



**For immediate release**

**Wednesday, November 29, 2017**

**DR. XIANGGUO QIU OF WINNIPEG WINS PRESTIGIOUS MANNING INNOVATION AWARD  
\$100,000 prize for developing antivirus against deadly Ebola Virus Disease**

**Winnipeg, MB ... The Ernest C. Manning Awards Foundation is thrilled to announce that Dr. Xiangguo Qiu and her research partner, Dr. Gary Kobinger, have won the 2017 Manning Innovation Principal Award for developing ZMapp™, the world's first Ebola Virus Disease antivirus.**

The Principal Award is the largest of four 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.

"I am very honoured to be recognized for this award," **says Dr. Qiu.** "As a scientist, I feel very lucky to see that our persistent efforts have resulted in saving people's lives."

**Dr. Qui, Dr. Kobinger, and the other 2017 winners will be available for interviews at the Manning Innovation Symposium at OCAD U Room 270, Great Hall, 100 McCaul St, Toronto, ON on Thursday, November 30<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. EST.**

Thought by many as impossible, Dr. Qiu and Dr. Kobinger's intellectual achievement spanned a decade's search to find a treatment against the highly infectious and deadly Ebola virus infection. The largest outbreak occurred from December 2013 to January 2016 when Ebola swept across West Africa, resulting in more than 28,000 cases and more than 11,000 deaths.

ZMapp™ was first used directly and successfully for compassionate, emergency use in humans when American medical missionaries, Kent Brantly and Nancy Writebol, were infected with the Ebola virus while in Liberia in July, 2014. Following administration of ZMapp™, Kent went from unresponsiveness to taking a shower the following morning. Nancy, whose husband was preparing her funeral, was stabilized and able to travel back to the US where she completed her treatment with ZMapp™. Both fully recovered and are healthy today.

ZMapp™ is now the model driving the recent explosion of monoclonal antibody therapies against many other infectious agents such as HIV, Lassa, and Marburg among others.

"Canada's innovation heroes are among our most valuable natural resources," **says Foundation President Jennifer Diakiw.** "By sharing their stories, we hope to inspire others to innovate, and foster a sense of pride in our nation."

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. 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 273 Canadians who have demonstrated innovative talent in developing and successfully marketing a new concept, process or procedure. For more information visit: [www.manningawards.ca](http://www.manningawards.ca).

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