



**INSTITUT DE  
CARDIOLOGIE  
DE MONTRÉAL**



## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For immediate release**

### **THE MONTREAL HEART INSTITUTE MARKS A FIFTY-YEAR AFFAIR WITH THE HEART**

#### **An Ongoing Tradition of Excellence**

**Montreal, Québec – January 12, 2004** – This year, the Montreal Heart Institute (MHI) marks its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, featuring “A Fifty-year Affair with the Heart” as its theme. This anniversary attests to the Institute’s outstanding accomplishments, ranking it among the best cardiology centres in Canada, and earning for it an international reputation.

“We are very pleased to celebrate the Montreal Heart Institute’s fifty years of existence and to use the occasion to spotlight the outstanding achievements that have marked the Institute’s history since its founding. Through this commemoration, we also express our gratitude to the Institute’s physicians and staff members, to the artisans of its success, past and present, who have helped the Institute to flourish as it has,” says Dr. Claude Grondin, chairman of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations at the Montreal Heart Institute. A program of activities for personnel members and health professionals has been developed to highlight the occasion at intervals throughout the year.

#### **A Vision that would Change the Course of History**

Dr. Paul David, founder of the Institute, was also a visionary. In the early 1950s, when cardiology was in its infancy, he sensed the breathtaking developments that would take place in this field. He then put together a plan, very avant-garde for its time, to create a place in Montreal solely dedicated to the development of cardiology. The plan would see the light of day thanks to the invaluable support of the Grey Nuns, who were then hard at work building the new Maisonneuve Hospital. They gave Dr. David complete autonomy to direct and manage the cardiology department of the new hospital. Thus, on January 11, 1954, the Montreal Heart Institute came into being. It occupied the top floor of the Maisonneuve Hospital, had 42 beds, and a medical team composed of three cardiologists and two surgeons. Dr. David’s idea

to gather all cardiology services together under one roof would point the way for other medical communities around the world. Dr. David and the Institute were so successful that the concept would be emulated everywhere: in Houston, Texas, in London, Lyon, Ottawa, and in a host of American cities and states, as well as in many countries of Europe and Latin America. In all of these places, cardiology institutes would subsequently spring up, inspired by the Montreal model.

In January 1966, the Institute set up shop on Bélanger Street, in a new building, thereby tripling its space and number of beds. Ten years later, a second east wing would be built, adding another 40-odd beds, as well as new operating rooms and intensive surgical and coronary care units. In 1995, another wing on the south side would complete the structure and house the research centre. This centre, launched fifteen years earlier, had expanded considerably over the years.

### **Extraordinary Accomplishments**

Since its inception, the Institute has distinguished itself with numerous research works, many of which were trailblazers in the cardiology field both nationally and internationally. Listed among the MHI's medical breakthroughs are the first open-heart surgical procedure in Québec in 1957; the first heart transplant in Canada in 1968, as well as the first coronary angioplasty (balloon dilatation) in 1980, and the first Laser coronary angioplasty in the world in 1988. Over the last 15 years, the clinical researchers at the Institute have been instrumental in improving treatments used in modern cardiology throughout the world, notably treatment for angina, treadmill testing after infarct, and the treatment of atrial fibrillation. The Institute has also played an eminent teaching role, having received over 400 research and clinical fellows from abroad; several of these physicians now hold prestigious positions in hospitals in Europe, North America and South America.

### **The Montreal Heart Institute Today**

The Montreal Heart Institute is an ultra-specialised hospital centre dedicated to care, research, teaching, prevention, and the assessment and development of new technologies in cardiology. It is also affiliated with the Université de Montréal. The quality of care the Institute provides stems from the competence of its medical team and nursing personnel. It has a capacity of 153 beds, as well as four cardiac surgery rooms, four cardiac catheterization rooms, two electrophysiology laboratories,

sophisticated diagnostic services and the Centre ÉPIC, the largest prevention and cardiovascular rehabilitation centre in Canada.

As a component of the Institute, the research centre has a mission to develop and conduct programs in research and technological development in keeping with the vocation of the Institute. It consists of 44 research teams working in clinical, fundamental and applied research. These teams carry out a multitude of locally conceived works, and they collaborate in a considerable number of joint multicentric studies, both Canadian and American. Every year, its researchers compile over 200 works or scientific publications. Their reputation and the quality of their studies are such that the acceptance rate of their scientific works, presented at annual conferences of the specialty in the United States, is one of the very highest. The scale of these scientific accomplishments, which dovetail with the research aspect of the Institute's mission, attests to the dynamism of its researchers and the Foundation supporting them. Through the dissemination of this research, expertise is transmitted to scientific and clinical settings the world over, thus broadening knowledge in cardiology and improving the health and quality of life of persons with heart disease.

“Over the last 50 years, the Montreal Heart Institute has played a crucial role in the development of cardiology both in Québec and on the national and international scene. Buoyed by our heritage and the unfailing support of our Foundation, we intend to pursue this tradition of excellence, so as to better serve our patients and to maintain a centre of scientific and academic excellence of international calibre,” concludes Mr. Robert Tessier, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Montreal Heart Institute.

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