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PRESS RELEASE

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Canadian first at the Interventional Cardiology Symposium Live use of new imaging technology

Montreal, June 17, 2010 – As part of the 19th Interventional Cardiology Symposium, Drs. Serge Doucet and Richard Gallo used an all-new imaging technology during a procedure carried out live from the Montreal Heart Institute (MHI). More than 450 participants from 25 countries were on hand to witness this Canadian first, as the Symposium opened with high-definition images from this leading-edge system projected onto giant screens.

A new leading-edge imaging technology

Since May 19, 2010, Dr. Serge Doucet, cardiologist and chief of interventional cardiology at the MHI, associate professor in the faculty of medicine at the Université de Montréal, and holder of the Yves Des Groseillers and André Bérard Chair in Interventional Cardiology, and Dr. Richard Gallo, interventional cardiologist and associate professor in the faculty of medicine at the Université de Montréal, have been able to visualize arteries like never before thanks to a new technology called Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT). OCT consists of an optical fibre equipped with an infrared light that makes it possible to capture very precise images of the inside of the coronary artery. A product of the company LigthLab, this high-resolution imaging system lets clinicians carry out more in-depth assessments, thus improving the diagnosis of heart diseases.

“This is a major improvement, as this technology is ten times more precise than the intravascular ultrasound used previously,” said Dr. Doucet. Visualization with OCT technology is used selectively with patients who have the highest risk of complications following the implantation of an artificial tube (STENT) into the coronary artery. At the MHI, close to 150 patients per year are expected to benefit from this technology.

Visible advantages

The MHI is very proud to be the first health establishment in Canada to boast this new technology, which offers numerous advantages. OCT will no doubt make it possible to prevent complications and optimize treatment, notably among patients with high cholesterol. “We’re always pursuing the same objective, which is to achieve better outcomes in treating patients. As the saying goes, ‘An image is worth a thousand words,’ and for cardiologists specialized in interventional cardiology, a sharper image means better follow-up and safer recovery. In this sense, May 19 is an historic date, a milestone for interventional cardiology at the MHI,” said Dr. Gallo.

2010 Interventional Cardiology Symposium

Over the years, the Symposium has become a “must” event on the calendar for cardiology specialists worldwide, as eminent cardiologists from North America, Europe and Asia flock to Montreal to discuss latest advances in the field. The timely topics on this year’s program include recent developments in cardiovascular imaging, cellular therapy, and the revolution in percutaneous valve replacement techniques.

About the Montreal Heart Institute

Founded in 1954 by Dr. Paul David, the Montreal Heart Institute constantly aims for the highest standards of excellence in the cardiovascular field through its leadership in prevention, ultra-specialized care, professionals training, clinical and fundamental research, and assessment of new technologies. The Institute is part of a vast network of excellence in health formed by the Université de Montréal and its affiliated institutions. To learn more about the Institute, please visit our website at www.icm-mhi.org.

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