



Lilly Provides Research Grant

On Sept. 23, 2003, l'Université de Montréal announced a \$1.4-million funding partnership for the creation of the Eli Lilly Canada Chair in Schizophrenia Research. This important funding will help researchers investigate a disease that strikes one in every 100 people.

"This partnership between **Eli Lilly Canada**, l'Université de Montréal, l'Hôpital du Sacré-Coeur de Montréal, and l'Hôpital Louis-H. Lafontaine will contribute to the well-being of sufferers and their families—their natural helpers and their main source of emotional support," commented Robert Lacroix, Rector of l'Université de Montréal. "The partnership is a concrete example of the initiatives that are made possible by our *A World of Projects* campaign."

Eli Lilly will provide \$1.2 million in funding over a five-year period for the establishment of the Chair. La Fondation de l'Hôpital du Sacré-Coeur de Montréal and la Fondation de l'Hôpital Louis-H. Lafontaine—hospitals affiliated with the university network and where the Chair's scientific activities will be conducted—will each contribute \$100,000 over the same five-year period.

"Eli Lilly Canada is proud to partner with world class organizations, such as l'Université de Montréal, l'Hôpital du Sacré-Coeur de Montréal, and l'Hôpital Louis-H. Lafontaine," said Dr. Loren Grossman, Vice-President, Research and Development, Eli Lilly Canada. "This partnership signals the beginning of a truly exciting time for the advancement of schizophrenia research in Quebec and, indeed, the country."

AstraZeneca Unmasks Multi-million Dollar Project

AstraZeneca Canada Inc. celebrated the official opening of its new Canadian Business Centre in Mississauga, Ontario, on Dec. 10, 2003.

Not only has the global parent company, AstraZeneca PLC, invested more than \$80 million in the award-winning building project since it got underway in June 2002, the economic spin-off for the province has generated more than \$25 million in wages, benefits, and payroll, as well as 355,000 person hours of direct employment in connection with the project.

"Today's launch of our new premises is only part of what we are celebrating today," said Mike Cloutier, President and CEO, AstraZeneca Canada Inc. "During the last three years, we have expanded rapidly, with a 30% increase in our workforce—which meant we quickly outgrew our old administration

building. Today, about 900 employees work at this new high-tech facility in Mississauga, which is our Canadian headquarters for manufacturing, clinical research, sales, marketing, and distribution. In addition, more than 100 scientists work at our basic pain research centre in Montreal."

During the opening ceremonies, it was announced that AstraZeneca PLC has also allocated \$21 million in additional funds to further develop AstraZeneca Canada's headquarters in a second phase of investment.

This second phase is scheduled to begin construction in 2004, with occupancy scheduled for 2005. The project will include demolishing the existing administration building and replacing it with a new CBC Amenities Building capable of servicing the head office count of more than 1,000 people projected for 2010.

AstraZeneca Supports Pharmaceutical Information Centre

On Oct. 30, 2003, l'Hôpital du Sacré-Coeur de Montréal, together with l'Université de Montréal's faculty of pharmacy and **AstraZeneca Canada Inc.**, officially inaugurated the new Pharmaceutical Information Centre (PIC) facilities to offer its clients quick, accurate, complete, and objective information on the use of medications.

The Centre handles over 10,000 inquires every year on medications, mainly from pharmacists, physicians, nurses, and other health-care professionals. The PIC also has a teaching mission, as it provides training for residents enrolled in a Master's program in pharmaceutical practice. It also offers a one-year specialized residency program in drug information and organizes educational sessions for health-care professionals.

The larger facilities and the enhancement of its computer technology are the result of a partnership agreement between l'Hôpital du Sacré-Coeur de Montréal, l'Université de Montréal's faculty of pharmacy, and AstraZeneca Canada Inc., which allocated \$300,000 towards carrying out the improvement project.

\$2.4 Million for Hypertension

The University of Ottawa Heart Institute made a significant announcement in hypertension research on Oct. 10, 2003: the creation of the Pfizer Chair in Hypertension Research.

The Chair, for which funding will be spread over a five-year period, will advance the Institute's Hypertension Research Group's groundbreaking work in new and unexplored areas, such as the impact of this disease on brain function.

Pfizer Canada and the Ottawa Heart Institute will each invest \$1 million in the Chair's creation, and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) will contribute \$400,000. The total partnership amounts to \$2.4 million in support of hypertension research.

Sanofi-Synthelabo Donates Over \$600,000

This past fall, **Sanofi-Synthelabo** donated more than \$600,000 in much needed Idarac® to Health Partners International of Canada (HPIC) to support humanitarian and relief efforts in the developing world.

The humanitarian drug donations formed a critical part of HPIC's "Physician Travel Pack" (PTP), which includes an assortment of essential medicines and products most requested by Canadian physicians for short-term overseas humanitarian medical work.

AstraZeneca Part of Funding for Schizophrenia Research

During a five-year schizophrenia research program at the University of Saskatchewan's Neuropsychiatry Research Unit, a multidisciplinary team of 13 university researchers will collaborate to study the underlying molecular and neurochemical mechanisms of schizophrenia. In addition, drug interactions, chemical studies, identification of early risk indicators, and treatment outcome studies will be examined. In particular, the program will look at the potential of some antipsychotic drugs to protect individuals from central nervous system disorders, such as depression, Alzheimer's disease, and Parkinson's disease.

Outcomes from the program could lead to earlier diagnosis and improved treatment for people with serious brain disorders.

In addition to **AstraZeneca Canada Inc.'s** \$770,000 investment, funding has also been received from the Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (\$115,000), the Royal University Hospital Foundation (\$75,000), the Schizophrenia Research Foundation Saskatchewan Inc. (\$35,000), and the Saskatoon chapter of the Schizophrenia Society of Saskatchewan (\$30,000). The College of Medicine will provide \$45,000 through 10 summer studentships, each worth \$4,500. [CPM](#)