

# RYTVELA

## NEWS RELEASE

**Rytvela will be presented at  
the Grand Challenges 2016 Annual Meeting in October 2016**  
*Rytvela – new treatment for preterm birth*

**Montreal, Canada, October 17, 2016** – The **Rytvela** project will be presented at the Grand Challenges 2016 Annual Meeting that will be held in London on October 23 to 26, 2016. **Rytvela** is a new efficient treatment of the cause and ensuing serious consequences of preterm birth.

Three pre-clinical blinded in-vivo studies performed separately and independently have confirmed that **Rytvela** reduces utero-placental inflammation, significantly reduces or suppresses preterm birth (PTB), newborn death and prevents major organ disruption including of brain, yielding normal growth trajectory.

“We are excited to be invited to present in such a prestigious global forum”, said Sylvain Chemtob, MD, PhD, FRCPC, FAAP, FCAHS, co-inventor of **Rytvela**. “Preterm birth (PTB) is the first cause of mortality and morbidity of newborn (more than one million deaths per year Worldwide) and there are no real effective treatment and none of the one utilized today addresses utero-placental inflammation, the major cause of PTB and of insult to the fetus”.

The **Rytvela** project presentation will cover the following elements:

- **Rytvela** is a selective antagonist of the IL-1 receptor with strong anti-inflammatory properties
- Data from independent studies have shown that **Rytvela**:
  - Suppresses utero-placental inflammation
  - Normalizes duration of gestation (to term) in 90% of cases
  - Significantly reduces the risk of death at birth
  - Normalizes organ histology (brain, lung and ileum / colon)
  - Ensures a normal growth trajectory
  - Normalizes brain function
  - Is active as a preventive and curative treatment

The Global Grand Challenges is an innovation initiative created in 2003 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

### About **Rytvela**

**RYTVELA** explores a new paradigm therapy to develop an effective drug to end preterm birth to the benefit of women and newborns. **Rytvela** (a linear 7 amino acid peptide) is the first small drug candidate selective to the major pro-inflammatory interleukin-1 receptor. Pre-clinical studies have been corroborated by three independent academic laboratories (U of Montreal, U of Alberta in Canada, and U of Adelaide, Australia). These blinded studies performed separately and independently demonstrate that **Rytvela** reduces utero-placental inflammation, significantly reduces/suppresses preterm birth (PTB), newborn death and prevents major organ disruption including of brain, yielding normal growth trajectory. **Rytvela** was invented by Dr Sylvain Chemtob and his team at the CHU Sainte-Justine Research Center in Montreal, Canada. For more information visit: [www.rytvel.com](http://www.rytvel.com)

### About the CHU Sainte-Justine Research Center

CHU Sainte-Justine Research Center is a leading mother-child research institution affiliated with Université de Montréal. It brings together more than 200 research investigators, including over 90 clinician-scientists, as well as 385 graduate and postgraduate students focused on finding innovative prevention means, faster and less invasive treatments, as well as personalized approaches to medicine.

The Center is part of CHU Sainte-Justine, which is the largest mother-child center in Canada and second pediatric center in North America.

### **About PTB (Preterm birth)**

PTB is defined as birth occurring before 37 weeks of gestation (World Health Organization 2012).

It occurs in ~10 % of births (~ 550,000 in North America).

The major cause is utero-placental inflammation (~70%) presumed secondary to infection (clinical and sub clinical) other are dominated by idiopathic and multiple fetuses.

The consequences are newborn death (more than 1 million per year worldwide), severe life-long health consequences specially brain, lung and ileus/colon.

The current treatments, the tocolytic agents have no or very little efficacy and none of them addresses the utero-placental inflammation.

The costs in the USA were reported by the US Institute of Medicine in 2007 to be \$26 billion/year.

Normal delivery cost \$ 4,500, preterm birth \$ 50,000, and after the neonatal period life time medical care reach \$500,000 per premature handicapped child PTB.

### **About Global Grand Challenges Summit**

The Grand Challenges in Global Health (GCGH) is a research initiative launched by the [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#) <sup>[1]</sup> in search of solutions to health problems in the developing world. Fifteen challenges are categorized in groups among seven stated goals plus an eighth group for family health. The goals are Improve Vaccines, Create New Vaccines, Control Insect Vectors, Improve Nutrition, Limit Drug Resistance, Cure Infection and Measure Health Status. In that last goal, one of the challenges is preventive preterm birth. So far close to \$500 million has being committed to the GCGH and many countries are now participating in that initiative.

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### **Media Contacts:**

Daniel Granger, L.L.L., MBA, APR, FSCR, IAS

T. +1 514 840-7990

M. + 1 514 232-1556

[daniel.granger@acjcommunication.com](mailto:daniel.granger@acjcommunication.com)

Charlotte Blanche

T. + 1 514 840-1235 ext 7772

M. + 1 514 914-0593

[c.blanche@acjcommunication.com](mailto:c.blanche@acjcommunication.com)

### **Scientific, Financing and BD Contact:**

Jean Paul Castaigne MD, MBA

+1-514-518-5500

[jpcastaigne@jpcbiotech.com](mailto:jpcastaigne@jpcbiotech.com)

Sylvain Chemtob MD, PhD

+1- 514-585-4604

[sylvain.chemtob@gmail.com](mailto:sylvain.chemtob@gmail.com)