

# THE DIGITAL EXAMINER



Number 103— April 2008

Address changes, comments,  
or suggestions should be  
directed to: [bobshiell@shaw.ca](mailto:bobshiell@shaw.ca)  
403.253.1911



Our next support group meeting is on **Tuesday**,

**April 8, 2008**

Our meetings start at 7:30 PM and are held in the auditorium at Foot-hills Hospital.

Visit Prostaid on the web:

[www.prostaid.org](http://www.prostaid.org)

## A message from the President.

Since our inception in 1995 management and day to day activities of Prostaid Calgary have been handled by **dedicated volunteers**. Over the years we have matured and branched out into awareness and advocacy issues in addition to our peer support work. We are now at a crossroads, where generous donations have allowed us to move forward on many ambitious projects. Implementation of these projects will require the services of a professional Executive director which leads us to the following **"Help Wanted"** notice. This part-time position will be suited to a individual with a business background and a strong will to help Prostaid reach it goals. A home office is also required as Prostaid does not have a 'bricks and mortar' presence.

**Prostaid Calgary** is a registered Canadian charity founded in 1995 whose mission is to assist men and their families on their journey with prostate cancer. Prostaid also builds awareness for the need for early detection and advocates for increased funding for re-search and drug therapy. Prostaid is a member of the Canadian Prostate Cancer Network (CPCN). Prostaid currently has over 800 members. Prostaid enjoys a good relationship with many Calgary businesses who donate time and resources. Prostaid Calgary is operated by a Board of Directors elected by members, and currently functions on a volunteer basis.

Prostaid conducts monthly membership meetings, maintains the [www.prostaid.org](http://www.prostaid.org) website, publishes the Digital Examiner monthly newsletter, conducts educational workshops and engages in a wide range of outreach activities.

*Prostaid Calgary is seeking a part-time Executive Director who will be entrepreneurial and passionate in assisting in the growth and development of the Society and carrying out its mission.*

### General Description

*The Executive Director is responsible for the day-to-day general management of Prostaid Calgary activities, issues and projects. The Executive Director will work closely with, and under the supervision of, the Board of Directors of the organization to design, develop and implement projects and activities that support and further the mission and objectives of Prostaid.*

*Responsibilities include directing the organization's fundraising activities, developing contacts and alliances with a variety of organizations and individuals, developing and working with volunteers and the general membership, and participating in planning activities with the Board. The Executive Director is supervised directly by the President of the organization. The Executive Director will supervise and coordinate staff, volunteers and interns as needed.*

### Duties and Responsibilities

#### 1. Issues and Project Management

*The Executive Director is responsible for the management of Prostaid's policy and project agenda. This includes attending a variety of meetings, developing press releases and position papers, monitoring activities of local governmental entities, developing and implementing Prostaid projects, and other duties. Some examples of representation include attending meetings of the Prostaid Board of Directors, and the CPCN Annual Conference.*

W. Brett Wilson,  
Calgary business-  
man, philanthropist  
and prostate cancer  
survivor will share  
his journey and pas-  
sion for supporting  
groups like Prostaid  
Calgary.



Come and hear  
about our exciting  
plans for 2008!

## Prostaid Calgary meets on the second Tuesday of every month at 7:30 PM

*The Executive Director will work closely with the Board and the members on these activities.*

*The Executive Director will also be responsible for operating Prostaid electronic systems, whether by him or herself or through interns, staff or volunteers. Examples of these systems include, but are not restricted to membership entry and renewal, volunteer database updating, and generic financial and management databases,*

### **2. Public Affairs/Communications**

*The Executive Director will promote communication with a variety of groups and individuals, provide accurate and timely information about Prostaid's work and positions to members, the press and the general public, and maintain the highest level of professionalism in Prostaid's relationships with all people and organizations. The Executive Director will work with the Editor of the Newsletter (Digital Examiner) to furnish material for issues, as well as contribute content to the Prostaid website, as well as other relevant publications.*

### **3. Fundraising**

*The Executive Director will assist the Board of Directors to raise funds for Prostaid programs and operations through preparation of proposals to foundations, individuals, governments and corporations, direct mail campaigns to members and potential members, and design and organization of other special fundraising events.*

