



COALITION CONTRE  
l'obésité morbide

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**For immediate distribution**

**The Coalition against Morbid Obesity applauds the results of a Montreal study  
showing that cancer risk are reduced by 80% after bariatric surgery**

**Montreal, June 19, 2008** - Josée Roy and Jennifer Schultz, cofounders of the *Coalition against Morbid Obesity* ([www.lepoidsquitue.com](http://www.lepoidsquitue.com)), welcome the results of a major scientific study on bariatric surgery conducted in Montreal. This study shows that morbidly obese patients who had bariatric surgery reduced the risk of developing cancer by about 80 percent, with breast cancer and colon cancer showing the greatest reductions. "Several diseases and conditions are associated with morbid obesity. This latest study demonstrates once again the benefits of bariatric surgery, the most efficient treatment of morbid obesity as recognized by the World Health Organization," states Ms. Schultz. "It must be stressed that morbidly obese people also suffer from many other related diseases and affections that are very costly for our healthcare system," declares Ms. Roy. "This study and many other recent scientific studies<sup>1</sup> clearly show that bariatric surgery hinders the development of associated diseases requiring expensive treatments. Consequently, after just a few years, the costs of bariatric surgery are largely offset by the savings in the treatment costs of other diseases associated with morbid obesity. To perform bariatric surgery on a single morbidly obese patient means major savings in as many budget items as the number of associated diseases he/she is suffering from," concludes Ms. Roy.

**Eloquent results**

The results of the study ([http://www.lepoidsquitue.com/salledepresse\\_en.php](http://www.lepoidsquitue.com/salledepresse_en.php)) conducted by Nicholas Christou, MD, PhD, lead author and Director of Bariatric Surgery and Professor of Surgery at McGill University, were announced yesterday in Washington at the 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Society for Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery (ASMBS) [www.asmbs.org](http://www.asmbs.org).

---

<sup>1</sup> A team of researchers from McGill University headed by Doctor Nicholas V. Christou in 2004 and a Swedish study published in 2007 in The New England Journal of Medicine. (<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/abstract/357/8/741>)

### **Morbid obesity**

Morbid obesity is the starting point for different types of diseases that are often fatal, such as arterial hypertension, Type 2 diabetes, or heart disease. An individual's obesity level can be evaluated by means of the body mass index (BMI), which is calculated by dividing the person's weight by his or her height squared ( $\text{Kg/m}^2$ ). Morbid obesity corresponds to a BMI higher than or equal to 40, or higher than or equal to 35 if accompanied by comorbidities.

### **Bariatric surgery**

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), bariatric surgery is considered to be the only effective treatment for morbid obesity. Bariatric surgery includes a series of techniques that are based on two intervention principles: gastric bypass (reduced volume) and intestinal malabsorption (derivation). In Québec in 2005, the Agence d'évaluation des technologies et des modes d'intervention en santé (AETMIS) tabled a report entitled "Surgical Treatment of Morbid Obesity – Update", which reviews all of the bariatric surgery techniques. The AETMIS recommended establishing an action plan in Québec to define the need for bariatric surgery and devise ways to respond to these.

### ***About the Coalition against Morbid Obesity***

*Created in February 2007, the Coalition against Morbid Obesity is a non-profit, Québec-based organization that draws on the strength of association to increase awareness of the issue of morbid obesity and to foster better access to bariatric surgery in Québec. Its signature, "Weight that kills", expresses the dramatic situation that is experienced by people who are suffering from morbid obesity. As its name indicates, this disease leads to a faster death for those who are afflicted. For more information, visit [www.lepoidsquitue.com](http://www.lepoidsquitue.com).*

- 30 -

### **Contact:**

Hélène Hains  
Enigma Communications  
Telephone: 514-982-0308, extension 221  
Cell.: 514-825-0308  
[h.hains@enigma.ca](mailto:h.hains@enigma.ca)