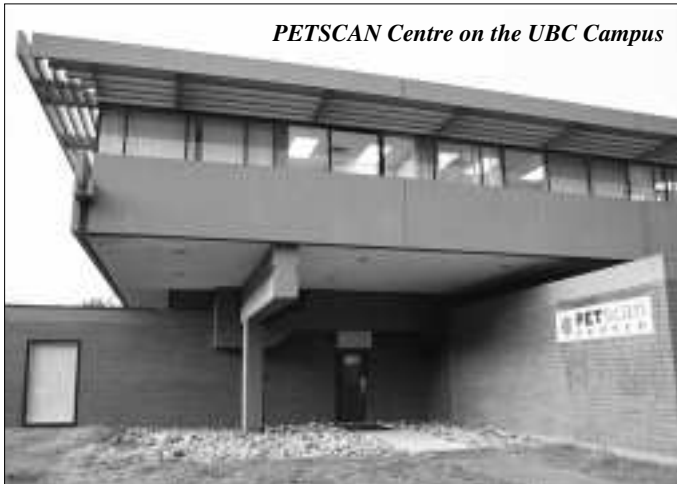


### International PET Diagnostics Inc. (IPET) has been making a difference for 18 months



*PETSCAN Centre on the UBC Campus*

## IPET

opened the PETSCAN Centre in the BC Research Building on the UBC Campus in October 2000. It is the first and only PET scan facility in Canada dedicated to providing clinical diagnostic PET imaging services for cancer patients. PET (positron emission tomography) is the most powerful procedure available today for the early and accurate detection of cancer and its spread. A PET scan produces images of the actual activity of disease itself rather than an image of the anatomy or organs. Its unique usefulness is recognized worldwide as an essential tool in the battle against cancer. PET scans are also useful

for diagnosis and analysis of certain diseases of the heart (cardiology) and the brain (neurology).

There are close to 1,000 PET scanners in the world today, including about 600 in the USA, and many in Europe, Japan and Australia. There are a handful of PET scanners in Canada at teaching hospitals and institutions, being used primarily for research.

The Vancouver PETSCAN Centre has provided over 700 scans for cancer patients referred to the Centre by oncologists, surgeons, general practitioners and other specialists. Dr. Ken Evans, a leading lung cancer surgeon in Vancouver, requires a PET scan before he performs

surgery. According to him, a PET scan is the best test in the world to identify whether cancer has spread. Dr. Simon Sutcliffe, the Executive Director of the BC Cancer Agency, when talking about PET, said: "...lives can have a better quality as a result of PET scans."

IPET is a British Columbia company owned and operated by British Columbians. Denis Tusar, CEO and President, is formerly an architect by profession. He has committed all his time and energy to IPET for the last 5 years because he witnessed the tragedy caused by the lack of appropriate technology in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer.

In addition to clinical diagnostic scans, IPET is also involved in two research projects, one involving breast cancer, the other using a different kind of tracer for prostate cancer – a cancer where PET scans have great potential if a way can be found to identify the disease with greater clarity.

Next week's article will focus on the use of PET with lung cancer – the cancer that causes more deaths in Canada than any other, and the one where PET can make the greatest impact.

### Denis Tusar



*Denis Tusar, the President and CEO of IPET, is a long-time West Vancouver resident who spent 30 years running an international architectural practice. Ten years ago, he was devastated by the death of a teenage relative due to the lack of available technology to deal with her cancer. He began looking into ways of improving care for cancer patients, and five years ago learned about PET. He soon realized that if PET were to be brought to BC, it would have to be started by private initiative. He formed IPET in 1999 and since then has devoted all his time, energy and money into getting the PETSCAN Centre operational. The Centre opened its doors to patients in October 2000 and is dedicated to Piret Toomsalu in recognition of her brave but futile fight against cancer. Denis is also Vice President of the Board of Directors of HOPE House, a non-profit organization providing support and counseling to victims of cancer and their families.*

**Full-body clinical PET scans are available at the Vancouver PETSCAN Centre.**



For more information call:  
**(604) 689-7776**  
Visit our website:  
**www.petscan.ca**

