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Re: Retirement of Dr. Gary Bennett

Dear Friends,

It is with pride and sadness that we mark the retirement, effective today, from McGill of our colleague Dr. Gary Bennett. Gary has had a career in pain research that is second to none.

He is, of course, most well-known for his development in 1988 (with Y.-K. Xie) of the first major rodent model of peripheral mononeuropathy, an assay known officially as the chronic constriction injury but even more widely as the “Bennett model”. The associated manuscript is the second most-cited paper ever published in the journal *Pain* (approaching 3000 citations as of this writing), trailing only Melzack’s McGill Pain Questionnaire manuscript from 1975. Gary’s interest in the all-important exercise of animal model development continued from there, with the introduction of the paclitaxel model of chemotherapeutic-induced neuropathy in 2001, a rat model of CRPS Type I (with TerryCoderre) in 2004, and a mouse model of vestibulodynia (with Melissa Farmer in my lab) in 2011.

Gary is no one-trick pony, however, having published extremely elegant and important papers on topics as varied as neuroanatomy, spinal cord physiology, behavioural pharmacology, gene expression, mitochondrial biology, PET imaging, and clinical trials of a wide range of compounds. In fact, Gary has been sought after by clinical researchers for advice and input his entire career, and has been highly valuable to the pain field as one of the very few true liaisons between the basic and clinical worlds.

Gary has also been a truly valuable colleague to all of us at the AECRP since moving here from Philadelphia in 2001. In addition to collaborating with many of us, he was active in journal clubs, always providing wisdom in a highly entertaining fashion. After only a few minutes with Gary Bennett, one realizes that he has probably already forgotten more than you ever knew about pain (making it worse is the fact that he almost never forgets!). I will greatly miss our discussions over a cigarette outside the McIntyre building.

As many of you know, Gary is not really retiring; he is continuing to do bench research in the laboratory of Tony Yaksh in San Diego, and is currently the CEO of a biotechnology company (BioIntervene) working hard on getting a clinical trial funded.

On behalf of the AECRP, I wish Gary well in his future exploits, and thank him for contributing so usefully to our Centre and the whole field.

Jeffrey S. Mogil, PhD  
Director  
The Alan Edwards Centre for Research on Pain

[www.painresearchcenter.mcgill.ca](http://www.painresearchcenter.mcgill.ca)