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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

SBRI HOSTS IMMUNOLOGY SYMPOSIUM AND PARASITOLOGY CONFERENCE

Leading scientists discuss breakthroughs and barriers to infectious disease research

SEATTLE, May 7, 2009 – With training an inherent part of Seattle Biomedical Research Institute's (SBRI) mission, each year world-class scientists gather at SBRI to share work, meet other scientist in their field and discuss the latest in research. May marks a month of professional development events at SBRI, with the Infectious Disease Immunology Symposium on May 7, 2009, and the Seattle Parasitology Conference, May 14–15, 2009.

The Infectious Disease Immunology Symposium brings together international leaders in immunology with graduate students, post-docs and researchers in and around Seattle to stimulate discussion on the hurdles scientists face in the field of immunology, especially in the context of infectious disease.

“In the context of global health, co-infections are common. It will be important to take cognizance of the impact of diverse pathogens on the immune system as we move toward a better understanding infectious disease,” explained SBRI Principal Investigator Nick Crispe, M.D., Ph.D., who is organizing the program. “As a result of our discussions, we hope that common themes will emerge, along with new connections and possibilities for interdisciplinary collaboration.”

Later this month, SBRI will bring leaders in the field of parasitology together for the 21st Annual Seattle Parasitology Conference, May 14–15, 2009. The conference provides a local forum for presentation and discussion of research progress on the molecular and cellular biology of protozoans, especially parasitic protozoans.

According to SBRI's Nancy Ernst, Ph.D., and Michal Fried, Ph.D., who are co-organizing the event, the Parasitology Conference has become an important, highly-anticipated forum for scientists to connect and share progress made in research involving parasites that threaten

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human health. During the conference, several SBRI scientists will lead discussion sessions ranging from drug targets and host parasite interaction to vaccine development. James D. Bangs, Ph.D. Professor Medical Microbiology & Immunology School of Medicine & Public Health University of Wisconsin Madison, will give the keynote address.

The conference offers opportunity for scientific exchange at all levels, drawing scientists just beginning their careers as well as more senior parasitologists. The first one-day meeting in 1989 drew 30 attendees, all from Seattle. In the intervening years, the conference has doubled in length, quadrupled in attendance and expanded its geographic scope, attracting scientists from throughout the western United States and Canada.

For more information about the Immunology Symposium and Parasitology Conference and to view program schedules, visit www.sbri.org/news/conf_workshops.asp.

ABOUT SBRI:

SBRI discoveries advance global health. Our infectious disease research is the foundation for new vaccines, drugs and diagnostics that benefit those who need our help most: the 14 million who will otherwise die each year from infectious diseases. A non-profit organization founded in 1976, SBRI has nearly 300 staff members working in research labs in Seattle and Tanzania. By partnering with key collaborators around the globe, we ensure that our discoveries will save lives sooner. For more information, visit www.sbri.org.

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