



**Press release
For immediate release**

Inauguration of the international headquarters of HUPO (Human Proteome Organisation)

**MONTRÉAL OFFICIALLY CONFIRMED AS THE WORLD HUB
OF RESEARCH IN PROTEOMICS**

Montreal, October 18, 2005 – Today, Montréal International, Génome Québec and McGill University officially inaugurated the offices of the international headquarters of HUPO (Human Proteome Organisation) at the *McGill University and Génome Québec Innovation Centre* in the heart of Montréal.

The event, which drew world-renowned scientists and many other guests from the life sciences sector, business world and international organization circles, was attended by the Member of Parliament for Lac-Saint-Louis, Mr. Francis Scarpaleggia, the General Manager, Analysis and Planning, for Québec's Ministère des Relations internationales, Mr. Paul-André Boisclair, and the Deputy Mayor of Montréal, Mrs. Jane Cowell Poitras.

"Establishing a permanent head office in Montréal is a major step forward in our organization's development," stated Dr. John Bergeron, president of HUPO and chair of McGill University's Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology. "It will substantially facilitate international research in proteomics which will, in the long run, lead to the development of new treatments and diagnostic tools for many diseases. I am particularly grateful for the unflagging support of Montréal International, McGill University and Génome Québec, which has led to the establishment of HUPO's headquarters in Montreal."

Proteomics is the study of the proteome, that is, the full set of proteins synthesized by a cell, tissue, an organ or an organism. Under HUPO's aegis, projects focusing on the proteomes of the brain, liver, plasma and other organs and tissues will lead to new tools for diagnosing and treating chronic and fatal diseases such as cancer.

Marc G. Fortier, President and Chief Executive Officer of Montréal International, stressed that having HUPO's headquarters in Montreal will generate major benefits for the region and its life sciences cluster. "This is an important day for Montreal, for Quebec and for the rest of Canada as we are welcoming a world-renowned organization in a cutting-edge life sciences discipline. HUPO thus joins the approximately 60 international organizations already located in the Montréal area that continue to make a strong contribution to our region's economic development and international renown," stated Mr. Fortier. "However, Montréal International could not have been part of this success without the sustained support of its partners, Canada Economic Development, the Ministère des Relations internationales du Québec and the City of Montreal," he added.

For Paul L'Archevêque, President of Génome Québec, the size and scope of the international proteomics research projects piloted by HUPO put Metro Montréal at the heart of a network that will benefit local scientists and companies in a number of sectors.

"We at Génome Québec take pride in having invested over 12 million dollars in a major proteomics initiative three and a half years ago in collaboration with Genome Canada," remarked Mr. L'Archevêque. "Called *Cellmap* and headed by Dr. John Bergeron, this innovative project was designed to identify the location of a cell's entire proteins, an ambitious goal that drew much interest from the scientific community," he added. "As the numerous prestigious publications attest, the work that came out of the *Cellmap* project has certainly helped to position Dr. Bergeron, McGill University and Génome Québec favourably with HUPO leaders. This investment played a major part in our ability to attract HUPO's international headquarters."

Located on the campus of McGill University, the *McGill University and Génome Québec Innovation Centre* does primary research in genomics and proteomics, proving an invaluable source of knowledge and technology for the university, industrial and commercial sectors.

"We are delighted to welcome HUPO's headquarters to the *McGill University and Génome Québec Innovation Centre*," declared Jacques Hurtubise, Vice-Principal, Research, at McGill University. "Today's inauguration attests to the concerted effort made by all the partners who played a key role in bringing HUPO to our city and university."

The life sciences sector is one of the Montreal area's most strategic competitive clusters. The sector's 660 establishments, including 125 public and parapublic research organizations, employ over 37,000 people.

About HUPO (Human Proteome Organisation)

HUPO (www.hupo.org) was launched on February 9, 2001. On that date, a global advisory council was officially formed that included leading international experts in the field of proteomics from the academic, government and commercial sectors. HUPO's council currently has 48 members from 19 countries, all of whom are renowned proteomics researchers from the academic and industrial sectors. HUPO's headquarters have been located at the McGill University and Génome Québec Innovation Centre in Montréal, since January 2005. HUPO now has 2000 founding members from 69 countries.

HUPO promotes the development and awareness of proteomics research and advocates on behalf of proteomics researchers throughout the world. It has benefited from substantial contributions of time and energy from members of HUPO's Council, research institutions and pharmaceutical companies around the globe.

About Montréal International

Founded in 1996, Montréal International (MI) is the result of a private/public partnership. Its mission is to contribute to Metro Montréal's economic development and enhance its international status. MI is financed by the private sector, the Montréal Metropolitan Community, the City of Montréal, and the governments of Québec and Canada. MI's strategic mandates are to attract foreign investment, international organizations and strategic workers, and to develop strategic clusters in the life sciences and information and communications technology sectors.

About Génome Québec

Génome Québec is a private, non-profit organization whose mission is to mobilize the academic and industrial sectors around genomics research. The organization invests and manages funds totalling almost 300 million dollars from the public and private sectors. It currently manages projects in six major sectors: human health, bioinformatics, ethics, the environment, forestry and agriculture. Since it was launched in 2000, it has generated almost 700 jobs and has led to the creation of Montréal's *McGill University and Génome Québec Innovation Centre*, a world-class research centre that is helping position Québec on the international stage.

About McGill University

McGill University is Canada's leading research-intensive university and has earned an international reputation for scholarly achievement and scientific discovery. Founded in 1821, McGill has 21 faculties and professional schools which offer more than 300 programs from the undergraduate to the doctoral level. McGill attracts renowned professors and researchers from around the world and top students from more than 150 countries, creating one of the most dynamic and diverse education environments in North America. There are approximately 23,000 undergraduate students and 7,000 graduate students. It is one of two Canadian members of the American Association of Universities. McGill's two campuses are located in Montreal.

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