

UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA HEART INSTITUTE RECEIVES MAJOR DONATION FROM SERVIER CANADA TO SUPPORT WORLD-CLASS RESEARCH & LEARNING

OTTAWA, Ontario – May 18, 2005 – Researchers, cardiac surgeons, cardiologists, nurses, students and staff at the University of Ottawa Heart Institute will be able to tap into international expertise about heart failure - a condition affecting 400,000 Canadians. A \$300,000 donation from Servier Canada, announced and initiated this morning at the Heart Institute, will create a permanent lectureship programme addressing the debilitating condition and fund innovative research.

Servier Canada, a leading independent pharmaceutical company with a strong history of innovation in the treatment of heart disease, has partnered with the Heart Institute to advance knowledge and treatment for heart failure patients – both in Ottawa and world-wide.

“The partnership with Servier has great promise and we are grateful for their investment. Our aim is to dramatically enhance the research culture at the Heart Institute by hosting and interacting with the world’s most renowned scientists and researchers – this will move us all closer to the eradication of heart disease which many experts believe is possible this century,” said William Colby, Chairman of the University of Ottawa Heart Institute Foundation. “Without the financial support from Servier Canada it would not have been possible to develop such a strong programme,” added Mr. Colby.

Dr. Lynne Stevenson, widely regarded as one of the foremost world experts in the field of heart function, heart failure and transplantation, delivered the inaugural lecture at the Heart Institute this morning. Dr. Stevenson is a Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and a physician at Brigham and Women’s Hospital in Boston, MA. Her lecture focused on the value and cost of current therapies for heart failure.

The generous donation from Servier will also support research led by Dr. Haissam Haddad, Director, Heart Function & Transplantation Program Clinics at the Heart Institute. Since joining the Heart Institute Dr. Haddad has built an extensive Heart Function research program.

Funds donated by Servier will be invested in studies involving heart failure patients including the measurement of biomarkers in an ongoing study on continuous positive airway pressure (CPAP) effects on sleep apnea patients with heart failure.

“Our partnership with the Heart Institute is one that we value greatly. As a company, we are committed to supporting innovation in the field of heart disease. Each year, the Servier Research Group invests close to 25 per cent of its revenues into research. An initiative such as this lectureship program will bring important new expertise and insight to the Heart Institute, and we hope that through this, we can help improve the outcome for heart disease patients in the long term,” said Michael Sumpter, Chief Executive Officer, Servier Canada.

About the University of Ottawa Heart Institute

The University of Ottawa Heart Institute (www.ottawaheart.ca) is a leader in the fight against heart disease and Canada's only complete cardiac centre, encompassing prevention, diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, research and education.

About Servier Canada

Servier Canada Inc. (www.servier.com) is a pharmaceutical company located in Laval, Quebec, and Mississauga, Ontario that focuses on the development of therapies to treat cardiovascular, metabolic and central nervous system diseases. It is the Canadian subsidiary of the Servier Research Group, the leading French-based independent pharmaceutical company, which is present in 140 countries around the world.

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