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Dr. Michel G. Bergeron of Quebec City, QC is the winner of the \$100,000 Manning Award for his Rapid <1hr Molecular Diagnostics Test

Quebec City, QC (October 19, 2016) – Dr. Michel G. Bergeron of Quebec City, QC has won the 2016 Ernest C. Manning Foundation Principal Award for developing and successfully commercializing the *Rapid <1hr Molecular Diagnostics for Better Care* that identifies micro-organisms using their DNA, allowing physicians to prescribe antibiotics with precision.

The Principal Award is the largest of several prizes that the Ernest C. Manning Foundation awards annually to talented Canadian innovators who are improving the lives of Canadians and others worldwide through their commercialized innovations. Michel G. Bergeron will receive his \$100,000 prize at the Foundation's 35th Innovation Awards Gala in Halifax on October 20, 2016.

"The Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation is helping build a culture of innovation by recognizing Canadian innovators," said Foundation President Jennifer Diakiw. "Our Awards reward innovators for the value they are adding to our provincial and national economies by creating jobs and wealth, and positioning our country as a global competitor. We consider them Canada's most valuable resource."

The idea for Rapid Molecular Diagnostics was born more than 30 years ago, when Dr. Bergeron, a professor of microbiology and infectious diseases at Laval University, woke from a dream about the growing issue of antibiotic resistance. His early research work had focused on antibiotics and he knew as a clinician that with faster diagnosis, physicians could prescribe more accurately. He set out to develop the tools and processes that would make rapid diagnosis possible.

Dr. Bergeron assembled an expert multidisciplinary team to transform his idea into reality and together they developed innovative rapid real-time DNA-based tests. In 1995 Dr. Bergeron established Infectio Diagnostics (IDI) Inc. to help commercialize his innovations so they could be available to more patients. In 2006, IDI became part of BD Diagnostics, who is working to commercialize the six FDA-cleared real-time tests. Today, Rapid Molecular Diagnostics technology is in 50 countries, is protected by six patents and was recently approved for use in the European Union.

Dr. Bergeron is the recipient of several awards and honours, and is grateful to join the list of innovators who have received Manning Foundation awards. "I am very honoured by this award which has recognized so many Canadians whose innovations have changed the world."

The Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation was established in 1980 by Alberta Energy Company CEO David Mitchell. Working with former Alberta premier Ernest C. Manning and others, he built the foundation to recognize and celebrate Canadian innovators of all ages and across all disciplines. Since then, the Foundation has built a national network of 3,000 young and adult innovators who are leaders in technology, business, engineering, and social innovation advancement. It has awarded innovation prizes to 265 Canadians who have demonstrated innovative talent in developing and successfully marketing a new concept, process or procedure. For more information, including the full list of 2016 Innovation Award winners, visit: www.manningawards.ca.

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