



**INSTITUT DE
CARDIOLOGIE
DE MONTRÉAL**

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

**THE WORK OF DR. JOHN D. RIOUX AND HIS TEAM
MAKES THE TOP TEN DISCOVERIES LIST FOR 2006 IN QUÉBEC**

The *Québec Science* magazine thus recognizes
the importance of his research work in genetics

Montreal, January 26, 2007 - In a special February 2007 issue featuring the top ten discoveries of 2006, the *Québec Science* magazine chose the discovery in the genetics field made by Dr. John D. Rioux and his team. Dr. Rioux, PhD, is associate professor of medicine at the Université de Montréal and at the Montreal Heart Institute where he works as a researcher and director of the Laboratory in Genetics and Genomic Medicine of Inflammation (www.inflammgen.org), as well as visiting scientist at the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, and holder of the Canada Research Chair in Genetics and Genomic Medicine of Inflammation.

Indeed, on September 25, 2006, Dr. Rioux and his team unveiled a detailed map of human genetic variation within the major histocompatibility complex (MHC), the most important region of the human genome encoding the human response to infection, autoimmune disease and organ transplantation. The work represents a milestone in the analysis of genetic variability for this fundamental immune region and lays the scientific foundation for future efforts aimed at uncovering the genetic roots of immune-related diseases.

The findings of this international team, which includes scientists from the Montreal Heart Institute, the Université de Montréal, the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, and several other research institutions, were published in the September 24 issue of *Nature Genetics*.

“This new map will be a key resource for researchers to use to find genes affecting health, disease, and responses to medication. It will provide the information necessary to design powerful studies to identify the genetic risk factors located within the MHC”, said senior author Dr. Rioux. “We are obviously very proud to see that our work has drawn the attention of the *Québec Science* magazine and was chosen as one of the ten discoveries of 2006 in Québec.”

The complete data on this discovery are available at the following address:
<http://www.inflammgen.org>.

About the Montreal Heart Institute

Founded in 1954, the Montreal Heart Institute constantly aims for the highest standards of excellence in the cardiovascular field through its leadership in prevention, ultra-specialized care, training of professionals, clinical and fundamental research, and assessment of new technologies. It is affiliated with the Université de Montréal, and its clinical outcomes are among the best in the world. The MHI Research Centre officially came into existence in 1976 and has made enormous strides since its creation. Today, it has some 450 employees, students and researchers. The MHI's outstanding feature is the balance it achieves between basic research, clinical research and clinical care. Its prime focus areas of research are vascular diseases, myocardial function and electrophysiology. Genomics (including pharmacogenomics, biomarkers and preventive cardiology are other areas of focus. To learn more about the Institute, please visit our website at www.icm-mhi.org.

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