



Eminent Toronto scientist brings special expertise to Canada's national addictions agency

OTTAWA, November 1, 2005 — Dr. Franco Vaccarino has joined the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse (CCSA), Canada's national addictions agency, as Senior Advisor on Innovation and Transformation. He will advise CCSA on strategic approaches to new developments in the understanding of substance abuse and addictions. Dr. Vaccarino is Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychology at the University of Toronto, and Professor and past Head of the Neuroscience Program in the Department of Psychiatry at U of T.

CCSA plays a key national leadership role in providing information and advice aimed at reducing harm associated with substance abuse and dependence. Dr. Vaccarino's goal will be to help CCSA expand the scope of its work by facilitating knowledge transfer from certain key areas where innovation has important implications for future substance abuse policies and practices. These areas include concurrent disorders, biomedical and neuroscience, psychopharmacological treatments, redefining addiction, and mental health in the workplace.

"Part of my job will be to help CCSA examine how it is organized to address opportunities linked to emerging technologies and issues, and how it can incorporate new knowledge that is not necessarily at the stage of best practices," said Dr. Vaccarino. "In other words, CCSA will be positioning itself to develop the issue platforms for the best practices and policies of tomorrow. This requires identifying emerging areas of importance that have transformative potential."

"We are pleased to have a scientist of Dr. Vaccarino's stature working with CCSA in an area of such great importance," said CCSA's Chief Executive Officer Michel Perron. "Among the various challenges facing CCSA as we go forward will be our ability to keep up with the rapidly changing landscape in the substance abuse and addictions field, and to build on opportunities afforded by developments both within and outside that field. I look forward to working with Dr. Vaccarino to build those innovative bridges."

Dr. Vaccarino was Executive Vice-President, Programs at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) from 2003-2005. He was also Vice-President, Research at CAMH from 1996-2003.

A more complete biography is available on request.

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About CCSA – <http://www.ccsa.ca>

CCSA is Canada's national addictions agency. It was established by an Act of Parliament in 1988 to provide a national focus for efforts to reduce the health, social and economic harm associated with substance abuse and addictions.

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