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# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Canada Research Chairs at Acadia University acknowledged by CRC Executive Director Dr. John ApSimon**

(Wolfville, NS) - Dr. John ApSimon, Executive Director of the Canada Research Chairs Program, was at Acadia University today to recognize the appointment of three Canada Research Chairs (CRC).

Dr. Hugh Chipman, CRC in Mathematical Modelling; Dr. Michael Leiter, CRC in Occupational Health and Well-Being; and Dr. Jan Marontate, CRC in Technology and Culture were awarded citations by Dr. ApSimon during a ceremony at the K.C. Irving Environmental Science Centre Auditorium.

During the ceremony, each Canada Research Chair also made 15-minute presentations to report on the progress of their research programs.

Since his appointment in July, 2004, Dr. Hugh Chipman has been building Acadia's research capacity in mathematical modelling. He has played a leadership role in the formation of the Canada Foundation for Innovation funded Acadia Centre for Mathematical Modelling and Computation (ACMMaC), which brings together researchers from a wide variety of disciplines who share interests in mathematical modelling. Dr. Chipman is actively using ACMMaC resources in his current research in virtual screening methods for drug discovery problems, statistical learning algorithms for genomics, network modelling for anti-terrorism initiatives, and modelling of ocean temperature profiles.

Dr. Chipman is also building research capacity regionally and nationally. In the last 18 months, he has organized an Atlantic workshop on robust and computationally intensive statistical methods, and two international workshops on data mining at the Fields Institute in Toronto. With his assistance, Acadia is preparing to join the Atlantic Canada high performance computing consortium, ACEnet, which will further expand the computing power available to mathematical modellers at Acadia University.

Since being named CRC in Occupational Health and Well-Being in 2005, Dr. Michael Leiter has been working to expand the capacity of the Centre of Organizational Research & Development (COR&D). This includes participating in major reviews of the health and long-term care sectors of Atlantic Canada. A study of nursing environments, funded by Health Canada, is examining, within Atlantic Canada, the impact of national recommendations for improving the quality of work life in the health care system. COR&D is also conducting province-wide consultations on French language health

services, education strategies and recruitment/retention strategies for the Health Human Resource Council of Nova Scotia.

In the fall of 2005, COR&D began a campus-wide initiative entitled Stress Busters as one of the objectives of Dr. Leiter's CRC to engage the Acadia University campus in activities and discussions about occupational stress and wellbeing.

In addition to these projects, Dr. Leiter published a new book in 2005 with Dr. Christina Maslach entitled *Banishing Burnout: Six Strategies for Improving your Relationship With Work*.

Acadia's sixth CRC, Dr. Jan Marontate, named in July 2005, is studying techno-cultural change and its impact on everyday life and the creative work of musicians, artists, scientists, and engineers. She is concerned with how the new technologies using computer-based visual images, sound, and text, are affecting the working lives of knowledge-based professionals. Her research focuses on strategies for sustainable careers in fields involved with techno-cultural innovation. Dr. Marontate studies new strategies for the preservation of records of work done with computers as part of our cultural heritage. Her goal is to keep digital media accessible for future generations.

Dr. Marontate is also a recipient of a Research Development Initiative grant awarded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council, following her CRC nomination, for a study of new curatorial and conservation strategies in art museums with a national team of investigators.

The Canada Research Chair program was developed by the federal government to provide opportunities for outstanding individuals to further their careers through financed research, as well as promote innovation and excellence in Canadian universities.

Acadia University, in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, has long been recognized as one of Canada's premier undergraduate institutions. With its nationally and internationally recognized research initiatives, small class sizes and technology-rich teaching and learning environment, Acadia offers students an experience that includes academic achievement combined with personal growth and development. For more information about Acadia, visit our website at [www.acadiau.ca](http://www.acadiau.ca)

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