



DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY Communications Bulletin – June 26, 2009

Today's issue includes the following items:

1. **Professional Development Reimbursement (PDR) Cut-off Date** → deadline: **JUN 30 (attachment)**
2. **[Conference] International Conference on Mild Traumatic Brain Injury** → **AUG 12-15**
3. **[Workshops] Risk Assessment: HCR-20 & START Training** → **SEP 17-18 & NOV 13**
4. **[Conference] FPR-UCLA 2010 Conference on Bio-Cultural Contexts of Psychiatric Disorder** → deadline: **DEC 11**
5. **[Notification] FoM Grant Application Information (attachment)**
6. **[Call for Proposals] Canada-China Scientific and Technological Cooperation and International Science & Technology Partnerships Canada** → deadline: **JUL 17**
7. **[Funding Opportunities] CIHR** → posted between **JUN 01-18**
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9. **[Call for Applications] The Fondation Leducq** → **SEP 18**
10. **[Call for Applications] The Heart and Stroke Foundation Grants Opportunity** → **SEP 01**
11. **[Call for Applications] UBC Graduate Student International Research Mobility Award** → deadline: **JUN 26**

1. Professional Development Reimbursement (PDR) Cut-off Date (see attachment)

This is a reminder that PDR claims for funds earned in 2006/2007 **must be received by Finance no later than June 30th**. This is a strict deadline so if you have any unprocessed forms you are holding please ensure they are sent to Finance immediately.

Faculty Members may carry forward unused entitlement from PDR for 3 years. Claims for funds earned in 2006/2007 not received by Finance by the cut-off date of June 30th, 2009 will be forfeited. Members, with the exception of Sessional Lecturers with Continuing Status, can view their balance [online](#).

Sessional Lecturers with Continuing Status should contact the PDR clerk at pdr@finance.ubc.ca to find out their entitlement.

Further information on the PDR fund can be found at http://www.hr.ubc.ca/faculty_relations/compensation/pdrfund.html.

Administrators can also access the PDR Summary Statement of faculty members in their unit online by running HRMS Query #40.

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2. International Conference on Mild Traumatic Brain Injury

NEW ACCREDITATION

This program meets the accreditation criteria of The College of Family Physicians of Canada and has been accredited by the BC Chapter for up to 21 Mainpro-M1 credits.

Course has been approved for Continuing Professional Development credit by the Law Society of British Columbia.

EARLYBIRD DEADLINE EXTENDED TO JULY 15, 2009

****REGISTER BEFORE THIS DATE TO BE ENTERED INTO A DRAW FOR FREE REGISTRATION!****
***registration fee will be reimbursed at the conference**

TO REGISTER ONLINE [CLICK HERE](#) OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.MTBI2009.ORG

OR TO ACCESS A PRINTABLE PDF REGISTRATION FORM [CLICK HERE](#) AND ONCE COMPLETED PLEASE FAX TO 604-685-0451

MTBI 2009 is now just over 2 months away!

One of the foremost multidisciplinary conferences in this area, with world experts on areas including:

- **MTBI in the Military:** Canadian, American and British Perspectives and Treatment Programmes
- **MTBI and the Law:** workshops and plenary speakers with expertise on litigation in this area
- **Sports and Concussion:** State of the art practice reviews and information
- **Leading edge information** on all aspects of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury including epidemiology, neuroscience models, neuropsychiatric issues, legal issues, rehabilitation and neuropsychology.

Featuring plenary addresses, symposia and special interest sessions, scientific poster presentations and high-quality, accredited educational courses.

Within each area the invited presenters will provide thorough analyses of the relevant issues, present **state-of-the-art practice reviews**, and orient the participants to **controversies and positions**. MTBI will be organized around six core themes including Sports Concussion, Diagnosis and Treatment, Rehabilitation, Combat Injuries, Motor Vehicle Accidents and Litigation.

