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Hospital Issue ■ Monday May 12, 2014.

OTTAWA: The Government of Canada has announced the creation of the Canadian Clinical Trials Coordinating Centre (CCTCC) – a collaborative effort of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR),Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D), and the merged organizations of the Association of Canadian Academic Healthcare Organizations and the Canadian Healthcare Association (ACAHO/CHA). The CCTCC will be housed at the offices of the Health Charities Coalition of Canada, in Ottawa.

FROM THE NEWSWIRE

MISSISSAUGA, ON: Roche announced that Health Canada has approved a subcutaneous (SC) formulation of ACTEMRA (tocilizumab) for the treatment of adults with moderately to severely active rheumatoid arthritis (RA) who have inadequate response to one or more disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) and/or tumour necrosis factor (TNF) antagonists. Like the intravenous (IV) formulation, the SC formulation can be used both as a single-agent therapy, or monotherapy, and in combination with methotrexate or other non-biologic DMARDs. The ACTEMRA pre-filled syringe (PFS) injection formulation will be available in Canada in June.

MISSISSAUGA, ON: Women with HER2-positive metastatic breast cancer in British Columbia will now be able to access a new treatment option through the BC Cancer Agency. The BC Cancer Systemic Therapy Program has approved the addition of KADCYLA® (trastuzumab emtansine) to be added to the BCCA Drug Benefit Listing. KADCYLA has been approved as second line treatment for patients with HER2-positive, unresectable locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer, who have received prior treatment with HERCEPTIN® (trastuzumab) plus chemotherapy in the metastatic setting or have disease recurrence during or within 6 months of completing adjuvant therapy with trastuzumab plus chemotherapy.

NEW YORK, NY and LAVAL, QC: Auven Therapeutics, the global private equity company focused on accelerated development of breakthrough therapeutic drugs and BELLUS Health Inc., a drug development company focused on rare diseases, has announced that Auven has entered into a license agreement with the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, under which Auven obtains rights to develop KIACTA™ (eprodisate) as a treatment for chronic sarcoidosis.

OTTAWA: The Mental Health Commission of Canada (MHCC) has launched #308conversations, a national grassroots suicide prevention campaign that invites each of Canada's 308 Members of Parliament (MPs) to lead a conversation with their constituents about suicide prevention.