



PRESS RELEASE

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International Conference on Resilience

Renowned specialists exchange on promising intervention strategies in rehabilitation

Montreal, April 27th, 2011 - This morning, the second international conference on Resilience entitled *Resilience: new intervention perspectives on rehabilitation intervention* was launched. Organized by the Groupe Inter-réseaux de Recherche sur l'adaptation de la Famille et de son Environnement of the Centre de recherche interdisciplinaire en réadaptation du Montréal métropolitain (GIRAFE-CRIR), this conference takes place on April 27th and 28th at the Auberge Universel of Montreal. Numerous world-renown speakers will be present to explain the issues related to Resilience, which is the ability to rebuild one's life and flourish despite a situation of adversity.

This event is now in its second edition. The first conference on Resiliency was held in February 2008 and was entitled *Resilience: intervention in the context of adaptation and rehabilitation*. "During the first conference, we have addressed the concept of resilience and the intervention in areas of education and health from a theoretical perspective. To meet the demands and interests of various stakeholders, we wish, in the present conference, to focus on the practical applications of this concept to intervention," underlined Mrs. Hélène Lefebvre, co-director of the GIRAFE-CRIR and member of the scientific committee. "This 2011 conference will be therefore a sharing of experience and expertise in answer to the needs expressed by the professionals, the researchers, the users and the administrators of the health and education services," concluded M. Bernard Michallet, co-director of the GIRAFE-CRIR and member of the scientific committee.

A resilient spokesperson

France Geoffroy, spokesperson for the event, is a concrete example of resilience. Although she became quadriplegic at the age of 17 years following a diving accident, she nonetheless decided to follow her dream to become a dancer and founded her own dance company, Corpuscle Dances. "After this destructive diagnosis, I followed a long and arduous rehabilitation to re-learn to live in spite of my limitations," underlines Mrs. Geoffroy. "I had to mourn the young woman that I was who could stand and return to an active life confronting the look of others. I needed a good dose of resilience, discipline and persistence to succeed in becoming the woman that I am now." Today, France Geoffroy is the artistic and general director of Corpuscle Dances, founded in 2000, which is a contemporary dance company that includes dancers, with and without disability. Besides her duties as a director, she is also a professional dancer, teacher, lecturer and spokesperson for the Foundation Lucie-Bruneau.

Conferences with an international flavor

During this symposium, more than 20 conferences will be offered in the form of workshops with 6 major conferences presented by world renowned speakers.

- *Résilience et empathie* by Serge Tisseron, Director of Research at the Université de Paris X Nanterre
- *The Application Of The Metatheory of Resilience and Resiliency in Rehabilitation and Medicine* by Glenn Richardson, Professor at the Department of Health Promotion and Education, University of Utah
- *Développement d'interventions individualisées axées sur la résilience* by Colette Jourdan-Ionescu, Professor at the Department of Psychology, Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières
- *Le modèle de la résilience dans l'accompagnement des familles vulnérables* by Marie Anaut, Professor at the Université Lumière-Lyon 2 in France
- *Conjuguer ouverture des possibles au temps de l'incertitude* by Patrick Fougeyrollas, Director of Education and scientific support of the Institut de réadaptation en déficience physique de Québec
- *La résilience en pratique, une expérience de vie* by Vincent Dumez, Director of the Faculty of patient partner expertise in the Faculty of Medicine, Université de Montréal

The professionals and administrators of the Health and Education networks, the researchers and students, the users of services and their relatives as well as all persons interested by resilience are therefore invited to come to discuss on this topic or simply to share what they have lived during the international Congress on Resilience.

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*** All speakers on site as well as members of the GIRAFE-CRIR are available for interviews. ***

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