

## MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

### **New electronic conference centre brings the best in cardiac care to entire southwest region and beyond**

**August 30, 2006, London, Ontario** – Many heart patients living in the far reaches of southwestern Ontario will no longer have to make a long journey to London Health Sciences Centre for treatment and investigation. Thanks to a \$300,000 contribution from the Quebec-based pharmaceutical company Servier Canada Inc., a new state-of-the-art electronic conference centre opening at London Health Sciences Centre, will better connect heart specialists here with physicians living outside the city.

“Servier Canada Inc. is honoured and proud to partner with London Health Sciences Centre. We’re a research based pharmaceutical company with a strong record of collaborating with health care providers to improve patient care and achieve better health outcomes for Canadians. We are confident this investment will continue this tradition,” said Michael Sumpter, Chief Executive Officer, Servier Canada Inc.

“The conference centre provides us with a modern communications strategy promoting accessibility to doctors outside the hospital,” says Dr. George Klein, Chief, Division of Cardiology, London Health Sciences Centre. From Windsor and Sarnia to Hamilton and Toronto, London Health Sciences Centre’s cardiac program serves a population of more than two million people. It is also a major cardiac referral centre for northern Ontario and eastern Canada.

London Health Sciences Centre’s Dr. Raymond Yee, whose arrhythmia program runs satellite outpatient clinics and continuing medical education programs in Thunder Bay, Sudbury and Windsor says, “many doctors at community hospitals have been strongly advocating for better continuing education opportunities. Now, through the new centre’s cutting-edge digital technology and video conferencing, those doctors will be able to participate in academic and clinical rounds at London Health Sciences Centre.”

“This is important because many smaller centres have patients who eventually come to us,” says Yee. “The new technology will help them to triage patients and identify those who should come to London for treatment and those who can be managed at the local level. We hope to prevent unnecessary trips to London which are time-consuming and costly for the patient.”

Yee adds, “equipment such as special projectors, screens, microphones, cameras and computers may for example, provide a doctor in London with the ability during a video conference to examine the x-ray of someone who is in Sudbury or Windsor.”

Cliff Nordal, President and Chief Executive Officer, London Health Sciences Centre, says, “Servier’s contribution has presented our cardiologists and surgeons with the opportunity to take London’s program to a new level of patient care, research and physician education throughout the southwestern Ontario region and beyond.”

Adds Dan Ross, President and Chief Executive Officer, London Health Sciences Foundation, “The Servier gift is an example of the kind of investment in excellence for which London Health Sciences Centre has become so widely known and respected throughout North America. It is partnership at its best – the corporate community making a contribution which benefits the community at large.”

**About Servier Canada Inc.**

Servier Canada Inc is the Canadian subsidiary of Servier, a leading French research-based organization specializing in ethical pharmaceuticals with a product portfolio focused on cardiovascular disease and diabetes. For many years, Servier has been a committed partner in investment in research and development in Canada. With a current clinical research staff of 20 and significant plans for growth, Servier is continuing a program of rapid expansion and investment into the future in Canada.

**About London Health Sciences Centre**

London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) is one of Canada’s largest acute-care teaching hospitals and is dedicated to excellence in patient care, teaching and research. LHSC has pioneered many national and international medical breakthroughs. Located in London, Ontario, LHSC encompasses three sites, South Street Hospital, University Hospital and Victoria Hospital; two family medical centres; and the London Regional Cancer Program. LHSC is the home of the Children’s Hospital of Western Ontario and CSTAR (Canadian Surgical Technologies & Advanced Robotics). LHSC is affiliated with The University of Western Ontario. Physicians and staff at LHSC number close to 8,000 and together they provide care for more than 600,000 patients each year.

**About London Health Sciences Foundation**

For more than a decade, London Health Sciences Foundation has inspired investment in excellence at London Health Sciences Centre. London Health Sciences Foundation is a non-profit, charitable organization established in 1996 through the amalgamation of the University and Victoria Hospital Foundations. The Foundation links donors, health care consumers, the community and health care experts — including physicians, allied professionals, researchers, staff and educators — in pursuit of medical excellence at London Health Sciences Centre.

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