



\$4 million Donation Funds Medical Education Centre at Lions Gate Hospital

NORTH VANCOUVER- September 13 2011 – The North Vancouver based Djavad Mowafaghian Foundation has donated \$4 million to help establish the University of British Columbia Medical Education Centre to be housed in The Greta & Robert Ho Centre for Psychiatry and Education (The HOpe Centre) at Lions Gate Hospital.

"We are grateful for The Djavad Mowafaghian Foundation's generous donation of \$4 million which will help to establish a teaching facility in The HOpe Centre at Lions Gate Hospital," said Clark Quintin, Lions Gate Hospital Foundation board chair. "We are grateful that their commitment to 'better the lives of children through health and education' extends to the training of new doctors at Lions Gate Hospital" said Quintin. "We are proud to name the new Centre in honour of Djavad Mowafaghian."

The Province of British Columbia, UBC's Faculty of Medicine, Vancouver Coastal Health and Lions Gate Hospital Foundation have partnered to accelerate a plan to train more doctors at Lions Gate Hospital. The Foundation has committed to fund the \$5.5 million state-of-the-art medical education centre, to which The Djavad Mowafaghian Foundation has provided the leadership gift.

The Djavad Mowafaghian UBC Medical Education Centre will attract specialists and medical students to the North Shore and make it possible to teach up to 100 medical students per month at Lions Gate Hospital.

"Teaching hospitals tend to attract highly qualified specialists of all kinds – psychiatrists, oncologists, radiologists, internists, etc. – and the bright students who train at our hospital are more likely to stay and work in our community" says Dr. Dean Brown, Director, UBC Medical Education at Lions Gate Hospital.

"UBC is committed to expanding our medical education programs throughout the province so medical students and residents can be exposed to a diverse array of communities and clinical settings," says Dr. Gavin Stuart, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Vice Provost Health at UBC. "Dr. Mowafaghian's gift will enable Lions Gate Hospital to play a key role in that expansion by providing a customized, well-equipped learning environment for our trainees."

The Provincial Government has committed \$38.2M and Lions Gate Hospital Foundation has pledged to raise \$25M toward building and equipping The HOpe Centre. With today's announcement, the Foundation has raised \$22.5M of its goal. The new four-storey Centre will be constructed on the south east corner of the Lions Gate Hospital campus. In addition to the UBC Medical Education Centre, the new building will provide state-of-the-art mental health

and addictions services and a permanent home for BC Ambulance. It will also include parking, and additional shelled-in space for future expansion.

Construction is expected to be complete by late 2013. The new building will incorporate wood as much as possible, following the province's "wood first" policy. It will be built to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold standards.

Lions Gate Hospital Foundation is a registered charity raising funds to support the highest quality health care on the North Shore through the purchase of medical equipment, improvements to patient care areas, research, and staff education. To that end, it has raised more than \$70 million over the past eight years. Recent fundraising projects include \$8.5 million to build the North Shore's first free-standing hospice and \$15.5 million to expand the hospital's Emergency Department.

For media enquiries, please contact:

Judy Savage
President
Lions Gate Hospital Foundation
Tel: 604-984-3837

Kristy Gill
Director of Donor Relations
Lions Gate Hospital Foundation
Tel: 604-904-3561

BACKGROUNDER

Background on Mr. Djavad Mowafaghian

Born in 1927, **Djavad Mowafaghian** was educated in Tehran and went on to establish the largest general contracting company in Iran during the 1970s. With more than 8,000 employees, his company built major housing developments, hospitals, factories and roads in the country.

Mowafaghian settled in Vancouver in 1987. Shortly after he established V1500 Holdings Inc., a commercial real estate firm that developed and managed several properties in the Vancouver area. In 2003, he created the **Djavad Mowafaghian Foundation** with a mandate to better the lives of children through health and education. More than 20 organizations in British Columbia have benefitted from his philanthropy.

In 2009, Mowafaghian received an honorary degree from Simon Fraser University for his philanthropy and humanitarian efforts.

Today, Mowafaghian serves as Chairman of the Djavad Mowafaghian Foundation. His life's joy is spending time with his two-and-a-half-year-old granddaughter and his four-month-old grandson. He looks forward to passing on his mother's teaching of kindness and generosity to the next generation.

Some of Mr. Mowafaghian's charitable contributions include:

- 2011: \$15 million gift for the new Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health, a research and patient care partnership between UBC and Vancouver Coastal Health
- 2010: \$4 million contribution towards biodiversity outreach and early childhood development research at the University of British Columbia
- 2011: \$15 million gift for a new Brain Research and Patient Care Facility at UBC
- 2010: commitment of \$4 million to Simon Fraser University to support the new Contemporary Arts School at the old Woodward's site in Vancouver.
- 2008: donation of \$5.5 million to Simon Fraser University to establish an Endowment Fund to support research in children's health policy and to complete the research lab in the Medical Sciences Building at the University.
- 2005: \$750,000 to The Centre for Child Development in Surrey, B.C.
- 2004: \$6 million to B.C. Children's Hospital to pay for a 50,000 square foot redevelopment of the Hospital's oncology unit and adjacent outpatient clinics.

In 2009, the Mowafaghian Foundation funded a Maternity Clinic at Lions Gate Hospital and a Pediatric Examination in the Hospital's new Emergency Department.