



**Press Release  
For Immediate Publication**

**Scientific Research at the Douglas:  
Canadian Institutes of Health Research Invest  
\$6.3 Million**

**Montréal, July 24, 2007** – The excellence and innovation of researchers at the Douglas Mental Health University Institute have born fruit yet again: Twelve grant applications from the Douglas have been accepted by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). The results from the most recent competition amount to just over \$6.3 million in operating and seed grants for Douglas researchers.

“On average, the success rate for grant applications across Canada is 25%; in the case of our researchers, the success rate is more than 60%! We are very proud of this exceptional result, which testifies to the extremely high quality of scientific research at the Douglas,” stated Rémi Quirion, OC, PhD, FRSC, CQ, MS, Scientific Director of the Douglas Research Centre and Scientific Director of the Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction (INMHA).

**CIHR Operating Grant Program and the Douglas**

Operating grants fund health research projects led by experienced researchers. These grants cover direct research costs, such as salaries, research materials and equipment, supplies and any travelling required to carry out studies.

The grants awarded by the CIHR will further the research activities of Jorge Armony; Alain Brunet, PhD; Nicolas Cermakian, PhD; Marie-Josée Fleury, PhD; Ridha Joober, MD, PhD; Michael Meaney, PhD, CQ; Jens Pruessner, PhD; Norbert Schmitz, PhD; Gustavo Turecki, MD, PhD; and Claire-Dominique Walker, PhD in their respective fields of study.

The study topics vary from research on propranolol to reduce traumatic memories to the effects of perinatal high fat feeding on stress circuitry, as well as research on ADHD, the genetic expression of reproductive development, depression and diabetes, environmental stressors and major depression. (See the detailed list below).

**Seed Grant Program:  
Gender, Globalization, and Health and the Douglas**

The goal of this program is to fund high-quality research that studies the effect of globalization on the health of women, men and children in order to develop programs and policies that reduce health disparities worldwide.

Duncan Pedersen, MD, MPH, Associate Scientific Director of International Programs at the Douglas and Scientific Director of the Montreal World Health Organization for Research and Training in Mental Health, will examine the effects of globalization on women and prostitution by studying women's survival and resistance strategies.

The CIHR confirmed the recipients of all 498 grants at the end of June. Together, these grants represent a \$240 million investment in Canada.

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**About the Douglas - [www.douglas.qc.ca](http://www.douglas.qc.ca)**

The Douglas is a world-class institute, affiliated with McGill University, which treats people suffering from mental illness and offers them hope and cure. Its teams of specialists and researchers continually advance scientific knowledge, integrate it into patient care, and share it with the community to increase awareness and thereby eliminate stigma around mental illness.

The Douglas, with the support of the Douglas Institute Foundation, has launched a mental health awareness campaign. The campaign involves placing billboards around Montreal and inviting people to consult mini-sites related to the issues, primarily, of burn-out and depression as well as eating disorders. It will also serve to promote giving to increase funding for mental health research.

[www.leburnoutsesoigne.com](http://www.leburnoutsesoigne.com) - [www.lanorexiesesoigne.com](http://www.lanorexiesesoigne.com)

**Information**

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## Detailed list of funded research projects

<b>Principle Investigator</b>	<b>Co-investigator(s)</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Annual Amount</b>	<b>Length</b>
Jorge Armony, PhD	R.Jooper, MD,PhD, M.Lepage, PhD	Individual differences	\$100,000	1 year
Alain Brunet, PhD	K. Nader, PhD, J.Tremblay, MD	Reducing the severity of traumatic memories using propranolol.	\$89,973	5 years
Nicolas Cermakian, PhD	N. Labrecque, PhD	Circadian control of immune functions.	\$116,074	3 years
Marie-Josée Fleury, PhD	J. Tremblay, MD, J. Caron, PhD, M. Perreault, PhD, M. Piat, PhD	Determinants of the adequacy of help in relation to the needs of adults with severe mental health problems.	\$109,032	4 years
Ridha Jooper, MD, PhD	N.Grizenko, MD, FRCPC N.Schmitz, PhD	Pharmaco-behavioural study of genetic and environmental risk factors in children with ADHD.	\$162,496	5 years
Michael Meaney, PhD, CQ,		Maternal programming of reproductive development in female offspring.	\$108,083	5 years
Michael Meaney, PhD, CQ	M.Szyf, PhD	Epigenetic regulation of hippocampal glucocorticoid receptor expression.	\$198,304	5 years

Continued:

<b>Principle Investigator</b>	<b>Co-investigator(s)</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Annual amount</b>	<b>Length</b>
Jens Pruessner, PhD	S. Lupien, PhD, M. Baldwin	Sex, gender, hormones and the brain: Interactions of maternal care and self-esteem on brain morphology and function.	\$124,760	5 years
Norbert Schmitz, PhD	R.Boyer,A.Lesage, A.Malla, MD, FRCPC, I.Strychar	The relationship between depression and disability in diabetes: a longitudinal community study.	\$176,670	3 years
Gustavo Turecki, MD, PhD	M.Meaney, Ph.D. C.Q., C.Benkelfat, A Bureau, N.Mechawar, PhD	Environmental stressors and epigenetic effects in major depression and suicide.	\$148,920	5 years
Claire-Dominique Walker, PhD	A. Gratton, PhD	Long-term consequences of perinatal high fat feeding on stress circuitry.	\$136,645	5 years
<b>TOTAL Operating Grants</b>			<b>\$6,260,262</b>	
Duncan Pedersen, MD, MPH	N. Escobar, M. Piazza, C.Robillard, D.Stewart	Survival and resistance strategies to globalization of women in prostitution.	\$47,498 + \$3,600: instruments/ equipment	2 years
<b>TOTAL Seed Grant: Gender, Globalization and Health</b>			<b>\$98,596</b>	
<b>Grand Total:</b>			<b>\$6,258,858</b>	