FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

$400,000 TO DEVELOP THE NEW BRUNSWICK COPD HEALTH INFORMATION PLATFORM (NB – CHIP)

Fredericton, New Brunswick – December 8, 2016 - AstraZeneca Canada Inc. and the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation (NBHRF) are announcing a strategic collaboration with the New Brunswick Government and the New Brunswick Institute for Research, Data and Training (NB IRDT) based at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton to accelerate the creation of an integrated health information platform for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).

AstraZeneca and NBHRF have generously contributed $400,000, for the development of a platform that will enable significant advancements in the management of COPD at all levels, including program planning, clinical practice, research, patient support and intervention. This work will be done in collaboration with the NB IRDT and the New Brunswick Government of Health.

“We’re proud to support this ground-breaking information platform, which promises to significantly advance understanding of the impact of COPD in New Brunswick,” said Mr. Ed Dybka, President, AstraZeneca Canada. “Data from CHIP will help shape the province’s approach to enhancing the management of this serious disease, ultimately helping to improve patient outcomes.”

More than 55,000 of New Brunswickers live with COPD, however another 50% are undiagnosed. If the disease prevalence continues to rise at current rates, COPD will be the 3rd leading cause of death in Canada by 2020. Economically, after childbirths, COPD is the number one cause of hospital admission in New Brunswick with direct acute care costs running near 23 million dollars annually. This cost does not include: the costs of primary care, home care, prescriptions, lost work productivity and other indirect costs for patients living with COPD. The NB-CHIP platform is a great addition to our efforts to address COPD morbidity, the course of treatment and the sustainability of care.

“This important research will complement the Government of New Brunswick’s existing efforts to promote awareness of COPD and support patient outcomes through increased screening, earlier detection, and improved management,” said Minister Victor Boudreau.

The New Brunswick COPD Health Information Platform (NB-CHIP)

With the development of an integrated health information platform, researchers and policymakers will have access to conduct quality research that will enhance understanding of the current care experience and help to improve the services provided to individuals living with COPD. The platform aims to establish a best-in-class health information model to monitor healthcare resource utilization, disease management, treatments, and health outcomes by identifying, targeting, monitoring, and evaluating causes and consequences of COPD.
“With support from AstraZeneca, NBHRF and the New Brunswick Government, the NB-CHIP platform will propel New Brunswick to the forefront of population-level research on COPD in Canada, leading to better management of a disease approaching crisis proportions in NB,” stated Dr. Ted McDonald, Director of the New Brunswick Institute for Research, Data and Training (NB-IRDT).

Dr. Bruno Battistini, President, CEO & scientific director of the NBHRF said this partnership will foster new research and understanding of COPD. “This project emerged from our foundational program which aims to engage the private sector in health research and innovation. Via our Research Initiative program, we create partnerships and share the cost associated with investing in novel projects that we feel will improve the quality of care to New Brunswickers – this is especially relevant in this context given that COPD is the second most important chronic disease in the province and a major cause of hospital (re-) admissions in our province,” said Dr. Battistini.

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**About AstraZeneca Canada**

AstraZeneca is a global, innovation-driven biopharmaceutical business with a primary focus on three important areas of healthcare: Cardiovascular and Metabolic disease; Oncology; and Respiratory, Inflammation and Autoimmunity. AstraZeneca operates in more than 100 countries and its innovative medicines are used by millions of patients worldwide. In Canada, we employ more than 675 employees across the country and our headquarters are located in Mississauga, Ontario. For more information, please visit the company’s website at www.astrazeneca.ca.

**About the New Brunswick Health Research Foundation**

The NBHRF is an independent organization governed by a board of directors comprised of key stakeholders from the health research community in New Brunswick. Provincial funding is provided by the Regional Development Corporation – Total Development Fund, the Department of Health - Medical Research Fund (MRF) and the Department of Social Development - Wellness Research Fund (WRF) for NBHRF health research programs (HRP), health strategic initiatives (HRI) with federal tri-councils, national health charities and private sector, and the Strategic Investment in Health Research Innovations (SIHRI). The foundation’s mission is to provide leadership and support building health research capacity, improve the health of New Brunswickers and advance the knowledge economy.

**About the New Brunswick Institute for Research Data and Training**

Founded in 2015, NB IRDT was created through a partnership between the provincial government and the University of New Brunswick. It allows researchers, academics, and officials from across the province to have access to anonymized provincial administrative data to help them identify trends and analyze policies. It is intended that their research will result in more effective government decision-making. This initiative is also supported by awards from
CIHR through the SPOR SUPPORT program via the Maritime SPOR SUPPORT Unit, NBHRF, and other organizations.

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