

## New Director for the AECRP

The Alan Edwards Centre for Research on Pain is pleased to announce the appointment of Jeffrey S. Mogil as the new Director of the Centre for a three year term starting June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. Jeff is well known in the pain research and neuroscience communities: he is currently the E.P. Taylor Professor of Pain Studies at McGill University and holds the Canada Research Chair in the Genetics of Pain (Tier 1). He has made seminal contributions to the field of pain genetics and is the author of many major reviews of the subject, including an edited book, *The Genetics of Pain* (IASP Press, 2004). He is also a recognized authority in the fields of sex differences in pain and analgesia, and pain testing methods in the laboratory mouse.

In making the announcement, Paul Allison, Dean of the McGill's Faculty of Dentistry, said *"We would like to congratulate Jeff on his appointment, thank him for taking on this important responsibility at this time of exciting change for the AECRP, and wish him all the best in this role. At the same time, we would like to express our thanks to Fernando Cervero for his excellent leadership of the AECRP, and particularly for his role in the successful CERC application. We also thank Fernando for agreeing to stay on as Acting Director during this period of transition. We wish Fernando all the best for his retirement."*

Indeed, Fernando will be greatly missed by the Centre. During his tenure (2009-15), the pain research community at McGill grew by 12 researchers, bringing it to its present number of 45 Full Members. In addition to successfully securing a CERC Chair in Human Pain Genetics, Fernando consolidated the Centre's administrative structure and worked tirelessly with McGill to secure additional research space for its members. As he leaves office, he leaves a legacy of strength to his successor, including the enviable situation of McGill having six further faculty positions in pain research being available for new hires.

Jeff is looking forward to the opportunities and challenges that this new appointment creates: *"Fernando, like Catherine Bushnell before him, has done an excellent job taking the Centre to where it is today, and I look forward to leading it on the next leg of its journey. I recognize that many challenges are before us – the never ending battle for research space, for one! – but I also firmly believe that the opportunities are immense. With the creation of the CERC Chair in Human Pain Genetics, and the recruitment of Luda Diatchenko to fill it, the Alan Edwards Centre for Research on Pain has positioned itself to achieve great things in the area of personalized pain management, and to continue making world-class contributions to the field more generally. In addition, I believe that excellent opportunities are before us when it comes to training the next generation of pain scientists: our faculty is already very transdisciplinary, and the engagement of a further six members in the near future will only increase our ability to expose our young trainees to a plethora of ways of teasing apart the complex problem of chronic pain. We will continue to work–along with our collaborators and colleagues around the world–towards the better understanding, and management, of the terrible scourge of chronic pain."*



**McGill**