Speakers to Date:

Dominick Addario, MD - *San Diego, CA, USA*/ **Erin Bigler**, PhD - *Brigham Young University, Salt Lake City, UT, USA* / **Ruben J. Echemendia**, PhD - *President, National Academy of Neuropsychology, State College, PA*/ **Brian Hunt**, MD - *Lions Gate Hospital, North Vancouver, BC*/ **Col. (S) Michael S. Jaffee**, MD - *National Director, Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center, Washington, DC* / **Lt. Col. Rakesh Jettly**, MD, *Canadian Forces Health Services, Ottawa, ON*/ **Thomas Kay**, PhD - *Director of Neuropsychological Services, Carmel Psychological Associate, Carmel, NY*/ **James P. Kelly**, MD - *University of Colorado, Denver, CO*/ **Lt. Col. Alan Mistlin** - *DMRC Headley Court, Surrey, United Kingdom*/ **Gregory O'Shanick**, MD - *President and Medical Director- Center for Neurorehabilitation Service*/ **Paul McCrory**, PhD - *University of Melbourne, Australia*/ **Michel P. Rathbone**, PhD - *McMaster University, Hamilton, ON*/ **Bruce H. Stern** Esq. - *Princeton, NJ*/ **Robert van Reekum**, MD - *University of Toronto and Laval University, Toronto, ON*/ **Raymond Ancill**, MA, MB, FRCPC - *Abbotsford, BC*/ **A.D. Goumeniouk**, MD, FRCPC- *University of British Columbia, Vancouver, BC*/ **Thomas Harding**, Vancouver, BC/ **Stephen G. Holliday**, PhD, Rpsych, Vancouver, BC/ **Stephen Kiraly**, MD, FRCPC - *Vancouver Coastal Health/Private Practice*/ **Kit Malia**- *DMRC Headley Court, Surrey, United Kingdom*/ **Mark Rapoport**, MD, *University of Toronto*

Topics to Date:

Concussion in Sport: Neuropsychological Perspectives/ The Occurrence of Brain Injury in Wartime: Perspectives from the US Military/ The Occurrence of Brain Injury in Wartime: Perspectives from the Royal Army Medical Corps/ The Occurrence of Brain Injury in Wartime: Perspectives from the Canadian Military/ Misunderstandings and Misinterpretations/ Psychiatric Disorders found in MTBI/ MTBI: An Overview of Neuropsychological Issues/ Concussion in Sport: Return to Play/ Neurological Syndromes in MTBI/ MTBI and the Law/ MTBI in the Courtroom: Demonstrative Aids for Complex Evidence/ MTBI in the Courtroom: Differentiating between real facts and "legal" facts/ Strategies for Neuropsychology Assessment/ Biopsychosocial Determinants of Mental Health Outcomes Post-TBI: Treatment Implications/ MTBI and the Elderly/ Persistent Post Concussion Syndrome/ What is so 'mild' about Mild Traumatic Brain Injury/ Neuropharmacology of the Damaged Brain/ Treating Psychiatric Disorders due to Traumatic Brain Injury/ ADHD and TBI

FOR A DETAILED PROGRAM PLEASE [CLICK HERE](#)

FOR POSTER PRESENTATION SCHEDULE PLEASE [CLICK HERE](#)

GENERAL INFORMATION

Dates: August 12 - 15, 2009
Location: Fairmont Hotel Vancouver
900 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, BC, Canada

Who will attend:

800-1,200 delegates from all disciplines, including medical and legal, that work with people dealing with mental health/addiction issues and representatives from programs that provide acute, chronic, rehabilitation and recovery services.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

To view information about registration categories and prices please visit our website at www.mtbi2009.org or click [here](#).

To register online directly on our secure website please click [here](#).

To access a printable PDF registration form please click [here](#) and mail or fax the form to 604-685-0451

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

- Stephen G. Holliday, PhD, RPsych - Chair
- Raymond J. Ancill, MA, MB, FRCPC
- Joe Murphy, Q.C.
- John Higgenbottam, PhD, RPsych

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- Raymond J. Ancill, MA, MB, FRCPC - Chair
- Thomas Harding, BA, LLB
- Stephen G. Holliday, PhD, RPsych
- Paul McCrory, MBBS, PhD, FRACP, FACSP, FFSEM(UK), FASMF, FACSM, FRSM, GradDipEpidStats
- Michel P. Rathbone, MB, ChB, PhD, FRCPC

We look forward to your participation and welcoming you to Vancouver, British Columbia in August!

