



McGill University Chair in Family and Community Medicine Research at St. Mary's Hospital Center

Research in Family Medicine and Community Medicine has shown the importance of a strong system of primary care as an effective means of improving patient outcomes while reducing costs. The need to improve access to family physicians is recognized as a priority in Quebec, and by the Faculty of Medicine of McGill University. The creation of this Chair represents one measure taken by McGill University to reinforce its recognition of the need for, and commitment to, the development of Family Medicine.

St. Mary's Hospital has been a leader in the training of family physicians for more than 30 years. The family medicine residency program at St. Mary's is one of the largest in Canada. Throughout the hospital, family physicians and other specialists work side by side within multidisciplinary teams. Family physicians are central to the functioning of the hospital.

The designation of St. Mary's as a Centre Hospitalier Affilié Universitaire in April 2008 was made with requirements for reinforcement of the hospital's academic missions in both teaching and research. The development of research in family medicine is an explicit priority for the development of this academic mission. The University designation of this Chair to St. Mary's contributes to meeting this requirement and to the hospital's unique position to be a leader in community-oriented primary care research.

The Chair will build upon St. Mary's widely respected reputation for community-oriented service. It will enhance St. Mary's leadership role in this field. Its core focus will be the academic development of Family Medicine, with an additional aim to serve institutions in the McGill RUIS (Réseau Universitaire Intégré de Santé). With a primary emphasis on research in family medicine and primary care, the Chair recipient will conduct and support research activities which may include research into multidisciplinary team functioning and roles in primary care, outcome-centered research, and research into the coordination, continuity, efficacy and the quality of care in, and access to, primary care. These activities will include fostering academic collaboration within Quebec, across Canada and internationally. Activities will include attention to translational research, fostering best practices within primary care.

The Chair is established through an endowed fund of \$3 million at the St. Mary's Hospital Foundation. The recipient of the Chair will be selected through the Office of the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at McGill University, in accordance with McGill University requirements.

The establishment of this Chair will further enhance the impressive reputations of St. Mary's Hospital Center and McGill's Faculty of Medicine, reinforcing the importance of, and commitment to, academic Family Medicine and Community Medicine in these institutions.