



**INSTITUT DE
CARDIOLOGIE
DE MONTRÉAL**



PRESS RELEASE
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2011 Prix du Québec

The Montreal Heart Institute's Dr. Jean-Claude Tardif recipient of the Government of Quebec's highest scientific distinction

Montréal, October 31, 2011 – Dr. Jean-Claude Tardif, Cardiologist, Clinician, Director of the Montreal Heart Institute (MHI) Research Centre, Professor of Medicine at Université de Montréal, and Pfizer Research Chair in Atherosclerosis at Université de Montréal, has been awarded the Prix Armand-Frappier as part of the 2011 Prix du Québec. This prize is the highest distinction awarded by the Government of Quebec to a scientist who has contributed to the development of a research institution. This honour was bestowed today on Dr. Tardif by Ms. Christine St-Pierre, Minister of Culture, Communications and the Status of Women and Mr. Alain Paquet, Minister for Finance.

“We are extremely proud that Dr. Tardif has received this prestigious distinction,” stated MHI Executive Director Mr. Robert Busilacchi when the winners were announced. “Dr. Tardif is a visionary with a passion for discovery as well as a true scientific leader with the ability to harness the strengths of each of his team members. An international expert in cardiovascular health, Dr. Tardif is an eminent researcher and a superb clinician. He applies personalized medicine in his current practice to shape the medicine of tomorrow and develop treatments for patients suffering from cardiovascular and metabolic diseases. A devoted husband and father of two children, he is without doubt an exemplary citizen of Quebec.”

An exceptional career

Since 2004, Dr. Tardif has directed the MHI Research Centre, where he heads up a team of more than 600 people. A veritable flagship of cardiovascular research in Canada and a leader in the world, the Centre has seen its revenue double since the arrival of Dr. Tardif for a total of \$50 million annually. He spearheaded the creation of the first GLP-grade (good laboratory practice) pharmacogenomics centre in Canada as well as that of the Centre for Excellence in Personalized Medicine at the MHI. In the past few years, he has supervised the deployment of new international research infrastructure, for which he has received more than \$120 million in funding. These networks and centres include the Canadian Atherosclerosis Imaging Network (CAIN), which develops cutting-edge medical imaging for the study of atherosclerosis; the MHI Biobank, which will eventually represent the largest hospital research cohort in the world with a target of 30,000 patients; and the Montreal Heart Institute Coordinating Centre, which is now a

top international organization in academic clinical research with annual revenue of more than \$20 million. Not only is this infrastructure the locus for discoveries that have already had a beneficial impact on the health of thousands of people, it also provides MHI researchers with exceptional tools to advance research and make the discoveries of tomorrow.

Dr. Tardif is the principal investigator of a number of major international clinical studies in atherosclerosis and other cardiovascular diseases. He has published and collaborated on more than 600 articles and abstracts in scientific journals such as *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, *The Lancet*, *Circulation*, the *European Heart Journal*, and the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*. He has also written 30 book chapters and edited a number of books. In April 2002, the Canadian edition of *Time* magazine featured him as one of the most promising researchers of the new generation. Dr. Tardif's accomplishments earned him the title of Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. Because of his work to save lives, he was chosen as the *La Presse / Radio-Canada* 2008 Personality of the Year in Social Science, Pure Science and Technology.

About the Montreal Heart Institute: www.icm-mhi.org

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