



**September 2011**

## **Global recognition for cancer researcher at The Ottawa Hospital**

In a world-first cancer therapy trial, Dr. John Bell, a senior scientist at the Ottawa Hospital Research Institute (OHRI), has shown that a genetically engineered virus he was involved with developing can target and destroy cancer tissue throughout the human body without harming normal tissue.

The news has made headlines around the world after the being published in the renowned journal Nature.

The intravenously-delivered drug, called JX-594, is related to the virus used to vaccinate against smallpox. An early-stage trial in 23 patients showed that the virus is safe, and was able to target many different kinds of cancer that were resistant to conventional chemotherapy and radiation.

“We are very excited because this is the first time in medical history that a viral therapy has been shown to consistently and selectively replicate in cancer tissue after intravenous infusion in humans,” said Dr. Bell, who is also a Professor of Medicine at uOttawa.

“We’re still in the early stages of testing these viruses in patients, but I believe that someday, viruses and other biological therapies could truly transform our approach for treating cancer,” he said.

Dr. Bell and his team have been investigating cancer-fighting viruses at OHRI for more than 10 years.

### **Here are some of the reports that appeared in the news today:**

- **Ottawa Citizen, Vancouver Sun – Ottawa-made virus shows promise as cancer treatment; New drug, JX594, engineered from smallpox vaccine**  
<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/health/Ottawa+researcher+tumour+attacking+virus+shows+promise+cancer+treatment/5334274/story.html>
- **The Ottawa Sun – Prof touts major cancer fight breakthrough**

<http://www.ottawasun.com/2011/08/31/ottawa-scientist-on-the-cusp-of-cancer-treatment>

- **Canadian Press, Hamilton Spectator, the Chronicle-Herald, Winnipeg Free Press – Viral therapy delivered intravenously goes to cancer tumour sites: study**  
<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/canada/promising-new-way-of-fighting-cancer-128867493.html>
- **Global News – Breakthrough cancer treatment trial attacks, shrinks tumours: researchers**  
<http://www.globalnews.ca/health/health/6442473092/story.html>
- **CTV – Groundbreaking Ottawa-based cancer trials show "promising" results**  
<http://calgary.ctv.ca/servlet/an/local/CTVNews/20110831/cancer-tumour-virus-ottawa-110831/20110831/?hub=CalgaryHome>
- **CBC.CA – Intravenous virus eyed as possible cancer treatment.**  
<http://www.cbc.ca/news/health/story/2011/08/31/cancer-virus-intravenous-study.html>
- **Le Droit – Un virus créé à Ottawa s'attaquera au cancer**  
[http://www.cyberpresse.ca/le-droit/actualites/ottawa-est-ontarien/201108/31/01-4430565-un-virus-cree-a-ottawa-sattaquera-au-cancer.php?utm\\_categorieinterne=traficdrivers&utm\\_contenuinterne=cyberpresse\\_B13b\\_ottawa-et-lest-ontarien\\_86607\\_section\\_POS3](http://www.cyberpresse.ca/le-droit/actualites/ottawa-est-ontarien/201108/31/01-4430565-un-virus-cree-a-ottawa-sattaquera-au-cancer.php?utm_categorieinterne=traficdrivers&utm_contenuinterne=cyberpresse_B13b_ottawa-et-lest-ontarien_86607_section_POS3)
- **Metro Ottawa – World-first viral cancer trials in Ottawa 'promising', says senior scientist**  
<http://www.metronews.ca/ottawa/local/article/957005--world-first-viral-cancer-trials-in-ottawa-promising-says-senior-scientist>
- **Herald Sun – New virus hunts and kills cancer cells, Canadian scientists say**  
<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/breaking-news/new-virus-hunts-and-kills-cancer-cells-canadian-scientists-say/story-e6frf7jx-1226127619119>
- **Cancer Research UK – Engineered virus selectively infects tumours in early trial**  
<http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/news/archive/cancernews/2011-09-01-Engineered-virus-selectively-infects-tumours-in-early-trial>

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**Septembre 2011**

## **Un chercheur en cancer de L'Hôpital d'Ottawa est reconnu dans le monde entier**

Lors d'un essai en thérapie anticancéreuse, qui constituait une première mondiale, le D<sup>r</sup> John Bell, scientifique principal à l'Institut de recherche de l'Hôpital d'Ottawa (IRHO), a démontré qu'un virus génétiquement conçu dont il a participé à la mise au point est capable de cibler et de détruire le tissu cancéreux partout dans le corps humain, et ce, sans endommager le tissu sain.

Après sa publication dans la célèbre revue *Nature*, la nouvelle a fait les manchettes partout dans le monde.

Administré par voie intraveineuse, le médicament, appelé JX-594, est lié au virus utilisé dans le vaccin contre la variole. Un essai à un stade précoce mené chez 23 patients a révélé que le virus est sans danger, et qu'il était capable de cibler de nombreux types de cancers différents qui résistaient aux traitements traditionnels de chimiothérapie et de radiothérapie.

« Nous sommes très enthousiastes, parce que c'est la première fois dans l'histoire de la médecine qu'on constate qu'une thérapie virale se reproduit de façon constante et sélective dans le tissu cancéreux, après une injection intraveineuse chez des humains », a déclaré le D<sup>r</sup> Bell, qui est aussi professeur de médecine à l'Université d'Ottawa.

« Nous en sommes encore aux premiers stades des essais de ces virus chez des patients, mais je crois que, un jour ou l'autre, les virus et d'autres thérapies biologiques pourraient vraiment transformer notre approche relative au traitement du cancer », a-t-il conclu.

Le Dr Bell et son équipe étudient les virus qui combattent le cancer à l'IRHO depuis plus de dix ans.

**Voici quelques-uns des rapports qui ont paru dans les nouvelles aujourd'hui :**

- **Ottawa Citizen, Vancouver Sun – Ottawa-made virus shows promise as cancer treatment; New drug, JX594, engineered from smallpox vaccine**  
<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/health/Ottawa+researcher+tumour+attacking+virus+shows+promise+cancer+treatment/5334274/story.html>
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<http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/news/archive/cancernews/2011-09-01-Engineered-virus-selectively-infects-tumours-in-early-trial>

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