MTBI 2009: An International Conference on Mild Traumatic Brain Injury
c/o CongressWorld Conferences Inc.
Telephone: 604/685-0450
Email: info@congressworld.ca
Website: www.mtbi2009.org

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3. Risk Assessment Workshops

HCR-20 & START Training

The Forensic Mental Health Teaching Unit / Department of Forensic Mental Health Science at the Institute of Psychiatry, Kings College London, would like to invite you to their forthcoming workshops.

- **Risk Assessment Workshop: Learning to use the Historical/Clinical/Risk Management-20 (HCR-20)**

The aim of this course is to assist practitioners working in civil mental health, forensic mental health and criminal justice settings to acquire skills in the assessment of risk for future violence in mentally disordered offenders.

Speakers: Mr David Hearn, BSc(Hons) RNMH, Miss Amy Batson, BSc (Hons), MSc

Date: September 17 & 18, 2009

Fee: £ 300 (Please note that the fee includes a comprehensive delegate pack and the HCR-20 manual. The Companion Guide is not included)

Venue: Institute of Psychiatry, Denmark Hill, London, SE5 8AF

Further information & booking forms: <http://www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/events/?id=774>

- **Short-Term Assessment of Risk and Treatability (START) Workshop**

This workshop will provide training in the Short-Term Assessment of Risk and Treatability (START: Webster, Martin, Brink, Nicholls, & Middleton), a structured professional clinical guide for the dynamic assessment of seven risk domains (violence, suicide, self-harm, victimization, substance use, unauthorised leave, and self-neglect). The START is intended for use alongside other structured risk assessment devices such as the HCR-20. The START provides a distinct opportunity to involve patient strengths as well as vulnerabilities in the development of risk management plans. The workshop will focus on how START can inform decision-making when used with patients in correctional, civil and forensic mental health settings.

Speakers: Dr Adrian Cree - Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist, Dr Quazi Haque- Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist

Date: November 13, 2009

Fee: £ 300

Venue: Institute of Psychiatry, Denmark Hill, London, SE5 8AF

Poster & Booking Form: <http://www.iop.kcl.ac.uk/events/?id=775>

Contact: Alessandra Scotti: 020 7848 5279
Forensic Mental Health Teaching Unit Coordinator, Department of Forensic Mental Health Science (PO23)
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<http://forensic.iop.kcl.ac.uk/TeachingUnit>
ForensicTeachingUnit@iop.kcl.ac.uk

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4. FPR-UCLA 2010 Conference on Bio-Cultural Contexts of Psychiatric Disorder

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Early: **May 7 - November 13, 2009**
Late: **November 14 - December 11, 2009**

Category I Continuing Medical Education (CME) for licensed Physicians and Psychologists for this event is pending.

Please visit the conference page for the latest information and updates:
<http://www.thefpr.org/conference2010/overview.php>

WHAT: FPR-UCLA 4th Interdisciplinary Conference Cultural and Biological Contexts of Psychiatric Disorder: Implications for Diagnosis and Treatment

WHEN: **Friday-Sunday, January 22-24, 2010**

WHERE: **University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Neuroscience Research Building Auditorium**

SYNOPSIS: Our concept of mental illness in the West is largely shaped by the DSM diagnostic model. The DSM categorization of psychiatric disorders has been useful in driving research, and psychiatric neuroscience has made enormous strides in identifying some of the brain-based factors that contribute to mental disorders such as autism, schizophrenia, and bipolar disorder, as well as suggesting possible drug therapies. However, both neuroscientists and anthropologists have raised questions about the validity and utility of these categories. Neuroscientists are concerned that the categories obfuscate the key brain-behavior linkages underlying pathological processes. Anthropologists on the other hand argue that the categories are largely social constructions and that the current neurobiological zeitgeist minimally attends to social and cultural processes of mental illness. Much still remains unknown, particularly how the social and cultural worlds interact with neurobiological processes to produce mental symptoms that we recognize as depression or psychosis in everyday life and what this interaction implies for diagnosis and treatment.

The aim of this conference is to improve the quality of psychiatric diagnosis and treatment by giving specific attention to biological and cultural contexts and their interactions. Given the abundant criticism directed to both the biological and cultural validity of current DSM diagnostic categories, the focus is particularly important and timely. Revisions are now underway that attempt to incorporate divergent cross-cultural aspects of mental illness, as well

as underlying neurobiological factors common to different disorders. Both areas will be addressed at the conference in presentations and panel discussions.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: The conference is designed to appeal to a wide audience: clinicians, researchers, social workers and therapists, neuroscientists, anthropologists, and others interested in the science, experience, diagnosis, and treatment of mental illness.

