



HEART &  
STROKE  
FOUNDATION  
OF MANITOBA

*Finding answers. For life.*

**May 19, 2010**

**Media Release**  
For Immediate Release

## **The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba to fund \$1 million in annual research grants**

The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba (HSFM) is committing over \$1 million toward heart disease and stroke research this year, with 90 per cent of it remaining in Manitoba.

“From the development of the pacemaker to clot-busting drugs that reverse the effects of stroke, HSFM is investing in research that saves lives,” says Debbie Brown, President and CEO for HSFM.

In early June, HSFM will present a cheque for \$680,000 to support 15 University of Manitoba (U of M) researchers focused on cutting-edge heart disease and stroke research.

An additional 20 per cent of HSFM’s research budget is funding primary prevention initiatives in the province, for a total \$850,000 supporting research in Manitoba. HSFM also supports researchers at Red River College and Summer Research Studentships in medicine at the U of M.

As a partner in a national federation, HSFM contributes funds to the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada (HSFC) Federation Research Fund and the Personnel Awards, bringing annual research contributions to over \$1 million.

“Our vision is to lead Manitobans to a future free of heart disease and stroke, and we are proud to say that Manitoba’s researchers are ranked among the highest in Canada,” says Brown.

On May 20, 2010, HSFM will be holding its annual research reception, where two outstanding researchers will be presented with awards.

HSFM funded researcher Dr. Lorrie Kirshenbaum, will receive the \$10,000 R.E. Beamish Memorial Award, for receiving the highest provincial rating for this year. Also, Dr. Nader Elmayergi, a cardiology resident at the U of M, will be presented with the \$10,000 sanofi-aventis / Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba Award in Cardiology, an award established to stimulate and support excellence in research and scholarly activity in the discipline of Cardiology.

**Media are invited to attend the award presentations, taking place at 6 p.m., at the Heart and Stroke Building, 6 Donald Street.** Debbie Brown and various researchers and board members will be available for interviews following the formal presentation.

Since 1957, HSFM has provided over \$50 million to local research, and in that time the number of people dying prematurely of heart disease and stroke has been reduced by 70 per cent.

**Attached, please find summaries on the 15 chosen U of M researchers and their research, as well as profiles on the R.E. Beamish and sanofi-aventis award winners.**

To learn more about HSFM's research grant recipients and their current projects, please visit [heartandstroke.mb.ca](http://heartandstroke.mb.ca)

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For more information please contact:

Tammy Witko, Communications Manager

Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba

Phone: (204) 949.2023 / Toll-free: 1.888.473.4636 / Cell: (204) 799-7337

*The Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba, a volunteer-based health charity, leads in eliminating heart disease and stroke and reducing their impact through the advancement of research and its application, the promotion of healthy living and advocacy.*