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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PIONEER IN ADDICTION TREATMENT DR. ROBERT GORDON BELL LEAVES BEHIND A LEGACY OF HOPE AND HEALING

(Toronto, ON – June 16, 2005) The international addiction medicine community is saddened by the loss of Robert Gordon Bell, OC, MD, LLD, an internationally recognized pioneer in the treatment of addictions.

Dr. Gordon Bell was born on a farm in St. Mary's, Ontario, in 1911 and attended Medical School at the University of Toronto (Victoria College). He was a member of the Canadian Army Medical Corps in World War II and treated soldiers returning from overseas suffering from shell shock (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). A pioneer in addiction medicine, Dr. Bell and his wife, Mary, began working as a team treating patients in their own home, Glenmaple in 1946, and subsequently established Shadowbrook, Willowdale Hospital of Women, Alex G. Grown Clinic at Mimico Reformatory, and the Bell Clinic. His early years of working with alcoholics was looked upon with such skepticism it led to him being investigated and cleared by the College of Physicians and Surgeons for malpractice.

Dr. Bell received international recognition for creating successful treatment and recovery programs. His many innovations and accomplishments include: the introduction of the protective drug Antabuse to Canada in 1949; the development in the early 1950s of the first slide rule for measuring blood alcohol levels, a tool used by police across Canada; and, in collaboration with Dr. Ken Ferguson, the development of Temposil. Dr. Bell was also instrumental in the establishment of the .08 blood alcohol level as a measure of impairment. In 1972, the U.S. Navy asked Dr. Bell

to develop a substance abuse treatment program to be implemented at 15 U.S. naval hospitals around the world. Betty Ford, past US First Lady, was treated for alcoholism at one of these U.S. naval hospitals.

In 1967, he founded the first public hospital for addiction in Canada, The Donwood Institute. In 1984, together with his daughter, Linda Bell, he established Bellwood Health Services, a residential facility for the treatment of alcohol and drug addictions that through the years has expanded its treatment mandate to include gambling and sexual addictions and eating disorders.

Dr. Bell is an Officer of the Order of Canada, a recipient of the Royal Bank Award, an Honorary Doctor of Laws (York University), and has received numerous other honours.

Since 1946, more than 40,000 families within his clinics have benefited from Dr. Bell's life work and his legacy will continue through the Gordon Bell Foundation for the Prevention of Addiction, www.gbfaddiction.com. The Foundation is a charitable organization engaged in addiction prevention activities and the promotion of awareness of problems related to abuse of alcohol, drugs, food, tobacco and gambling.

Dr. Gordon Bell's dedication to his patients will be remembered by them and their subsequent generations. As Dr. Bell often said, "It has been a privilege to have been of service".

For further information, contact Charles Senior 416-495-0926 or 1-800-387-6198, Ext. 145.

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JPG PHOTO OF DR. BELL ATTACHED