CONFIRMED SPEAKERS:

Simon Baron-Cohen <<http://www.psychol.cam.ac.uk/pages/staffweb/baron/>> (Cambridge University)
Anne Becker <<http://ghsm.hms.harvard.edu/people/faculty/becker/>> (Harvard University)
German Berrios <<http://www.neuroscience.cam.ac.uk/directory/profile.php?berrios>> (Cambridge University)
João Biehl <http://www.princeton.edu/anthropology/faculty/joao_biehl/> (Princeton University)
Robert Bilder <<http://psychology.npih.ucla.edu/Bilder/index.html>> (University of California, Los Angeles)
Tyrone Cannon <<http://www.cannonlab.psych.ucla.edu/>> (University of California, Los Angeles)
Byron Good <http://ghsm.hms.harvard.edu/people/faculty/good_byron/> (Harvard University)
Mary-Jo Del Vecchio Good <http://ghsm.hms.harvard.edu/people/faculty/good_maryjo/> (Harvard University)
Roy Richard Grinker <<http://www.gwu.edu/%7Eelliott/faculty/grinker.cfm>> (George Washington University)
Devon Hinton (Harvard University / Massachusetts General Hospital)
Thomas R. Insel (National Institute of Mental Health) <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/about/director/index.shtml>
Kay Redfield Jamison <<http://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/Psychiatry/Faculty/J/Jamison.html>> (Johns Hopkins University)
Eric Kandel <<http://www.hhmi.org/research/investigators/kandel.html>> (Columbia University / Howard Hughes Medical Institute)
J. David Kinzie <<http://www.ohsu.edu/health/meet-our-staff/doctors/doctor.cfm?id=11221>> (Oregon Health & Science University)
Laurence Kirmayer <<http://www.mcgill.ca/tcpsych/faculty/>> (McGill University)
Robert Lemelson <<http://ibs.med.ucla.edu/Bios/LemelsonR.htm>> (University of California, Los Angeles / FPR)
Roberto Lewis Fernández <http://www.cumc.columbia.edu/dept/bec/staff/lewis_fernandez.html> (Columbia University)
Emily Martin <<http://anthropology.as.nyu.edu/object/emilymartin.html>> (New York University)
Emeran Mayer <<http://www.cns.med.ucla.edu/Bios/MayerE.htm>> (University of California, Los Angeles)
Elinor Ochs <<http://www.sscnet.ucla.edu/anthro/faculty/ochs/>> (University of California, Los Angeles)
Mary L. Phillips <http://www.wpic.pitt.edu/research/PhillipsML/> (University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine; Institute of Psychiatry, UK)
Elyn Saks <<http://law.usc.edu/contact/contactinfo.cfm?detailID=300>> (University of Southern California Gould School of Law)
Moshe Szyf <<http://www.medicine.mcgill.ca/pharma/mszyflab/>> (McGill University)

Please visit the conference page for the latest information and updates:

<http://www.thefpr.org/conference2010/overview.php>

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5. Faculty of Medicine Grant Application Information (see attachment)

Effective immediately, researchers will need to complete the **attached form** if they indicate animal work is not going to begin until later on in the project year and partial funding is required for the work that does not include animals. This form will need to be signed off by the PI and approved by the Animal Care Committee prior to release of partial funds. Also attach a copy of signed form to the FAS/Account in the event of ethics audit.

This form will also be posted on ORS website under Electronic Forms.

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6. Canada-China Scientific and Technological Cooperation and International Science & Technology Partnerships Canada

Call for Proposal for R&D Collaboration with China

This call is open to all projects that include science and technology (S&T) development leading to commercial success and benefit to both countries.

Expressions of Intent: **July 17, 2009** (Email cfp_china@istpcanada.ca prior to July 17th to get an application reference number)

Full Proposals: **September 15, 2009**

For Call for Proposals, Applications Guidelines & Forms:

<http://www.istpcanada.ca/ProductsServices/ChinaProgram/ChinaRDCollaboration/index.html>

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7. CIHR Funding Opportunities

The following is a funding opportunity which CIHR and its partners posted on the CIHR website between June 1 and June 18, 2009.

