

Joint Acceptance Speech of Professor  
**Jeano Pierre Pelletier**  
and  
**Johann Martelo Pelletier**

Coh Winner of the 2010 King Faisal International Prize  
For Medicine 32nd Awards Presentation Ceremony

Tuesday 9 March 2010 (23.3.1431H)

Your Majesty, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques,  
King Abd Allah Ibn Abd Alh Aziz,  
HRH Prince Sultan Ibn Abd Alh Aziz  
Crown Prince, Deputy Premier  
Minister of Defense and Aviation and Inspector General  
Your Highnesses,  
Your Excellencies,  
Distinguished Guests

Professor Johann Martel Pelletier and I wish to express our most sincere gratitude to the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, sponsor of this celebration, and our warmest thanks to His Royal Highness Prince Khalid Alh Faisal, Director General of King Faisal Foundation and Chairman of the Board of King Faisal International Prize and to members of the Selection Committee for the Prize in Medicine for recognizing our efforts in the field of non-arthroplasty management of degenerative joint diseases by honouring us with this prestigious award. We are indeed honoured to join the list of distinguished prize winners and to participate in the award ceremony and share this moment with our notable hosts and the other award recipients.

Our dedicated group at the University Hospital and the Research Centre of the University of Montreal has explored the disease process and identified targets and therapeutics, so as to treat, prevent and ultimately cure osteoarthritis and its complications.

The virtue of excellence has always guided our work. Moreover, our belief in the value and importance of dialogue and collaboration between basic and clinical scientists and health professionals being a vital key to the success of any medical research has paved the way to

our accomplishments and to the improvement of care and treatment of arthritis patients.

We would like to begin by honouring the memory of an exceptional human being and visionary - King Faisal, whose family established the King Faisal Foundation to commemorate his life and achievements. The leadership and commitment of the King Faisal Foundation toward the wellbeing of humankind have given the gift of hope to many in need through the years and continue to contribute to a better world.

Osteoarthritis is the most common form of arthritis and the leading cause of physical disability worldwide. This disease, which is as old as the world, affects people from all countries around the world and knows no boundaries. Therefore helping osteoarthritis patients, who constitute a large percentage of the aging world population, is an excellent manner in which to contribute to the fulfillment of the goals of the Foundation and to honour the memory of King Faisal.

Finally, we wish to extend special thanks to our former supervisors, the late Professor David S. Howell as well as Professor J. Fred Woessner and Doctor Roy Altman, formerly at the University of Miami, USA, who were sources of great inspiration. We also would like to sincerely thank all of our collaborators, fellows, students, and the personnel of our Unit at the University of Montreal Hospital Centre for their valuable assistance, collaboration and enthusiasm throughout the years. Many other collaborators (the list is too long to mention), who have also assisted in the development of our ideas and research - we thank them all. Moreover, we wish to acknowledge the Canadian and Quebec government funding 'agencies, private Organisations such as the Canadian Arthritis Society, foundations such as the J.A. de Seve Foundation in Montreal; and pharmaceutical and biotechnological corporations, who believed in our research. Lastly, we cannot overlook the assistance of the administration at the Medical School of the University of Montreal and the University of Montreal Hospital Centre for their undivided support.

Our deepest gratitude and heartfelt thanks to everyone.