

**News Release
For immediate release**

**The Université de Montréal
research network wins in Genome Canada contest**

Montréal, August 26 2005 – In Genome Canada's latest contest, researchers from the Université de Montréal network won the lion's share: three of seven projects financed by Genome Canada in Québec. More than \$17 million will be dedicated to research in genomics in the Université de Montréal network.

The projects involve diverse facets of genomics:

- § Dr. Guy Rouleau, of the CHUM research centre will study genetic mutations that lead to schizophrenia and autism.
- § Dr. Jean-Claude Tardif and Michael Phillips of the Montreal Heart Institute will study genetic biomarkers associated with responses to medications used in the treatment of cardiovascular diseases.
- § Law professor Bartha Maria Knoppers, holder of a Canada Research Chair in law and medicine, will examine the social, ethical, and legal aspects of genomics and public health.

"This success confirms the leadership of the Université de Montréal in the field of genomics research," said Jacques Turgeon, Vice Rector, Research. "The high quality research teams in the network have established valuable collaborations between themselves and around the world. With their efforts and their talents we will develop new knowledge that will make a difference in the fields of health and of law. "

"The selection of Dr. Guy Rouleau's research project by Genome Canada will bring gains to Québec in two regards," noted Dr. Pavel Hamet, Director of the Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal research centre. "First, the work of Dr. Rouleau will shed new light on gene mutation, a line of research with vast potential for identifying cures and treatments of pathologies such as schizophrenia and autism. Second, since this project was chosen following a rigorous analysis by an international committee of scientific experts, its selection consolidates the position of the CHUM Research Centre as a world-leading research platform. The entire Québec scientific community can take satisfaction from this fact."

"This major support from Genome Canada for our cardiovascular pharmacogenomics program confirms the exceptional scientific value of the project as well as the need for this unique state-of-the-art platform that will therefore be developed for the benefit of Québec and Canada," concludes Dr Jean-Claude Tardif, director of the Research of the Montreal Heart Institute. "The studies that our team will be leading at the Montreal Heart Institute and Université de Montréal will pave the way for personalized medicine, aiming

at analyzing genetic markers of patients to optimize the use of the most frequently prescribed medications to prevent or treat cardiovascular diseases.”

A detailed summary of each project is available through Genome Canada’s website : www.genomecanada.ca

About the Université de Montréal

Founded in 1878, the Université de Montréal today has 13 faculties. Together with its two affiliated schools, HEC Montréal and the École Polytechnique, it represents the leading higher education and research hub in Quebec, number two in Canada and one of the biggest in North America. It brings together 2,400 professors and researchers, welcomes over 55,000 students, offers more than 650 programs for every degree and awards some 3,000 Master’s degrees and doctorates each year.

About the Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM)

The Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM) provides specialized and subspecialized services to a regional and supraregional clientele. Within its more immediate coverage area, it also offers general and specialized hospital care and services. All of these services contribute to teaching, research, the assessment of technologies and healthcare methodologies, which are provided within integrated networks. The CHUM also contributes to promoting health in continuity with front-line services.

Hôtel-Dieu, Hôpital Notre-Dame and Hôpital Saint-Luc form the CHUM, which counts 10,000 employees, 900 physicians, 330 researchers, 5000 students and trainees, and 800 volunteers, who provide services to more than 500,000 patients each year.

About the Montreal Heart Institute

Founded in 1954, the Montreal Heart Institute is an ultra-specialized hospital centre dedicated to care, research, teaching, prevention, and the assessment of new technologies in cardiology; it is affiliated with the Université de Montréal.

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