



MEDIA RELEASE

INAUGURAL GRANTS OF THE CANADIAN FOUNDATION ON FETAL ALCOHOL RESEARCH AWARDED

Montreal, September 9, 2008 – The first annual round of grants awarded for research, prevention and treatment of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) was today announced by Dr. Louise Nadeau, Professor at the Université de Montréal and Scientific Director of the Centre Dollard-Cormier, University Institute on Dependencies on behalf of the Canadian Foundation on Fetal Alcohol Research (CFFAR).

The announcement was made at the 9th Annual Fetal Alcohol Canadian Expertise (FACE) Research Roundtable on the occasion of International FASD day.

Created in September 2007 through a 5-year \$1 Million commitment by the Brewers Association of Canada (BAC), the CFFAR is an independent, non-profit foundation created to promote interest and fund research related to the short and long-term bio-medical, psychological and social effects of alcohol consumption during pregnancy, and the prevention of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.

The inaugural research grants were selected after a peer-review of applications. The 2008 grant recipients are:

- Dr. Joanne Weinberg & Dr. L. Galea, University of British Columbia, for the research project titled "Vulnerability to addiction: Effect of prenatal alcohol exposure and stress"
- Dr. Joanne Rovet, University of Toronto, Hospital for Sick Children. Her research project is titled "Mapping memory function in FASD".
- Dr. Joey Gareri, PhD Candidate, Janine Hutson, MD & PhD candidate, University of Toronto. Their work is titled "The Association between fatty acid ethyl esters in meconium and the diagnosis of FAEE in an at-risk Canadian population".

"We are thrilled to support talented and innovative researchers such as Dr. Weinberg, Dr. Galea, Dr. Rovet, Dr. Gareri, and Dr. Hutson. These grants will allow them to continue their work and further advance our knowledge of the bio-medical, psychological and social aspects of alcohol consumption during pregnancy. Their work will result in the development of improved tools and strategies for healthcare professionals, and improved medical and psychosocial assistance for individuals living with FASD and their families," said Dr. Nadeau, Chair of the Board of Directors of CFFAR.

Ian Faris, President and CEO of the Brewers of Canada added: “Last year, the brewing industry made a significant commitment to fund quality research concerning the effects of alcohol on pregnant woman and the development of the unborn child. Today, we have reason to be hopeful that our contribution will make an important difference in the lives of families living with FASD in Canada.”

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For more information contact Andre Fortin at 613-232-9092 or visit the CFFAR website www.fasdfoundation.ca.