

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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# **Is Alzheimer's disease hereditary?**

**Vancouver, B.C.** - Is there a vaccine for this degenerative brain disease? Are we close to finding a cure? Hear answers to these questions and more from Dr. Jack Diamond, Scientific Director, Alzheimer Society of Canada during his speaking tour "Research at the Crossroads: What's Next for Alzheimer's Disease" with engagements in Vancouver, Prince George and Kelowna. The speaking tour, and a free teleconference for those unable to attend an event in person, is proudly presented by the Alzheimer Society of B.C. (ASBC).

The dates of the tour are Monday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. in Prince George, Tuesday November 23<sup>rd</sup> from 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. in Vancouver, Wednesday November 24<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. in Kelowna and the teleconference will take place on Tuesday November 23<sup>rd</sup> from 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

"Those affected by Alzheimer's disease should know that Alzheimer research is currently more promising than it has ever been in the past," says Dr. Diamond. "We now know a great deal about the chain of events within the brain that leads to Alzheimer's disease and at every point in that chain, there is an opportunity to stop the process and prevent the disease."

Dr. Diamond will speak about the apoE4 gene and other genes that are risk factors for Alzheimer's disease. He will also speak about the latest research and vaccine developments, as well as, practical tips to reduce the risk of developing Alzheimer's disease.

"Awareness and education are the cornerstones for risk reduction," explains Jean Blake, CEO, Alzheimer Society of B.C. "The ASBC plays an integral role in supporting many B.C. families already on the dementia journey, but presenting a public speaking engagement with a renowned researcher in the field of Alzheimer's means we are able to reach out to the general public as well, whether they are themselves on the dementia journey, work with individuals who are living with dementia, or are concerned about memory loss."

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### **About Dr. Jack Diamond**

Dr. Diamond is the Scientific Director of the Alzheimer Society of Canada (ASC). He is a Professor Emeritus in the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences at McMaster University, where he continues to run his laboratory research program with a special focus on diabetic neuropathy and on the apoE4 form of the Apolipoprotein E gene. He received his PhD and subsequently his medical degree at the University of London and conducted post-doctoral research at Harvard Medical School. Prior to joining the ASC, Dr. Diamond was Associate Director for Scientific Affairs at the Montreal Neurological Institute at McGill University and was

the founding Chair of the Department of Neurosciences when the new medical school was established at McMaster University.

**About the Alzheimer Society of B.C.**

The Alzheimer Society of B.C. is the only province-wide organization providing support, education, and information about Alzheimer's disease and related dementia through support groups, telephone workshops, education programs, library resources, and the Dementia Helpline (In the lower mainland: 604.682.8651 or Toll-free: 1.800.936.6033). The Society also provides the voice for change in the delivery of dementia care in the province through its advocacy initiatives, and funds research to find the causes and cure for the disease. Learn more about the Alzheimer Society of B.C., at [www.alzheimerbc.org](http://www.alzheimerbc.org).

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**For more information, please contact:**

Ruby Ng, Director, Marketing & Communications, Alzheimer Society of B.C.  
T: 604.742.4919 | C: 604.828.9516 | E: [rng@alzheimerbc.org](mailto:rng@alzheimerbc.org)