

Fournier Pharma Supports Clinical Research at IRCM

Montreal, March 22, 2004 – The Manager of Medical Affairs at Fournier Pharma, Dr. Luc Laperrière, gave IRCM Clinic Manager, Dr. Pierre Larochelle, a cheque for \$150,000 this morning. This sum will support the clinic's research activities, specifically in cardiovascular research. This donation will serve to recruit and train highly qualified medical staff, among other things.

One of the projects supported by Fournier Pharma involves observing the effect of a method that allows patients to measure their own triglyceride levels by taking a blood sample from a fingertip. This process is similar to that used by diabetics to measure their blood sugar levels. This approach is intended to encourage patients to continue with their treatment. In fact, given the frequently asymptomatic nature of high cholesterol levels, some people stop taking their medication after a certain time. IRCM technicians are attempting to determine if self-monitoring does in fact encourage the patient to follow the treatment.

Moreover, Fournier is supporting the work of an IRCM researcher concerning the effects of growth hormones on the cardiovascular risks faced by women. In fact, it has been demonstrated that the administration of growth hormones significantly reduces the cardiovascular risks of male subjects who suffer a deficiency of this hormone. This same effect has never been demonstrated in the case of female subjects despite the fact that heart disease is the leading cause of death in women.

“This contribution demonstrates Fournier’s commitment to innovative research. We are particularly proud to join forces with IRCM, with whom we share values of integrity and human approach,” said Fournier Pharma’s Medical Director, Dr. Luc Laperrière. Dr. Pierre Larochelle stated that, *“Support from private companies enables clinical researchers to obtain results more quickly, which is definitely of direct benefit to the patients.”*

The Institut de recherches cliniques de Montréal is recognized as one of the top-performing research centres in the country. It has a mission to develop a link between medical research and the patient, as well as to promote the prevention of disease. The IRCM has 30 research units preparing future researchers by training almost 250 students each year. More than 450 people work at the IRCM.

Fournier Pharma Inc., located in Montreal, is the Canadian subsidiary of Laboratoires Fournier, which has its head office in Dijon, France. The research and development component of Laboratoires Fournier focuses mainly on cardiovascular disease, diabetes and metabolic syndrome.

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