- Operating Grant: Alternative Radiopharmaceuticals for Medical Imaging

To view this opportunity, please use the CIHR Funding Opportunity Database at

<http://www.researchnet-recherchenet.ca/rnr16/search.do?fodAgency=CIHR&fodLanguage=E&all=1&search=true&org=CIHR&sort=program&masterList=true&view=currentOpps>

Please direct specific inquiries on the funding opportunity to the contact person listed at the bottom of the funding opportunity.

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8. MSFHR Strategic Framework

As part of the strategic planning process, the MSFHR is seeking feedback from the health sector, health research community, government and other stakeholders on a proposed new strategic direction.

MSFHR has prepared a discussion paper that will be the basis of the new MSFHR strategic plan.

- Download the draft strategic framework on the [MSFHR Strategic Plan website](#).
- Provide feedback on the framework by filling out a [brief online survey](#).

The online consultation will be open until the **end of June 2009**. The Board of Directors will be presented with a revised document for their consideration in July 2009.

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9. The Fondation Leducq

The Fondation Leducq, a French non-profit organization dedicated to promoting international research in cardiovascular and neurovascular disease, is issuing a call for applications for its 2009-2010 Transatlantic Networks of Excellence in Cardiovascular Research Program.

Deadline for expressions of interest: **September 18, 2009, day's end, Paris time**

Attached is the most recent newsletter, which provides more information about the foundation and about the four networks funded in the last application cycle.

Information about applying to the Transatlantic Networks Program is available on the Fondation Leducq website (<http://www.flcq.org/>).

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10. The Heart and Stroke Foundation Grants Opportunity

The **deadline** for Grant-in-Aid and Personnel Awards (Senior Award: New Investigator and Junior Award: Research Scholarship) is **September 1, 2009**.

For guidelines and application form, visit <http://www.hsf.ca/research>.

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11. UBC Graduate Student International Research Mobility Award

The Office of the Vice President Research invites applications from UBC graduate students who wish to participate in a research abroad opportunity at a leading institution outside North America, and from UBC faculty who desire to host an overseas graduate research student at UBC.

Deadline: June 26, 2009

Please visit the UBC VP Research website for award information and application forms:

<http://www.research.ubc.ca/international.aspx>

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REQUEST FOR FUNDING RELEASE PRIOR TO ANIMAL ETHICS REVIEW

Principal Investigator (PI): _____

Department / Faculty : _____

FAS or Account #: _____

ORS/UILO Awards Officer: _____

Funding Agency: _____

Project title: _____

Amount of award to be released: _____

Period during which no animals will be used in this research: From: _____ To: _____

Please provide a detailed description of the work to be done that does not include animals:

By signing below, I guarantee that no research involving animals will occur during the time period specified above, and that I will submit an animal care application and receive approval prior to engaging in any research activities involving animals.

PI Signature: _____

Date : _____

Name of PI: _____

This section is for administrative purposes only

Agreement of the Animal Care Committee:

Signature: _____

Date : _____

**Please submit this completed form to Animal Care Office, c/o Office of Research Services, #102-6190 Agronomy Road*

FONDATION LEDUCQ NEWSLETTER

Improving health through international cardiovascular research



Spring 2009

Sylviane Leducq Named to the French Legion of Honor 3

The foundation's benefactor was recognized for her generosity and leadership

Departing Scientific Advisory Committee Members 4

Pr. Pierre Corvol concludes his Presidency, and Prs. Günter Breithardt and Robert Frye complete ten years of service

Network Focus 5

A simple, safe and inexpensive intervention appears to reduce heart attack damage

Transatlantic Network Research Symposium 7

The foundation held its second symposium on April 2nd

New Transatlantic Networks Selected

In April, the Fondation Leducq Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) selected four new Transatlantic Networks of Excellence for funding. Representing the domains of heart failure, vascular biology, cardiac arrhythmia, and congenital heart disease, these networks were chosen for the quality of the research plan, the strength of the international collaboration, and the commitment to the advancement of young investigators. The four networks selected for 2009 are:

Redox and nitrosative regulation of cardiac remodeling: novel therapeutic approaches for heart failure

*David Kass (Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore) and
Ajay Shah (King's College, London)*

Reactive oxygen and nitrogen species are natural byproducts of normal cellular metabolism. Having unpaired electrons, these molecules tend to capture electrons from proteins, lipids, sugars and DNA to form a more stable electron pair, thus damaging the cell. Normally, reactive oxygen and nitrogen species are neutralized by antioxidant enzymes in a reaction called **reduction**. However,

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SAC members consider applications to the Transatlantic Networks of Excellence program (left to right): Robert Frye, Anna Dominiczak, Philippe Amouyel, Richard Weisel, Michel Lazdunski and David Ginsburg.



