



NEWS RELEASE

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**King Faisal International Prize:
Two Montreal researchers receive international recognition**

**Drs. Jean-Pierre Pelletier and Johanne Martel-Pelletier win the prize for
medicine for their work on arthrosis**

Montreal, Canada, January 22, 2010 - For nearly 30 years Dr. Johanne Martel-Pelletier and Dr. Jean-Pierre Pelletier have devoted their lives to understanding arthrosis, one of the most severe degenerative diseases. In recognition of their work, the researchers with the CHUM Research Centre (CRCHUM) and professors at the Faculty of Medicine at Université de Montréal, have been awarded the 2010 King Faisal Prize in medicine along with Dr. Reinhold Ganz from Germany. Their research efforts have paved the way for the development of innovative therapies and, more importantly, to improving the lives of people suffering from arthrosis.

Each year, candidates from throughout the world are put forward for the King Faisal International Prize. Since its creation in 1976, only two other Canadians have been earned this honour. Commenting on the award, the two Montreal researchers note that “ We are very honoured and we hope that this prize will serve as a reminder of the importance of research activities as crucial means of preventing and treating diseases.” For his part, Jacques Turgeon, Director of the CRCHUM, adds that this prize is eloquent testimony “not only to the exceptional quality and devotion of Drs Pelletier and Martel-Pelletier, but also to the fact that our researchers are second to none.”

Arthrosis is a degenerative and debilitating articular disease that affects more than 15% of the population, 65% percent of whom are aged 60 or older.

The awards ceremony will take place in March in Riyadh under the auspices of the King of Saudi Arabia Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz al-Saud and the King Faisal Foundation.

Created to commemorate King Faisal, deceased in 1975, the King Faisal Foundation supports several philanthropic activities, the most well known of which is the King Faisal International Prize. The Prize is one of the world’s highest distinctions. It is awarded annually to dedicated men and women whose contributions make a positive difference: those who exceptionally serve Islam and Muslims, and to scientists and scholars whose research results in significant advances in specific areas that benefit humanity. This incentive also encourages expanded research that may lead to important medical and scientific breakthroughs.

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About the CRCHUM

With more than 350 researchers and 400 students, the CRCHUM is the University of Montreal's most important affiliated research centre. The CRCHUM is a hospital-based research centre focused on discovery, innovation and the non-invasive exploration of human beings and the transfer of results to patients and the population. Its research activities encompass 8 major themes: Cancer; Infection, immunity and inflammation; Cardio-metabolic diseases; Musculo-skeletal diseases; Neursocience; Risks to health; Global health and Care systems and services.

About CHUM

The Centre hospitalier de l'Université de Montréal (CHUM) provides specialized and ultra-specialized services to a regional and supra-regional clientele. Within its more immediate coverage area, the CHUM also provides general and specialized hospital care and services. The CHUM uses an integrated network model to carry out its five-part mandate of care, teaching, research, the assessment of technologies and health care methodologies, and the promotion of health care. The CHUM has received accreditation from the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation, for the 2007-2010 period. The CHUM is a member of the vast network of excellence in health formed by the Université de Montréal and its affiliated hospitals. www.chumontreal.qc.ca

About the Université de Montréal

Rooted in Montreal and international in its vocation, the Université de Montréal is one of the largest French-speaking universities in the world. Founded in 1878, the Université de Montréal includes 13 faculties and two professional schools. With its affiliated schools, HEC Montréal and École Polytechnique, the Université de Montréal is the leading centre for higher learning and research in Québec and one of the most important in North America. The Université de Montréal brings together some 2,500 teachers and researchers and is home to over 60, 000 students. To learn more about the Université de Montréal : www.umontreal.ca