

Press release
For immediate release

A Quebec researcher obtains a \$2 million grant to fight antibiotic resistance

Quebec, September 21st, 2011 – Dr. Michel G. Bergeron and his team of researchers from the Centre de recherche du CHUQ have obtained a \$2 million grant from the Quebec Consortium for Drug Discovery (CQDM) for their research project on antibiotic resistance.

“Antibiotic resistance is a major concern for the biopharmaceutical industry and the CQDM is very proud to be associated with Dr. Bergeron and his team for this project which has the potential to significantly improve research, hence paving the way for new therapeutic approaches, and to facilitate the development of new drugs”, says Diane Gosselin, CQDM Vice-President, Research and Business Development. This project was selected amongst the 41 candidates that applied to the Focus 2011 competition.

Microbial resistance to antibiotics has been increasing in recent decades; consequently, several infections do not respond as well to treatment. “The microbes that contain antibiotic resistance genes can transfer their resistance to other microbes, which in turn become resistant to antibiotics,” says Dr. Bergeron, also Director of the Centre de recherche en infectiologie of the Université Laval.

Dr. Bergeron and his research team have recently shown that the genes that render bacteria able to resist certain antibiotics are present in the digestive tract, creating a reservoir of resistance genes. “With cutting-edge technologies, we will use the human intestinal ecosystem to monitor the emergence of resistance genes that could have the potential to be transmitted to pathogenic microbes, and to understand how these resistance reservoirs behave following antibiotic therapy. This grant will therefore enable us to develop tools to evaluate the potential of new drugs to select for resistance,” explains Dr. Bergeron.

Ultimately, these findings could help develop new antibiotics and diagnostic tools to rapidly detect resistance to antimicrobial agents.

Dr. Michel Bergeron’s team is composed of Dr. Marc Ouellette, Jacques Corbeil, Paul Roy, Sylvie Trottier and Maurice Boissinot, researchers at the CRCHUQ, in collaboration with Dr. Marc-Christian Domingo of the Laboratoire de santé publique du Québec.

About the CQDM

The Québec Consortium for Drug Discovery (CQDM) is a meeting ground for all stakeholders in biopharmaceutical research. Its principal mission is to fund research projects carried out in partnership between the academic and hospital milieus in the public sector and the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries in the private sector. An innovative Canadian initiative, the CQDM has a twofold goal: to accelerate the drug discovery process and to develop safer and more effective drugs. Project funding is made possible through contributions from Pfizer Canada, AstraZeneca, Merck, Boehringer Ingelheim (Canada) Ltd., GlaxoSmithKline, Eli Lilly Canada Inc., the Business-Led Networks of Centres of Excellence (BL-NCE), the Ministère du Développement Économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation (MDEIE) du Québec and the Fonds de la Recherche du Québec en Santé (FRSQ).

For more information: www.cqdm.org

About the CHUQ

The CHUQ is one of the most important health institutions in Quebec. It provides general care, but also more specialized services for the population of eastern Quebec, a pool of nearly two million people. Closely linked to the Université Laval and future-oriented, the CHUQ is dedicated to teaching and research in numerous areas of expertise, as well as in the evaluation of technologies and modes of health intervention. It incorporates an expert and humane team composed of some 1,000 physicians, dentists and pharmacists and 9,000 employees. The CHUQ includes the Hôtel-Dieu de Québec, the Hôpital Saint-François d'Assise and the CHUL with its mother-child center, as well as five health centers. For more information: www.chuq.qc.ca

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