



Media release

Landmark research investment from Danone Largest private research investment for St. Joseph's Health Care Foundation

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For immediate release

London, Ontario – Health research has received a \$7 million boost thanks to Danone. The support will establish a new research chair in Human Microbiology and Probiotics at Lawson Health Research Institute – the research arm of St. Joseph's Health Care, London. World renowned researcher in probiotics, Dr. Gregor Reid, has been appointed to the position as inaugural chair. Bernard Hours, co-chief operating officer of Danone made the announcement formally as part of the St. Joseph's Health Care Foundation's Signature Speaker Series event, held May 22, 2009.

“At Danone, we believe that economic and social progress go hand in hand. We strive to help people grow, live better and get more out of life by providing them with better food, a wider variety of flavours and more healthful pleasures,” says Bernard Hours, co-COO, Danone. “This investment will support groundbreaking research to help people around the world achieve health and a greater quality of life.”



(Left to Right: Bernard Hours, Gregor Reid, Archbishop Desmond Tutu)

Hours was joined by other Danone representatives from France, New York and Montreal to make the landmark announcement at the event, which featured Nobel Laureate and world figure, Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

“This investment is a tribute to the care and research at St. Joseph's and Lawson, which continues to break new ground and have a global impact,” says Cliff Nordal, president & CEO, St. Joseph's Health Care, London. “We

are grateful to Danone for their commitment to excellence.”

As the inaugural chair, Dr. Reid will retain his academic independence as a scientist, but will also have the opportunity to lead a team of researchers to develop and test various probiotic and prebiotic-based formulations designed to enhance the health of people around the world. The group will collaborate with Canadian, North American and international researchers including industry personnel, and undertake translational clinical studies.

“This support provides Danone, St. Joseph’s and Lawson Health Research Institute with an opportunity to make a substantial impact on the lives of people from all walks of life,” says Reid. “This research contribution provides us with a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate the important link between microbes, food and health.”

For close to a century, Danone Group, and its founding companies have been dedicated to bringing health through food to as many people as possible. This mission is backed by new discovery through science and research, and a strong social commitment to people around the globe.

“The creation of this chair allows Danone to develop projects for people in emerging countries while building up expertise in research into probiotics that will serve the health of everyone, everywhere. This is a marvelous human and scientific journey that lies at the very heart of Danone’s corporate mission. And we are proud to make a contribution.” says Sven Thormahlen, executive vice president, Danone Research.

“This is the largest private investment in research ever received by St. Joseph’s,” says Michelle Campbell, president & CEO of the foundation, and vice president, fund development for St. Joseph’s Health Care, London. “Danone has made history at St. Joseph’s and in London, Ontario, and empowered our team to have significant global impact.”

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St. Joseph’s Health Care Foundation

St. Joseph’s Health Care Foundation gathers, grows and grants philanthropic funds that enable St. Joseph’s Health Care, London to pursue excellence in care, teaching and

research. Through donor support, the foundation contributes to advances in the delivery of patient care, specialized equipment, research initiatives and capital funds for hospital building projects at St. Joseph's Hospital, Parkwood Hospital, Mount Hope Centre for Long Term Care, Regional Mental Health Care London and St. Thomas and the Lawson Health Research Institute. One of the largest charitable organizations in Southwestern Ontario, St. Joseph's Health Care Foundation is accredited as an adherent to Imagine Canada's Ethical Fundraising & Financial Accountability Code.

St. Joseph's Health Care, London

St. Joseph's is one of Canada's leading multi-specialty academic health care centres with expertise in five main areas – acute/ambulatory care, specialized geriatrics, rehabilitation, specialized mental health care, complex and veterans care, and long term care. The St. Joseph's family of facilities and services encompasses: St. Joseph's Hospital, Parkwood Hospital, Mount Hope Centre for Long Term Care, Regional Mental Health Care London and St. Thomas, and Lawson Health Research Institute.

Lawson Health Research Institute

As the research institute of London Health Sciences Centre and St. Joseph's Health Care, London, and working in partnership with The University of Western Ontario, Lawson Health Research Institute is committed to furthering scientific knowledge to advance health care around the world.