

**Press release  
For immediate release**

**A friendship prolonged through a donation to scientific research**

Yves Des Groseillers and André Bérard  
enable the creation of a research chair in interventional cardiology

**Montreal, February 25, 2009** - The Université de Montréal (UdeM) and the Montreal Heart Institute (MHI), which is affiliated with it, have instituted the Yves Des Groseillers and André Bérard Chair in Interventional Cardiology. This Chair, the first in its field in Canada, is made possible by a donation of \$1.5 million given in equal shares by these two businessmen and friends.

The Chair has been entrusted to Dr. Serge Doucet, Chief of Interventional Cardiology Service at the MHI, as well as professor in the UdeM faculty of medicine. Dr. Doucet is particularly interested in the development of new technologies in interventional cardiology as well as in the use of stem cell regenerative therapy in the treatment of acute ischemic myocardial disease.

A former director of the National Bank, André Bérard has long been involved in philanthropic activities. Over the years, he has chaired many fund-raising campaigns and, in 2003, decided to will part of his legacy to three organizations: the Université de Montréal, the Montreal Heart Institute, and Centraide du Grand Montréal. "Québec society has always been generous to me," explained Mr. Bérard, "and I think it's important today to support those who contribute to the advancement of knowledge, health care and mutual aid."

In addition to his willed donations, Mr. Bérard chose to support, here and now, the creation of a chair in interventional cardiology and convinced his friend, businessman Yves Des Groseillers, to join him in this good cause. Mr. Des Groseillers, president of the board and CEO of Brault et Martinault, is also a long-time philanthropist who, among other things, enabled the creation of another Chair at the Université de Montréal, (in Hepato-biliary and Pancreatic Surgical Oncology); he also shared Mr. Bérard's liking for the development of knowledge in cardiology.

"We share the same values of supporting one another and entrepreneurship, and we've worked together on many projects throughout our careers," said Mr. Des Groseillers. "As a result, when André spoke to me about helping the best researchers in interventional cardiology develop new approaches, I immediately saw that it was a good investment."

**A first focus on a promising area of research**

The Chair's first research projects will be conducted on stem cells and regenerative therapy. This is one of the most promising ways to regenerate or create new myocardial

cells in order to restore ventricular function in patients who have had a myocardial infarct or who suffer from heart failure. The stem cells could also make it possible for new arteries to form and re-oxygenate the myocardium.

“In terms of spinoffs, the work done as part of this Chair could make it possible to regenerate cardiac tissue following injection with stem cells in patients with heart failure or having suffered an infarct,” said Dr. Serge Doucet, holder of the Chair. “Our research could therefore help improve the quality of life and survival rate of patients with heart failure, and this could generate significant repercussions on the clinical and public health side.”

“This research project in interventional cardiology could not have been realized without substantial financial support,” said Jean Royer, chairman of the board of directors at the MHI. “I therefore wish to pay tribute today to Messrs Yves Des Groseillers and André Bérard, two exceptional men; thanks to them, we have been able to create this Chair. Their generosity is remarkable and deserves our praise and gratitude,” he concluded.

Mr. Luc Vinet, rector of the Université de Montréal, also thanked the two donors. “Together, Yves Des Groseillers and André Bérard have made a significant contribution to the pursuit of research in a field that will benefit a great many people. From now on, their names will be associated with research in interventional cardiology, and we are confident that their investment will be fruitful.”

**About the Université de Montréal**

[www.umontreal.ca](http://www.umontreal.ca)

**About the Montreal Heart Institute**

[www.icm-mhi.org](http://www.icm-mhi.org)

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