



MEDIA RELEASE

The International Consortium on Anti-Virals/Consortium International sur les Thérapies Anti-Virales (ICAV/CITAV) congratulates its Co-Founder, Dr Michel Chrétien on his election to the Royal Academy, London.

For immediate release
May 14th 2009

Peterborough, ON, Canada – The Royal Academy, London, today announced its list of newly elected Fellows. Among the 44 elected this year is Dr. Michel Chrétien OQ OC CLH MD, Co-Founder of ICAV/CITAV. It is relatively rare that Canadians are elected to the Royal Society. To our knowledge, Dr. Chrétien is the first French-Canadian physician to be given this honour, an honour that permits him to add the letters “FRS” after his name. This honour adds to the long list of honours reflecting his outstanding contributions to science: Officer of the Order of Canada (1986) and “L’Ordre National du Quebec” (1994); Chevalier de la Legion d’Honneur de la République Française” (2004).

As a medical scientist and former scientific director of IRCM and the Loeb Institute (now OHRI), Dr. Chrétien’s international reputation has enabled him to be exceptionally effective in his role within ICAV/CITAV - to build our international partnerships. The fact that ICAV/CITAV has attracted over 250 participating scientists from 25 countries is largely due to his tireless efforts.

The strength of the global network that Dr. Chrétien has built for ICAV/CITAV enabled ICAV’s rapid response to the outbreak of the H1N1 “swine” flu. By immediately contacting ICAV/CITAV’s network, Dr. Chrétien was able to obtain the reagents and specimens necessary to launch the identification and production of truly human monoclonal antibodies (tHuMAbs) against this virus. Production of these tHuMAbs is aimed at providing immediate protection for emergency workers and front-line care-givers. A single injection of the “truly-human” monoclonal antibody (thuMAB) being generated by ICAV provides immediate protection for at least a month. In contrast, vaccines can take weeks after administration to provide protection and take longer to produce.

The Board and Management anticipate many more successes as Dr. Chrétien continues to grow ICAV/CITAV’s global Network.

About ICAV:

ICAV, headquartered at Trent University in Peterborough, is an institutional innovation - a not-for-profit drug development and discovery company - dedicated to the discovery and development of anti-viral therapies for neglected and emerging diseases. Through the international collaboration of scientists, government and industry, ICAV's goal is to deliver at least one novel drug to market every five years that is affordable, effective, and globally accessible to all patients in need. ICAV:

- fills the gap between academic research and clinical development
- accelerates development of drugs for neglected and emerging viral diseases
- ensures global access to novel therapies at affordable prices

About Trent University:

One of Canada's top universities, Trent University is renowned for striking a unique balance between outstanding teaching and leading-edge research. The University is consistently recognized nationally for faculty who maintain a high level of innovative research activity and a deep commitment to the individual student. Distinguished by excellence in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences and increasingly popular professional and graduate programs, Trent is dedicated to providing its students with an exceptional world view, producing graduates who are ready to succeed and make a difference in the world.

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