New Transatlantic Networks

Continued from page 1

if the reactive species are present in excessive amounts, they become toxic to the cell, causing **oxidative/nitrosative stress**. Drs. Kass and Shah will coordinate a network of eleven members in France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States to investigate oxidative/nitrosative stress in patients with heart failure. The network will identify the sources and regulators of reactive oxygen and nitrogen species, elucidate how they cause cardiac dysfunction, and apply the discoveries to design new heart failure treatments. The network members will collaborate using various assays of oxidative/nitrosative stress, small and large animal models

of heart failure, and human cardiac tissue samples.

Leducq Transatlantic Network on therapeutic arteriogenesis and metabolism modulation

Michael Simons (Yale University, New Haven) and Peter Carmeliet (University of Leuven)

The narrowing of blood vessels by **atherosclerosis** results in a mismatch between the blood supply and the metabolic demands of the tissue supplied by the diseased vessels. With progressive restriction of blood flow, the affected tissue becomes weaker and less able to function (**ischemia**). Potential strategies to preserve tissue function include generation of new blood vessels and manipulation of the tissue's metabolic demand and its tolerance of low oxygen

levels (**hypoxia**). Drs. Simons and Carmeliet will coordinate a network of four members in Belgium, France, and the United States. The network will study four fundamental aspects of **arteriogenesis**, the formation of new arterial vessels: guidance, development, maturation and maintenance. In parallel, the investigators will determine the pathways regulating tissue tolerance of hypoxia. This network unites experts in cardiac, skeletal muscle, brain and retina models of ischemia, as well as in gene therapy, to take an original approach toward ischemic disease. Ultimately, the insight gained will be applied toward the development of novel therapies for patients with atherosclerosis.

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SAC members (left to right): Günter Breithardt, Costantino Iadecola, Marie-Germaine Bousser, Joseph Loscalzo, Valentin Fuster, Pierre Corvol, and Ludwig Karl von Segesser.

Founder Sylviane Leducq Named to the French Legion of Honor

Sylviane Leducq has been named Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor in recognition of her generosity and her leadership of the Fondation Leducq, which she established with her husband, Jean, in 1996. The award ceremony took place on March 24, 2009 at the Hôtel de Crillon in Paris and was attended by nearly two hundred guests.



Pr. Yves Pouliquen awards Madame Sylviane Leducq the Legion of Honor

Photo courtesy of Alain Chauvaud

The Legion of Honor medal was presented to Madame Leducq by Professor Yves Pouliquen, chief of ophthalmology at the Hôtel-Dieu Hospital in Paris. An accomplished writer, Pr. Pouliquen is also a member of the Académie Française. Pr. Pouliquen described how Madame Leducq carried on the mission of the Foundation following Jean's death in 2002. Jean himself was named Commandeur of the Legion of Honor in 1998 for his contributions to French industry and education.

The Order of the Legion of Honor was established by Napoleon Bonaparte in 1802. It is the first modern order in the world based on merit and is conferred upon illustrious individuals of distinguished achievement. The highest decoration bestowed in France, the order is divided into five grades: Chevalier (Knight), Officier (Officer), Commandeur (Commander), Grand Officier (Grand Officer), and Grand Croix (Grand Cross). French citizens

are always received initially into the Chevalier class. Recipients are appointed by the President of France on the advice of the government.

Having awarded more than \$170 million in grants since its inception, the Fondation Leducq is one of the most important private foundations dedicated to cardiovascular and neurovascular research in France and worldwide. The foundation is unique in specifically encouraging close collaboration between investigators in Europe and North America.

A Salute to Departing Scientific Advisory Committee Members



Madame Sylviane Leducq with Prs. Breithardt, Frye and Corvol

The April Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting marked the conclusion of ten years of service of **Günter Breithardt** and **Robert Frye**, and of the Presidency of **Pierre Corvol**.

