



## Inaugural Gerald Bronfman Centre Symposium and Awards Ceremony November 21, 2011

The Inaugural Gerald Bronfman Centre (GBC) Symposium and Awards Ceremony on November 21, 2011 celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the GBC. The keynote speaker for the symposium was cancer control expert, **Dr. Simon B. Sutcliffe**. Dr. Sutcliffe is President of the International Network for Cancer Treatment and Research in Canada and Chair of the Board of the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC), as well as former President and CEO of the BC Cancer Agency. During his presentation Dr. Sutcliffe discussed the decline of communicable diseases such as tuberculosis, scarlet fever and cholera in western nations over a century ago as a result of the push for better hygiene, sanitation, clean air and improved standard of living. More recently, developing countries have also begun seeing a decline. However, the rise of chronic conditions such as cancer have presented problems for western nations and particularly for developing countries who still do not yet have the capacity to respond.

The second speaker was **Dr. Michael Pollak** from the McGill Department of Oncology. Dr. Pollak is a medical oncologist and Director of the Cancer Prevention Centre at the Jewish General Hospital. His presentation focused on the impact of diet on hormonal regulation and cancer cell growth. The development of drugs targeting hormonal regulation may help control tumour growth.

**Dr. Michel Tremblay** from the McGill Department of Oncology and the Rosalind and Morris Goodman Cancer Research Centre, was the final speaker. In keeping with the global public health theme Dr. Tremblay described the work he is involved in regarding the establishment of a cancer centre in Guinea, Africa. He also mentioned the work of the McGill Institute for Health and Social Policy as well as the global health work of McGill's Dr. Mark Wainberg, whose focus on AIDS can provide valuable insights for the global fight against cancer.



Drs. Simon B. Sutcliffe, Eduardo Franco, Michel Tremblay, Michael Pollak

Following the symposium, **Dr. Eduardo Franco**, Interim Chair of the Department of Oncology and Director of the GBC, gave a rededication presentation to celebrate the GBC's past successes and exciting new developments in store for the future. He discussed the central role the GBC plays in the life of the Department of Oncology and the nurturing of its members. A video presentation showing testimonials from three patients, highlighted the role the GBC's Clinical Research Program has played in providing access to clinical trials on groundbreaking drugs which ultimately became standard in clinical practice (e.g. Herceptin for breast cancer and Ipilimumab for melanoma).

Five Department of Oncology members were presented with GBC awards for their outstanding contributions in oncology. **Principal Heather Munroe-Blum** and **Associate Dean Samuel Benaroya** presented Lifetime Achievement Awards to **Drs. Carolyn Freeman** (radiation oncology), **Balfour Mount** (palliative care) and **Richard Margolese** (surgical oncology, breast cancer), while **Dr. Eduardo Franco** presented the Research and Clinical Service Award to **Dr. Henry R. Shibata** (surgical oncology) and the Teaching and Mentorship Award to **Dr. George Shenouda** (radiation oncology).



Drs. Samuel Benaroya (Associate Dean), Balfour Mount, Richard Margolese, Heather Munroe-Blum (Principal), Carolyn Freeman, George Shenouda, Henry Shibata, Eduardo Franco