



INSTITUT DE  
CARDIOLOGIE  
DE MONTRÉAL

Université   
de Montréal

## Press release

For immediate release

### **The Montreal Heart Institute and the Université de Montréal mark the beginning of construction work on the Beaulieu-Saucier Pharmacogenomics Center**

**Montreal, September 18, 2007** – The Montreal Heart Institute (MHI) and the Université de Montréal (UdeM) hosted an event this morning to mark the beginning of construction work on the Université de Montréal's future **Beaulieu-Saucier Pharmacogenomics Center** at the Montreal Heart Institute. The occasion was used to pay tribute to Mr. Michel Saucier and, his wife, Ms. Gisèle Beaulieu, both graduates of the UdeM, whose personal donation of \$5 million made the creation of the pharmacogenomics centre possible. The **Beaulieu-Saucier Pharmacogenomics Center** is slated to open in February 2008. This centre is dedicated to one of the new medical sciences, that will make Montreal a major research hub in pharmacogenomics.

Present at this event were representatives of the MHI and UdeM, as well as Messrs. Paul L'Archevêque, president and CEO of Génome Québec, Gérald Tremblay, mayor of Montreal, Carle Bernier-Genest, municipal councillor, Marie-Victorin district, Gilles Grondin, municipal councillor for Vieux-Rosemont and deputy mayor to André Lavallée, mayor of the Rosemont Petite-Patrie borough, and Luc Castonguay, interim director of the department of university and college research at the Ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation.

On this occasion, Mr. Jean Royer, president of the board of directors of the MHI, warmly acknowledge the generosity of Mr. Michel Saucier and Ms. Gisèle Beaulieu. "Thank you is indeed a very small word when it comes to showing our gratitude for your outstanding generosity. We hope it will serve as a model for others in the community. Your gesture will no doubt leave its mark on the history of medicine in Québec, in Montreal and here at the Montreal Heart Institute, for it allows us to create this great Centre, which will have a considerable impact on the ways in which we provide care. We are extremely proud that the MHI is the chosen site for completion of this very important project, given the presence here of an outstanding team of researchers in complementary fields of expertise, and in the opinion of many specialists, quite unique in the world."

Pharmacogenomics is a promising branch of scientific and clinical research focused on the targeted therapeutic use of medications. This field has the potential to determine which medication should be administered to a patient based on the individual patient's genetic profile, and in this way better target medicinal therapy.

"This pharmacogenomics centre will certainly become a world-wide reference centre in its field, thanks to the pooling of research expertise from different backgrounds, all of which will help to put Montreal at the leading edge of new knowledge. Thanks to Mr. Saucier and Ms. Beaulieu and the collaboration of the MHI, we can provide exceptional researchers with infrastructures commensurate with their talents," said Mr. Luc Vinet, rector of the Université de Montréal.

## Highlights of the Project

The Beaulieu-Saucier Pharmacogenomics Center will be located on Viau Street, between Bélanger and Saint-Zotique. It will welcome researchers and students oriented toward research in growth areas: pharmacogenomics and genetics, pharmacoproteomics, metabolomics, genetic statistics, pharmacoepidemiology, clinical pharmacology, as well as pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics.

Not only will all medical disciplines in the UdeM clinical network have access to the pharmacogenomics platform as a tool for their projects, but the Centre will also create links with the UdeM's Centre de recherche en droit public, with a view to establishing ethical rules and assessing the program's social and economic impact. Lastly, one of the Centre's priorities will be to establish a first-class clinical diagnosis laboratory.

Dr. Jean-Claude Tardif, director of the MHI Research Centre, made it a point to mention that the Beaulieu-Saucier Pharmacogenomics Center, in which Dr. Michael Phillips, a world expert in pharmacogenomics, will play a central role, is sure to have an impact of major importance at the economic as well as scientific level, for pharmacogenomics has the potential to be revolutionary. "We hope to translate knowledge on the human genome and on genomics techniques into knowledge that will be used in the doctor's office. At the present time, doctors prescribe medication on the basis of trial and error, as they attempt to match the patient to the appropriate medication. An understanding of an individual's genetic profile is likely to play a key role in the personalization of medicine in which medication is made safer and more effective."

## About the Montreal Heart Institute

Founded in 1954, the Montreal Heart Institute continues to aim for the highest standards of excellence in the cardiovascular field through its leadership in prevention, ultraspecialized care, the training of professionals, clinical and basic research, and the assessment of new technologies. It is affiliated with the Université de Montréal, and its clinical outcomes are among the best in the world. For additional information about the Institute, please visit our website at [www.icm-mhi.org](http://www.icm-mhi.org)

## About the Université de Montréal

Founded in 1878, the Université de Montréal now has 13 faculties, and with its two affiliate schools, HEC Montréal et l'École Polytechnique, constitutes the leading centre for higher learning and research in Québec, the second in Canada, and one of the largest in North America. Its faculty of medicine is the largest in Canada in terms of student enrolment, and one of the major centres for health research in the country. Since 1999, its graduates have ranked first on the Medical Council of Canada's national examinations.

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