Professor Breithardt is head of the Department of Cardiology and Angiology at the University of Munster. He is also head of Molecular Cardiology at the Leibniz Institute for Arteriosclerosis Research. He is a former President of the European Society of Cardiology and the German Cardiac Society. Pr. Breithardt has been at the forefront of clinical electrophysiology since the 1970s, being a leading investigator of the sinus node, a group of pacemaker cells responsible for generating the cardiac rhythm. He was also a

pioneer in applying radiofrequency energy to destroy abnormal tissues that cause cardiac arrhythmias.

Professor Frye is a cardiologist and a former Chair of Internal Medicine at the Mayo Clinic. He is also a former President of the American College of Cardiology. Pr. Frye has led several important clinical research studies, such as the BARI trial, which found that diabetic patients with atherosclerosis have improved survival if treated with coronary bypass surgery instead of angioplasty.

Professor Corvol is a former head of the Hypertension Units at Hôpital Broussais and Hôpital Européen-George Pompidou in Paris. A director of a research unit of INSERM, the French medical research institute, Pr. Corvol is also a former President

of its Scientific Council. He is currently director of the Collège de France, where he is also a Professor of Experimental Medicine. Pr. Corvol's research team is internationally known for its elucidation of the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone (RAA) system, an axis of hormones that regulates blood pressure and water and salt balance. The team purified human renin in 1979 and human angiotensinogen in 1985, and cloned the gene for human angiotensin-I converting enzyme in 1988. Understanding of the RAA system has led to the development of medications widely used today in the treatment of hypertension, diabetes, heart failure, and kidney failure.

Succeeding Pr. Corvol as SAC President is **Costantino Iadecola**, Professor of Neurology and Neuroscience and Chief of Neurobiology at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University. Serving as Vice-President is **Professor Anna Dominiczak**, the British Heart Foundation (BHF) Chair of Cardiovascular Medicine at the University of Glasgow and head of the BHF Glasgow Cardiovascular Research Center.

NETWORK FOCUS

*Latest clinical results from the Transatlantic Network to **Define the Mechanisms, Mediators and Clinical Applications of Remote Ischemic Preconditioning***

Ischemia occurs when blood flow is insufficient to meet a tissue's metabolic demands. **Reperfusion** results when the tissue's blood supply is re-established after a period of ischemia.

Brief, controlled periods of ischemia in the heart confer resistance to subsequent, sustained ischemia, a phenomenon called **ischemic preconditioning (IPC)**. The heart is also protected from ischemic injury after transient ischemia of other organs, such as the intestines, kidneys, and skeletal muscle. This protective effect, occurring in a tissue distinct from the one subjected to the transient ischemia, is called **remote IPC (rIPC)**. The substance(s)

responsible for rIPC have not been identified, but is/are likely released into the bloodstream, since blood from one animal that has undergone rIPC protects the heart of a second animal into which the blood has been transfused.

In addition to investigating the mechanisms underlying rIPC, the transatlantic network coordinated by **Drs. Andrew Redington and Torsten Toftegaard Nielsen** explores potential clinical applications of this interesting phenomenon. While rIPC could be easily performed in anticipation of "planned" ischemia, such as cardiac surgery or organ harvest for transplantation, it is much more challenging to perform rIPC for unexpected ischemic events, like heart attacks.

Network investigators wondered whether ischemic conditioning *during* a heart attack, or **remote ischemic per-conditioning (rIPerC)** could be protective. Based on favorable results in an experimental pig model, they conducted a

randomized clinical trial, the results of which were recently presented by **Dr. Hans Bøtker** at the 2009 Scientific Sessions of the American College of Cardiology. In this trial, 213 patients with heart attacks received either standard treatment including angioplasty, or rIPerC before angioplasty. In the latter cases, a blood-pressure cuff was placed around one of the patient's arms and inflated to 200 mm Hg for five minutes followed by five minutes of deflation. This conditioning process was performed a total of four times before angioplasty. Patients treated with rIPerC were found to have smaller heart attack scars and a more salvaged heart tissue compared to those who were not.

These encouraging results suggest that rIPerC could be a simple, safe, and inexpensive, complement to conventional treatment. A larger trial to further define its benefits is now being planned.

