



ASSOCIATION OF CANADIAN ACADEMIC HEALTHCARE ORGANIZATIONS

**OPENING REMARKS TO THE CANADIAN CLINICAL TRIAL SUMMIT
SEPTEMBER 15, 2011, OTTAWA**

**MR. GLENN BRIMACOMBE
PRESIDENT & CEO, ACAHO**

Good morning everyone.

ACAHO is extremely pleased to join the Canadian Institutes of Health Research and Canada's Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies in welcoming all of you here today.

For those of you not familiar with the Association of Canadian Academic Healthcare Organizations, ACAHO is the national voice of Canada's 42 academic healthcare organizations – that is, the country's research hospitals, academic regional health authorities and their research institutes.

These 42 organizations are spread across the country – you have likely been inside at least one of them and may view them as special places in your local communities – dear to your families, friends and neighbors.

However, these organizations are also national resources and economic engines that attract international admiration and attention. They play a significant role in the health system as well as in the economy.

They are large patient care organizations, accounting for close to a quarter of acute and post-acute care hospital beds and are the clinical

sites where many phase Phase II and Phase III clinical trials are conducted.

They are the living laboratories and practice settings of at least 1,500 clinician scientists and the employers of thousands of research staff and students who may work with them. According to our most recent data, ACAHO members accounted for at least \$300 million annually in clinical trial revenue.

They are also the homes of many vibrant research enterprises, world-first discoveries and subsequent spin-off companies and the patient care settings that are most intimately intertwined with faculties, universities and colleges in the research and education enterprise – all the while focused on the provision of care like any other local healthcare facility.

The vision of ACAHO member organizations is *“To advance patient care and the health & well-being of Canadians through research discovery and innovation”*. ACAHO’s mission is *“To create an environment in which research discovery, innovation and learning benefit patients, populations, health systems and the economy”*.

To this end, we truly welcome this collaboration between all parties involved in clinical trials. This is about creating the environments that will continue to bring the human, social and economic benefits of clinical trials to our organizations, to Canadians and to this country. In many ways, this is about nation-building in the 21st Century where the creation and ownership of new knowledge is crucial to our quality of life and standard of living.

As ACAHO noted in its 2012 Pre-Budget submission to the federal government, we do not believe there should be a choice between the policies that can advance our collective health and wealth.

Both go hand-in-hand and this equation becomes particularly practical when we consider the potential of health innovation and research in mediating their relationships – allowing us to bend the cost curve, prevent disease and disability, enable the full participation of the

workforce, create jobs and enable capital formation, bringing with it new products & services to market.

Clinical trials in particular are one of the most obvious opportunities for the intersection of human, social and economic interests – whether your direct accountability is focused on the public, the economy, health system performance, a private company, a clinical practice, a patient, or product development...we all have an important stake in getting this right.

Today, some of you will hear things that are almost too familiar while others will have an introduction to the issues.

What is as important however as what you hear, is in what you will have to offer. Through your presence you are creating an opportunity to do what none of us can do our own. Most of the solutions are beyond any of our own walls and it is our pleasure to share this space with you today.

We thank you for taking valuable time from your schedules to be here, some of you have dug into your personal research or program budgets and wallets to be here today and we recognize that.

In closing, please take the time to meet your colleagues from all sectors and especially to offer your thoughts – no matter how far-fetched you think they may be. Only in collaboration can we achieve our shared goals, to the health and economic well-being of all.

Thank you