



**Genome Québec**  
The Future has Begun

**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**DR. ALAIN MOREAU, WORLD RENOWNED SCIENTIST, WINS GÉNOME  
QUÉBEC'S "BIOTECHNOLOGY AWARD OF TOMORROW"  
AT 2008 GENESIS AWARDS GALA**

**Montréal, April 16, 2008 – Dr. Alain Moreau**, a world renowned clinician-scientist recognized for his excellence in research, associate professor with the Faculty of Medicine at the Université de Montréal and head of the molecular genetics laboratory of bone and musculoskeletal disorders at the CHU Sainte-Justine's Research Center, has won **Génome Québec's "Biotechnology Award of Tomorrow,"** given out for the second time at the **2008 Genesis Awards Gala.**

Through his revolutionary approach, he has helped the field of molecular genetics move forward by developing diagnostic tools. His work focuses on **molecular and genetic diagnostic testing for idiopathic scoliosis**, the most common orthopedic deformity, **osteoarthritis** and the **selection of compounds of pharmacological interest for preventing the development of scoliosis, osteoarthritis and osteoporosis or halting their progress.**

*"Currently, there are no tests for the early detection of idiopathic scoliosis, which is why the work of Dr. Moreau and his team will help revolutionize the way clinicians treat this disorder,"* said Carole Jabet, Vice-President of Scientific Affairs at Génome Québec. "Dr. Moreau's discoveries will have a tremendous impact on the lives of millions of children around the world."

*"Dr. Moreau has provided an excellent example of how basic and clinical research can be promoted in an academic milieu, and how technology can be successfully transferred for medical innovations that will have a huge impact on the health of people in Canada and abroad. These inventions will also contribute to our social and economic wealth while keeping talent here in Québec,"* said Paul L'Archevêque, President and CEO of Génome Québec. "Dr. Alain Moreau is a veritable builder, visionary and model for up and coming scientists."

Genomics has become the preferred approach to research for the scientists at the CHU Sainte-Justine. A better understanding of molecular genetics has led to the development of three diagnostic tests for identifying osteoarthritis, scoliosis and a new molecule for treating osteoporosis. In May 2006, Sainte-Justine and Paradigm Spine signed a licensing agreement that will see the biochemical and molecular diagnostic tests developed by Dr. Moreau and his team commercialized in North America, Europe and Asia.

Head of the molecular genetics laboratory of bone and musculoskeletal disorders at the CHU Sainte-Justine's Research Center, Dr. Moreau has built an interdisciplinary team of close to 22 scientists, graduate students and research personnel who are pursuing studies to find solutions to various public health problems. The Research Center's molecular genetics

laboratory of bone and musculoskeletal disorders is a strong presence in the field of molecular genetics in Canada and around the world.

Dr. Alain Moreau is a researcher emeritus and visionary. He was the first Canadian scientist to be a laureate of the prestigious Fondation Yves Cotrel de l'Institut de France and the only one in the world to receive this honour three times (2002, 2005 and 2008).

Dr. Alain Moreau succeeds Dr. Michel G. Bergeron, who was the first recipient of the Génome Québec Award in 2007.

### **About Génome Québec:**

The mission of Génome Québec, a private non-profit organization, is to strengthen Québec's system of innovation in genomics by investing in innovative genomics research projects. The investment of over \$400 million since 2001 has contributed to accelerating the discovery of new applications, such as diagnostic tests, therapeutic tools in the health sector, and new environmentally friendly processes in agriculture and forestry. The funds invested by Génome Québec are provided by Québec's Ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation, by the Government of Canada through Genome Canada and by private partners. To find out more about Génome Québec and genomics, visit [www.genomequebec.com](http://www.genomequebec.com).

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