New Transatlantic Networks

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Structural alterations in the myocardium and the substrate for cardiac fibrillation

José Jalife (University of Michigan, Ann Arbor) and Stéphane Hatem (Université Pierre et Marie Curie, Paris)

Fibrillation is an abnormal cardiac rhythm that leads to rapid, irregular, unsynchronized contractions of the heart. Fibrillation of the atria (AF) is a major cause of stroke, whereas fibrillation of the ventricles (VT/VF) is a major cause of sudden death. AF and VT/VF typically occur in hearts that have undergone **remodeling**, changes in the physical structure in response to injury. Drs. Jalife and Hatem will coordinate a team of seventeen members in the United States, France and Switzerland to examine how remodeling disrupts the heart's electrical organization to cause fibrillation. For example, the network will investigate how **fibroblasts**, cells that produce scar tissue, influence the electrical activity of nearby muscle cells. The network will also study how the heart's

physical and electrical organization affects its response to **radiofrequency ablation** treatment, in which the abnormal electrical pathways causing fibrillation are destroyed. By combining expertise in molecular and cellular biology, electrophysiology, and imaging, this network will develop an integrative approach to the evaluation and treatment of AF and VT/VF.

Multi-scale modeling of single ventricle hearts for clinical decision support

Tain-Yen Hsia (Medical University of South Carolina) and Philipp Bonhoeffer (Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London)

Hypoplastic left heart syndrome (HLHS) is a congenital heart condition in which the left side of the heart is severely underdeveloped. Children born with HLHS typically undergo three stages of corrective surgery during the first few years of life to enable the heart to function with only two chambers, instead of the usual four. Additional interventions later in life are often required. As is the case for most complex congenital heart conditions, choosing the appropriate treatment for HLHS is challenging because

the severity of the anatomic abnormalities, as well as the circulatory changes that develop over time, are unique to each patient. A computer model that could allow physicians to simulate operations and observe their effects, using parameters specific to the patient in question, would thus be invaluable in guiding clinical decisions. Drs. Hsia and Bonhoeffer will coordinate a network of fourteen members from the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and Italy to create such a virtual model. The network will acquire clinical data from HLHS patients using echocardiography, CT, MRI, and cardiac catheterization. Computer models will be constructed on the local (cardiopulmonary circulation) as well as the global (incorporating the entire body) scale. The network will then clinically validate the model and develop software for widespread use. While it would be difficult for a single institution to bring together expertise in pediatric cardiology, surgery, imaging, engineering and computer science, formation of a transatlantic network leverages the combined strengths of the different investigators and institutions for such an ambitious multidisciplinary project.

Fondation Leducq Symposium Highlights Research in Heart Failure



On April 2nd, Fondation Leducq held its second research symposium, titled "Promising Avenues of Research in Heart Failure."

The symposium was held at the Collège de France, whose Director, Pierre Corvol, is the outgoing President of the



foundation's Scientific Advisory Committee. The Collège de France was founded in 1530. True to its motto, *docet omnia* ("to teach everything"), the Collège remains an institution of excellence in both teaching and research.

The presentations were given by the coordinators of seven Transatlantic Networks on topics ranging from molecular pathways, genetics and stem cell biology to clinical studies in heart failure and congenital heart disease. Dr. Valentin Fuster concluded the session with a call to remember the worldwide impact of heart disease, placing special emphasis on the importance of early childhood adoption of heart-healthy habits.



About Fondation Leducq

Fondation Leducq was created by Jean and Sylviane Leducq in 1996. Having had significant business interests and personal connections in both Europe and the United States, the Leducqs oriented the foundation towards collaborative medical research, believing that the battle against cardiovascular and neurovascular disease should be waged at the international level.

By forging scientific alliances that transcend national borders, and promoting the education of

young researchers who thrive in an international context, Fondation Leducq hopes to encourage innovative research, an efficient use of resources, and the development of long-term collaborations that will continue to meet the challenges of cardiovascular and neurovascular disease.

Fondation Leducq awarded its first research grants in 1999. To place greater emphasis on international collaboration, the Transatlantic Networks of Excellence program was initiated in 2003.

To date, the Network program has funded 19 grants to 117 core and 106 associated members from 16 countries: Austria, Belgium, Canada, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Mexico, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

For more information about Fondation Leducq, please visit our website at www.flcq.org or contact our Scientific Director, Dr. David Tancredi, at contact@flcq.org.



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