



CANADIAN FOUNDATION LOUIS PASTEUR

A little bit history

The Canadian Foundation Louis Pasteur is in its seventh year, even though cooperation between Canada and the Institut Pasteur in Paris goes back much longer. The first ties date back to 1926, when Louis Boez of the Institut Pasteur accepted an invitation from the Institut scientifique franco-canadien to give a series of talks on bacteriology at universities in Montréal and Québec. He had an unexpected opportunity to show his considerable talent when a large number of serious cases of typhoid fever broke out in Montréal. He quickly discovered the source of the contamination and in his laboratory at Notre-Dame hospital, developed an enterovaccine that in a few short weeks, curbed the epidemic. This experience gave the University of Montréal the idea of setting up a Bacteriology Institute of which Louis Boez became the first director. Even though he did not stay long in Montréal, his contribution was recognized when the Institut Pasteur in Paris asked him to take over the leadership of the Institut Pasteur in Saigon. His presence here served to initiate a lasting and productive era of cooperation between France and Canada.

Many thanks to all who supported us for the October 12, 2004 benefit evening!

The sixth annual benefit event of the Canadian Foundation Louis Pasteur (CFLP) took place under the honorary chairmanship of Dr Michel Saucier. The invited artists were the Choeurs du Nouveau Monde, directed by Gregory Charles. The Foundation would like to thank all those who, through their support, made it possible to reach our financial goal. More than \$230,000 were collected. A new fellowship programme in microbiology and immunology was established by the Foundation and the University of Montréal, thanks to a special endowment gift of \$250,000 from Dr Saucier. This programme complements the existing internship programme at the Institut Pasteur in Paris which itself underwent significant development in 2005. A special thanks to our major sponsor, Sanofi Pasteur, for their committed support.

Recent fellows of the Foundation

Shawn Lewenza and Nancy Lee at the Institut Pasteur

Shawn Lewenza, a doctor in microbiology from the University of Calgary, completed a first post-doctoral study period at the University of British Columbia in 2004. He obtained a fellowship from the Foundation to pursue his post-doctoral studies in the molecular genetics unit of the Department of Basic and Medical Microbiology at the Institut Pasteur, under the guidance of Dr Anthony Pugsley, starting in November 2004. This fellowship was awarded by the Foundation for one year but given his remarkable record, it has just been renewed for a second year. His research is focussed on the membranes of bacteria and aims to develop new antibiotic molecules.

Nancy Lee, a doctor in microbiology and immunology from the University of British Columbia, obtained a fellowship from CFLP to undertake post-doctoral studies in the Molecular Microbiology unit of the Department of Epidemiology and Ecology of Infectious Diseases, under the guidance of Françoise Dromer. This fellowship was awarded in February 2005 for one year and is renewable. Her research focusses on the molecular genetics of the microscopic mushroom *Cryptococcus neoformans*, which is highly pathogenic in humans. More generally, she is studying how a single gene of the chromosome can induce the synthesis of multiple proteins. Her work has implications both in cancerology and infectiology and seeks to develop new ways of preventing and treating infections caused by *Cryptococcus neoformans*.

Alexandre Caillaud at the University of Montréal

Alexandre Caillaud is the first recipient of a Michel Saucier fellowship, created in 2005. He obtained his doctorate from the University of Paris VII and, as of November 2004, is pursuing post-doctoral studies in the laboratory of Human Retrovirology of the Department of Microbiology and Immunology of the University of Montréal, under the guidance of Dr Eric Cohen. His fellowship is for the year 2005 and his research bears on the viral protein R of the HIV virus HIV-1.

Nicolas Chomont at CANVAC

On 1 July 2005, **Nicolas Chomont** was awarded the second Michel Saucier fellowship. He obtained his doctorate in science from the Université Pierre et Marie Curie and is currently doing post-doctoral studies on HIV, under the guidance of Professor Rafick-Pierre Sekaly, who is Director of the Canadian Network of Excellence CANVAC.

CFLP will contribute \$15,000 toward the participation of two or three postdoctoral researchers in the symposium of the Aids Vaccine 2005 International Conference, to be held in Montréal from 6 to 9 September 2005.

Cooperation between Canadian Foundation Louis Pasteur and Fondation Armand-Frappier

On 15 June 2005, the Director of the Institut Pasteur, Dr Philippe Kourilsky and the Director of International Affairs of the Institut, Michèle Bocoz, announced the accreditation of the INRS/Institut Armand-Frappier Research Centre within the International Network of Pasteur Institutes. The Research Centre is the first North American institution to receive this recognition. Since the announcement, the CFLP and the Fondation Armand-Frappier (which supports the Institut Armand-Frappier) have created two new joint post-doctoral research fellowships. These are open to students from all countries and will help to finance research stays at INRS/Institut Armand-Frappier. The objective of these fellowships is to promote the development of young, talented researchers in the field of infectious diseases. The two first recipients are Tamsir Ousseynou Diallo, from Senegal, working on the immune system and parasite infections, and Alexandra Lacroix, a Canadian, working on the impact of pollutants on reproductive systems.

Where are our fellows now?

Denise Martin, who was one of the first Foundation fellows, decided to stay at the Institut Pasteur for a third year, at her own expense, following two years of study funded by CFLP. She is currently working on a sub-group of T lymphocytes called T regulator cells, in the research group on immunocontrol directed by Dr Lars Rogge.

Dr Rogge writes that Denise has assumed, through her motivation and perseverance, a central role in the evolution of this project and most of all, in the understanding of the role played by this group of T lymphocytes. In particular, she has developed very effective protocols for the purification of T lymphocyte regulators using the peripheral blood of healthy donors, as well as various biotests to study their functions. Her work will make an important contribution to the discovery of new therapeutic approaches to auto-immune diseases, transplants and cancer. The support of CFLP was vital to the conduct of this research.

Fund-raising in 2005

Our 2005 benefit event will be held on Tuesday, 11 October 2005, in the atrium of the Centre CDP Capital, 1000 Place Jean-Paul Riopelle, in Montréal.

Guests will be treated to a concert by a wind and piano quintet, composed of leading musicians from the Orchestre symphonique de Montréal, followed by a cocktail dinatoire reception.

The Honourable Pierre-Marc Johnson has graciously accepted to chair this year's fund-raising campaign. His committee includes the following honorary patrons:

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Reception at the French Embassy in Ottawa

His Excellency the Ambassador of France to Canada, **Monsieur Daniel Jouanneau**, has kindly agreed to host a reception on 12 October 2005, at his official residence in Ottawa, to salute the CFLP's commitment to the advancement of leading-edge research into infectious diseases of all kinds, as well as to thank the honorary patrons and sponsors for their support of the Foundation's work.

The Foundation will announce its intention to open a chapter in Toronto, thereby strengthening its pan-canadian presence.



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