



Crohn's and Colitis
Foundation of Canada

Fondation canadienne des
maladies inflammatoires
de l'intestin

*Fonds de la recherche
en santé*

Québec 

PRESS RELEASE

CCFC AND FRSQ JOIN FORCES TO STEP UP RESEARCH ON INFLAMMATORY BOWEL DISEASE

Toronto and Montréal, September XX, 2008 – The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada (CCFC) and the Fonds de la recherche en santé du Québec (FRSQ) have signed a partnership agreement aimed at stepping up research on inflammatory bowel disease.

The agreement will enable support of more doctoral students and postdoctoral fellows in the field of inflammatory bowel research. CCFC and FRSQ will team up to offer four training awards per year for two years. The awards are intended primarily for Québec students who want to study at the doctoral level or do postdoctoral training elsewhere in Canada or abroad. Students from other countries who would like to study in Québec also qualify.

The stipend for a regular doctoral training award is \$20,000. The stipend for health professionals ranges from \$20,000 to \$40,000, depending on the year the degree was earned. Postdoctoral fellowships for regular trainees come with a \$30,000 stipend. Health professionals are granted a stipend of \$30,000 to \$40,000, based on the year they obtained their degree.

"This partnership will make it possible for us to help our best students increase their knowledge in this field, which will mean better treatment and better ways of diagnosing and preventing inflammatory bowel disease. FRSQ is very happy to join up with CCFC to fight inflammatory bowel diseases affecting so many Canadians," said Marielle Gascon-Barré, FRSQ Acting President and CEO.

"Québec has been both the home of research teams and the source of talented researchers who have helped to advance both basic and clinical science underlying Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis nationally and internationally. CCFC's mission is to find cures for these diseases and we are confident that this new partnership will help make progress in this direction," adds Dr. Kevin Glasgow, CCFC CEO.

Inflammatory bowel disease

Over 200,000 Canadians, children and adults alike, have inflammatory bowel disease, the most common forms of which are Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. The incidence of these diseases in Canada is said to be among the highest in the world.

About FRSQ

The Fonds de la recherche en santé du Québec (FRSQ), which reports to the Minister of Economic Development, Innovation and Export Trade and the Minister of Tourism, supports health research in order to foster the well-being of Quebecers. Its mandate is to promote and provide funding for research, to disseminate knowledge, and to contribute to training, as well as to establish partnerships crucial to the development of Québec's research and innovation system and its international reach. www.frsq.gouv.qc.ca

About CCFC

The Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of Canada (CCFC) is a national not-for-profit voluntary medical research Foundation. Its mission is to find the cure for inflammatory bowel disease. To achieve its mission, the Foundation is committed to raising increasing funds for medical research. **The CCFC is one of the world's leaders in non-governmental, per capita funding of IBD research.** To date, the Foundation has invested nearly \$56 million in major medical research projects.

Education is also a part of our mandate. The Foundation provides information on IBD to patients, their families, health professionals and the general public through education brochures, its national member publication *The Journal* and local Education events. The CCFC was started in 1974 by a group of concerned parents who saw the need to raise funds for research into inflammatory bowel disease and to educate patients and their families about these diseases. www.ccf.ca

- 30 -

FOR INFORMATION:

Michelle Dubuc
FRSQ
514-873-2114, poste 235
mdubuc@frsq.gouv.qc.ca

John Branton
CCFC
416 920 5036, extension 223
jbranton@ccfc.ca