

**Cole Foundation commits an additional \$750,000 to support research into the fight against pediatric and young adult leukemia & lymphoma**

**Montreal, May 5, 2017**

This year, in continuing the tradition of past years, the Cole Foundation will be offering sixteen new fellowship grants for a total funding value of \$750,000 to be disbursed over the course of the next two years towards research into the fight against pediatric and young adult leukemia and lymphoma.

Since the inception of these grants eleven years ago and including this year, the Cole Foundation will have contributed close to \$11 million to more than 165 researchers in laboratories and hospitals situated in the Greater Montreal area through collaborations with l'Université de Montréal; McGill University; and INRS - Institut Armand-Frappier Research Centre.

"The Cole Foundation is committed to helping to develop the next generation of researchers, said Barry Cole, President of the foundation. The objective of our efforts to support the medical faculties at the Université de Montréal and McGill University, as well as the Institut national de recherche scientifique (INRS) - Institut Armand-Frappier is to create a "Centre of Expertise" in Montreal for research into the fight against pediatric and young adult leukemia and lymphoma."

"Thanks to the Cole Foundation's involvement, we have succeeded in pooling the strengths of the city's universities in research in pediatric and young-adult hematology and oncology and, by so doing, have made Montreal a true centre of excellence of research into leukemia and blood cancers. Through their efforts, the Foundation contributes to this success of which we can all be very proud," said Dr. Hélène Boisjoly, dean of the Faculty of Medicine of Université de Montréal.

"The continued support of the Cole Foundation to McGill and Québec's other leading institutions enables our early-career scientists to be at the forefront of pediatric leukemia research," said Dr. David Eidelman, Vice-Principal (Health Affairs) and Dean of Medicine at McGill University. "This is a wonderful example of how philanthropic collaboration fosters discovery for the benefit of the communities we serve."

In connection with the new round of grants, the Cole Foundation is organizing a day of discussions on the state of research in the field of pediatric cancer, to be held on May 5 this year at the Université de Montréal. The day-long event will include a special presentation by Dr Greg Armstrong MD, MSCE from the St. Jude

Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. His talk is entitled "***The Lifetime Impact of Cancer and Cancer Therapy***". All of the members of the Montreal medical research community will be invited.

### **About the Cole Foundation**

The Cole Foundation offers two-year fellowships to clinical, doctoral and postdoctoral graduate scientists dedicated to research in leukemia and leukemia-related diseases in children and young adults. Through its fellowships, the Cole Foundation has committed more than \$10 million to support leukemia researchers in Greater Montreal laboratories and hospitals. The Cole Foundation was created in 1980 by the late businessman John N. (Jack) Cole to support Montreal-based research in pediatric oncology and hematology. He established the Penny Cole Laboratory at the Montreal Children's Hospital and the Jack Cole Chair in Pediatric Oncology and Hematology at McGill University.

### **Cole Foundation Research Fellowships (2017-2019)**

#### **Université de Montréal**

##### **Elodie Da Costa, PhD program**

**Project title:** Targeting histone acetylation and oncogenes in pediatric leukemia

##### **Erlinda Fernández Díaz, PhD program**

**Project title:** Telomere defects induced by IDH1/2 mutations associated to acute myeloid leukemia

##### **Ema Flores-Díaz, PhD program**

**Project title:** Targeting key vulnerabilities of pre-Leukemic Stem Cells in T-cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

##### **Ryan Killoran, Post PhD program**

**Project title:** Characterization of Dimer-Activated MLL in Acute Leukemia

##### **Shirin Lak, PhD program**

**Project title:** Enhancing antigen specific T cell function through co-signaling modulation

##### **Mathieu Neault, Post PhD program**

**Project title:** A Genome-Wide CRISPR/cas9 Screen for the Identification of Novel Therapeutic Targets in Acute Megakaryoblastic Leukemia

##### **Linnéa Olofsson, Post PhD program**

**Project title:** Understanding and exploiting Fbw7 genetic insufficiency in leukemia and lymphoma

**Guillaume Richard-Carpentier, Clinician program**

**Project title:** Identification and Validation of New Prognostic Markers to Improve Risk Stratification in Intermediate Risk Acute Myeloid Leukemia

**Laura Simon, PhD program**

**Project title:** Chemogenomics of RUNX1-mutated Acute Myeloid Leukemia

**Damehan Tchelougou, PhD program**

**Project title:** ASXL family of transcription co-factors in Childhood leukemia

**Elisa Tomellini, Post PhD program**

**Project title:** Expansion of human hematopoietic stem cells: improving and understanding self-renewal from the bench to the optimal cord graft

**McGill University**

**Alexandre Benoit, PhD program**

**Project title:** The Role of mutated Ras-associating proteins and STAT6 in R-CHOP resistant DLBCL

**Meaghan Boileau, PhD program**

**Project title:** Identification of bioactive molecules that target acute myeloid leukemia stem cells

**Martin Karam, PhD program**

**Project title:** Deciphering the role of the zing finger protein POGZ during hematopoiesis and pediatric Acute Myeloid Leukemia

**Mingyi Vincent Luo, PhD program**

**Project title:** Deciphering the role of deubiquitinases in B-cells and Diffuse Large B-cell lymphoma

**Abba Malina, Post PhD program**

**Project title:** Determining clinically relevant genetic mutations that elicit resistance to chemotherapy in Burkitts lymphoma using CRISPR/Cas9

**Jutta Steinberger, Post PhD program**

**Project title:** Targeting MYC expression in lymphoma and leukemia

**Websites:**

Faculté de médecine de l'Université de Montréal: [www.med.umontreal.ca](http://www.med.umontreal.ca)

McGill Faculty of Medicine: <http://www.mcgill.ca/medicine/>

INRS–Institut Armand-Frappier: [www.iaf.inrs.ca](http://www.iaf.inrs.ca)

Cole Foundation: [www.colefoundation.ca](http://www.colefoundation.ca)

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