

# Honouring One of Our Young Heroes

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The Head of MHI Research, Dr. Jean-Claude Tardif (right) is seen here with Paul Khairy, MD, PhD, FRCPC, one of North America's youngest and brightest clinician-scientist-mentors. Winner of Canada's prestigious 2009 Top 40 under 40™ Award, Dr. Khairy has put his valuable knowledge and skills at work as Director of the Montreal Heart Institute's Adult Congenital Heart Centre.

The Institute and its Foundation were among the first to recognize Dr. Khairy as a young visionary whose potential to inspire and empower scientists, teachers, clinicians, patients and families would lead to new treatments and avenues of hope for people born with heart disease.

"This award reflects the unique climate of excellence that pervades the Montreal Heart Institute in clinical and academic innovation, training and mentorship, and empathic patient care. I feel extremely fortunate to have surrounded myself with outstanding individuals and world-class adult congenital heart disease, electrophysiology, and research teams.

The Montreal Heart Institute Foundation and its many generous donors have contributed integrally to these successes. This support began early in my career, with the first Bal du Coeur fellowship in 2002, and continued with a considerable Bal du Coeur Congenital Heart Fund and a young investigator award that jump-started our research program and led to significant inroads in our field.

Finally, I would like to dedicate this award to our patients. Many of whom I have the privilege of caring for were born with severe heart defects, overcame tremendous challenges, and defied all odds. They are the true heroes, with inspirational life stories. I hope that this award will raise awareness about the need for people born with heart disease to seek life-long specialized care and the importance of dedicated programs to advance knowledge and improve quality of life."

*Paul Khairy,  
Director, MHI Adult Congenital Heart Centre  
2009 Canada Top 40 Under 40 Award Recipient*



Photo: MHI Audiovisual