

Note for Editors:
**January is Alzheimer
Awareness Month**



Centre
for Addiction and
Mental Health
Centre de
toxicomanie et
de santé mentale

MEDIA ADVISORY

CANADA'S FIRST MULTICULTURAL AND MULTILINGUAL MEMORY CLINIC FOR PEOPLE WITH ALZHEIMER DISEASE AND DEMENTIA

For Immediate Release, January 20, 2003 (Toronto): An estimated 1 in 13 or 364,000 Canadians over the age of 65 have Alzheimer Disease or a related dementia. Many of these individuals have a mother tongue other than English. Providing assessment and treatment for people from diverse ethnoracial and multicultural backgrounds will now be improved as the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) launches Canada's first Multicultural Multilingual Memory Clinic.

The clinic will make use of multilingual staff to apply the most up-to-date assessment tools. Gold standard tests from countries around the world have been obtained. Services will be provided in a range of different languages including English, French, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, Greek, Hindi, Mandarin and Cantonese with plans to expand service to other language groups based on client needs.

"There is a growing aging multicultural population in Toronto and the GTA and their mental health needs have become a major concern to CAMH. Many clients have difficulty accessing services due to the language barrier and remain without a diagnosis or treatment. This is a much-needed clinic in a growing diverse community where no other service of this kind exists," says Dr. Luis Fornazzari, director of the clinic and a renowned expert in the treatment of Alzheimer Disease and dementia.

Presenters at the launch will include:

The Honourable Carl DeFaria, M.P.P. Minister of Citizenship and Minister Responsible for Seniors

Dr. Paul Garfinkel, President and CEO, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

Francoise Hebert, Executive Director, Alzheimer Society of Toronto

Dr. Luis Fornazzari, Clinical Director Neuropsychiatry and Geriatric Psychiatry, CAMH Assistant Professor, Departments of Psychiatry and Division of Neurology Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto

When: Wednesday January 22, 2003, 12 to 1 p.m.

Ribbon cutting ceremony and tour of clinic to follow presentations

Where: Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Workman Theatre Auditorium
1001 Queen Street West

The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH) is a Pan American Health Organization and World Health Organization Collaborating Centre and a teaching hospital fully affiliated with the University of Toronto.

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For further information, please contact Anne Ptasznik, Media Relations Coordinator, 416-595-6015.