expertise that currently exists within the academic and clinical communities in British Columbia. This foundation provides the opportunity for additional recruitment of world-class investigators to achieve our objectives.

The Centre for Hip Health has a strong focus on knowledge exchange; through education and training of students and fellows, through continuing education programs for physicians and other caregivers within the community, and through communication, awareness and provision of evidence-based programs for the greater public. The Centre also provides a platform for development of national and international collaborative networks focused on clinical research of the hip.