

MEDIA RELEASE

June 23, 2016 – for immediate release



MANITOBA MEDICAL SERVICE
FOUNDATION

Dr. Amir Ravandi Recipient of the MMSF Dr. F. W. Du Val Clinical Research Professorship Award



Dr. Amir Ravandi's work applying advanced technology to study inhibiting lipids causing tissue damage after a heart attack has merited the Dr. F. W. Du Val Clinical Research Professorship Award from the Manitoba Medical Service Foundation (MMSF).

The Clinical Research Professorship award is valued at \$170,000, with an annual salary of \$50,000 for three years (including benefits) for the awardee. Up to \$20,000 is also available towards a grant-in-aid during the first year of the appointment.

Promoting clinical research at the University of Manitoba, Dr. Ravandi's term begins July 1, 2016, with a guaranteed 50 per cent time commitment towards research. An Assistant Professor of Cardiology and Physiology & Pathophysiology at the University of Manitoba Dr. Ravandi's work focuses on oxidized phospholipids and mediating myocardial injury.

"A heart attack occurs where there is a sudden blockage of one of the arteries that feeds the heart itself. Even with the flow of blood restored to the heart muscle there continues to be heart muscle damage due to a powerful tissue reaction." He explains. "Our objective is to identify lipids called oxidized phosphatidylcholines to see if by inhibiting them we can decrease heart damage after heart attacks."

It has been difficult in the past to identify these molecules in heart muscle since they are present in very small amounts. Now, scientists have developed sophisticated technology that allows researchers to identify and measure these compounds in a very sensitive way. By identifying the compounds that are present Dr. Ravandi can test their effects on living heart cells and to see if action can be blocked with new antibodies.

The awards selection committee is comprised of members of the MMSF and representatives from the University of Manitoba. Administrative support is provided by the University of Manitoba.

For further details on MMSF awards please refer to the Award Recipients pages of our website: www.mmsf.ca.

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