### **4. Other Duties as Required**

*The Executive Director will have responsibility for other activities as they arise. Flexibility and openness to new tasks will be important.*

### **Job requirements:**

- 1. Proven fundraising abilities.*
- 2. Creative ability. Aptitude for innovation and strategic thinking to find new solutions, methods and approaches to create projects and activities that achieve the mission of Prostaid.*
- 3. Time management skills. Ability to keep a number of activities moving forward simultaneously.*
- 4. Demonstrated knowledge of strategic (not necessarily technical) issues related prostate cancer. Ability to develop creative strategies and innovative solutions.*
- 5. Communication ability: Well-developed interpersonal, speaking, and writing skills. These skills would translate in personal and public events, including media interviews, testimony and published writings.*

*6. People skills: Ability to meet constructively and work with a wide variety of members, volunteers, the general public, trade associations, advocacy groups and officials at the city and provincial levels and in a range of private sector entities.*

*7. Professional demeanor, especially in the face of controversy.*

*8. Willingness to work odd hours, evenings and weekends to match the schedule of community organizations, local government meetings and volunteer members.*

*9. Demonstrated commitment to the mission of Prostaid Calgary.*

*10. Sense of humor and ability to thrive in a developing environment.*

### **Compensation:**

*Compensation will be made on a contractual basis, with additional funds available for expense reimbursement as allocated by the Board of Directors. Compensation does not include benefits. Compensation range: \$2,000-\$3,000/month. Contract will be made on a "level of effort" basis with benchmarks to be agreed upon and attained.*

*Resumes should be received either electronically, by fax or by mail no later than April 30, 2008.*

*Please submit resume and cover letter via email to*

***bobshiell@shaw.ca*** or fax to ***403.253.1944*** or mail to:  
***Executive Director Search, Prostaid Calgary Society,  
P.O. Box 72126, R.P.O. Glenmore Landing, Calgary  
Alberta T2V 5H9.***

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## CANCER DAY OF ACTION IN THE ALBERTA LEGISLATURE

The Campaign to Control Cancer (C2CC) is a nationwide coalition of more than 70 organizations uniting health care professionals, survivors, patients, corporations, researchers, advocates, and concerned Canadians toward the goal of Cancer Control. Their unified action spurred the Government of Canada to a \$260 million commitment to fund and implement the Canadian Strategy for Cancer Control, a national plan to manage cancer.

On May 14, C2CC representatives from eight provinces will converge on their legislatures to educate and inform provincial elected representatives about the urgent need

to control cancer. More control, less cancer will be our theme, with key messages to elected officials tailored to improving cancer control in each province. By applying what is know, the wisdom of the Canadian Strategy will be translated into implementation at the provincial level. The result: cutting cancer in half in our generation.

A Day in the Legislature is an opportunity to meet with representatives with elected officials in Alberta to raise their commitment, understanding and engagement towards making cancer control a public health priority.

The Campaign to Control Cancer (C2CC) is a national registered not-for-profit coalition of more than 70 leading Canadian cancer organizations.

Our message: Apply what we know... **more control. less cancer.**

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### Prostate-cancer drug reduces hot flashes in men

Reuters) - Biotechnology company GTx Inc said a late-stage trial showed its experimental drug, toremifene citrate, reduced hot flashes in men who were on Androgen deprivation therapy (ADT), a common treatment for advanced prostate cancer.

Reducing hot flashes was a secondary goal for the 80 milligram dose of the drug in the trial, which studied 1,389 patients over a period of two years.

In late February, the company said a late-stage trial showed the drug reduced spinal fractures and other side effects caused by ADT, a hormone therapy which works by reducing testosterone and estrogen.

"Hot flashes are the most common and bothersome symptomatic side effect of ADT. Up to 80 percent of men on ADT report being troubled by hot flashes, which are often cited as a cause of noncompliance with hormone therapy," Matthew Smith, the lead investigator of the trial, said in a statement.

GTx plans to seek U.S. approval for toremifene, licensed from Finland's Orion Corp, by this summer and expects a priority review, putting it on track for approval by the end of this year or early 2009.

