

IRCM researcher demonstrates that an anti-inflammatory slows the development of cancers

July 22, 2003

Montréal, July 17, 2003 – [Dr. Jean-Philippe Gratton](#) will publish the results of his work on the effects of a molecule with anti-inflammatory properties, cavtratin, on the development of cancerous tumours in the July issue of the prestigious journal [Cancer Cell](#). This medication slows the development of tumours by 50%, by reducing the permeability of the blood vessels that irrigate them.

Excessive vascular permeability is typically observed in cases of tissue inflammation. Moreover, it is known that the blood vessels that irrigate tumours are three to five times more permeable than those that irrigate healthy tissue. Dr. Gratton has demonstrated, for the first time, that cavtratin increases the impermeability of such vessels by inhibiting the synthesis of nitric oxide (NO). NO production is stimulated by an endothelial growth factor secreted by a tumour within its own microvascular system.

Dr. Gratton's published findings confirm the impact of vascular hyperpermeability on the development of human tumours in mice. Furthermore, they offer new therapeutic options for certain types of cancer by inhibiting the synthesis of nitric oxide.

Dr. Gratton completed the research behind this breakthrough while doing post-doctoral work under the supervision of Dr. William C. Sessa at the Yale University School of Medicine in Connecticut. The IRCM recruited Dr. Gratton in 2002.