



Canadian Cochrane Centre

# Media Release

## New Cochrane Branch in Québec City

**(Ottawa) 18 September 2013** – The Université Laval Faculty of Medicine, in partnership with the CHU de Québec, is launching a new Cochrane Branch of the Canadian Cochrane Centre. The Cochrane Collaboration is a high-profile non-profit health research organization whose mandate is to provide readily accessible high-quality, rigorous scientific data. An official statement about the new Branch will be made this Friday during the opening ceremony of the 21<sup>st</sup> Cochrane Colloquium. This year's annual Colloquium will be held from September 20 to 23 at the Québec City Convention Centre.

The new Branch will give Québec's health research community access to Cochrane resources as well as training programs and services to increase the use, production and dissemination of systematic reviews of the highest international standard. The Branch will be co-directed by Drs France Légaré and Paul Fortin. Drs Légaré and Fortin teach at the Université Laval Faculty of Medicine and are researchers at the CHU de Québec.

The Branch's main objectives are to: 1) produce and disseminate Cochrane Systematic Reviews within the health services and healthcare communities; 2) train young health professionals and review experts in French; 3) and develop new analytical methods to assess evidence, with a particular focus on diagnostic testing and screening.

"A partnership with this renowned international network will allow the CHU de Québec and the Université Laval Faculty of Medicine to significantly support students, researchers, clinicians, policy-makers and users in the production and use of knowledge synthesis necessary for informed health decision-making," says Dr. Fortin.

The Scientific Director France Légaré stressed the important contribution the Branch will make in Québec: "The creation of this branch will enable us to fulfill the objectives set by the ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux and the Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux, and the needs of healthcare professionals and their patients."

As a high-profile, non-profit health research organization comprising over 31,000 health professionals from over 120 countries, The Cochrane Collaboration's mandate is to provide readily accessible scientific evidence globally to promote informed decision-making in healthcare. The Cochrane Collaboration has produced over 5,600 systematic reviews in a variety

of health-related fields. Its members participate as delegates in the World Health Assembly, the decision-making body of the World Health Organization (WHO).

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