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### Life-Threatening Prostate Cancer Detectable by Measuring PSA Velocity During a "Window of Curability"

How fast the amount of PSA (prostate-specific antigen) in a man's blood increases is an accurate gauge of tumor aggression and danger, according to new research from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Even when PSA levels are so low as to not warrant a biopsy, a fast rate of rise (high PSA velocity or PSAV) is a marker of aggressive disease.

"Our data provide a further argument for PSA testing that begins relatively early in life, when PSA levels are usually lower and prostate enlargement is not a confounding factor in diagnosis," says H. Ballentine Carter, M.D., the director of the Johns Hopkins Division of Adult Urology at the Brady Urological Institute and lead author of the study.

"We would recommend that men at around age 40, not 50, have their PSA checked to develop a baseline against which to compare future changes (velocity), since even a slight rise in PSA may indicate a potential for cancer down the road," Carter said.

"The main debate over how to use PSA has centered on the choice of the level that is used to trigger a biopsy," says Carter, a professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. "Lowering the level that triggers a biopsy leads to detection of more harmless cancers, and higher levels could miss the opportunity to detect an important cancer early. We have found that the rate at which a man's PSA rises may be more important than any absolute level for identifying men who will develop life-threatening cancer while their disease is still curable. In addition, PSA velocity could be a useful method for identifying those men with a prostate cancer that could be safely monitored - an approach termed 'active surveillance'."

In previous research, PSA velocity in the year before prostate cancer diagnosis has been shown to identify men who are likely not to be cured by surgery. However, Carter's latest findings show that PSA velocity can also identify men with life-threatening disease at a time when it is still curable.

Using serum samples dating as far back as 1958, frozen as part of an ongoing randomized health study of men, Carter and his team determined PSA velocity in 980 of those study participants (856 without prostate cancer, 104 with the disease and 20 who died from it) up until May of 2005. They found that the PSA velocity determined at a time when PSA levels would not have triggered a biopsy were predictive of death from prostate cancer 20 to 30 years later.

Those men whose PSA velocity was lower had a 92 percent chance of not dying of prostate cancer 25 years later; whereas those with a higher PSA velocity had a 54 percent chance of not dying of prostate cancer. The rates of prostate cancer death were 1,240 in 100,000 for subjects with a higher velocity compared to 140 in 100,000 for those with lower velocities.



**Officers of the Society:**

**President**

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**Vice-president**

Don Jacques  
251.2202  
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**Secretary:**

vacant

**Treasurer**

David Todd – 271.6141  
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Box 72126

R.P.O. Glenmore Landing  
Calgary, AB, T2V 5H9  
Our voicemail: 520-1995  
www.prostaid.org

## Prostaid Calgary Warriors

The Prostaid Calgary Warriors are a caring and compassionate group, well organized and full of information for those men and their families dealing with advanced prostate cancer. The Warriors serve the very important needs of hormone refractory Prostaid Calgary members and all those who have an interest in management of advanced prostate cancer. The Prostaid Calgary Warriors meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:14 pm prior to the main Prostaid Calgary meeting. Warriors meet just outside the auditorium at Foothills Hospital in room #AGW2. Signs will be posted.

Men with advanced prostate cancer, their partners and family members are most welcome to attend. **You will be made welcome!**

For more information call Fred McHenry at (403) 282.3920

**Prostaid Calgary has exciting plans and projects planned for 2008. Our April 8 meeting will outline these plans. You are encouraged to attend this meeting, here our special guest speaker, W. Brett Wilson and share the excitement as Prostaid Calgary takes a major step forward!**

## Many thanks to our many friends and supporters!

Prostaid has many generous individuals and companies who support our community work. On behalf of our 800+ members, thank you for your generosity. We look forward to continuing our good work in 2008! We have many exciting projects planned for the future!

***Newsletter \* General Meetings \* Hospital Visits \* One-On-One visits \* Speakers \* Website***

**Charitable Number: 869261 602 RR 0001**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE: It is NOT necessary to include this form, a receipt will be issued from the information on your cheque.**

**Canada Revenue Agency: <http://www.cra-arc.gc.ca/>**



Please make cheque payable to:  
**Prostaid Calgary Society**

**Box 72126**

**R.P.O. Glenmore Landing  
Calgary AB, T2V 5H9**

**Tax Receipts can only be issued to those named on the cheque.**