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Contact: Gordon Guyatt
Phone: 905 628-4303
Email: guyatt@mcmaster.ca

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Gordon Guyatt Hailed as Key Medical Innovator

The prestigious British Medical Journal has chosen "evidence-based medicine" as one of the 15 greatest medical breakthroughs since the journal's founding in 1840. Dr. Gordon Guyatt a Professor of Medicine at McMaster University, and a former and prospective NDP federal candidate, coined the term "evidence-based medicine" in 1990, and has played a key role in its development and dissemination since that time.

Evidence-based medicine proposes a systematic approach that ensures that clinical decisions are consistent with the best evidence from medical research and clinical experience. The approach also emphasizes decision-making that is consistent with patients' values and preferences.

As the BMJ choice reflects, evidence-based medicine has led to a profound change in the way doctors and other health professionals worldwide think about their clinical practice. Other key breakthroughs that the BMJ put in the same category as evidence-based medicine include the development of anaesthesia, sanitation, antibiotics, and vaccines.

Dr. Guyatt is a key member of the McMaster team that developed the concept of evidence-based medicine, and continues to refine the underlying concepts of evidence-based practice. Voting is now under way to decide which of the 15 breakthroughs will be chosen as the "eureka moment" of the last 166 years.

For more information about the British Medical Journal medical milestones visit the BMJ website at <http://www.bmj.com/> or contact Dr. Gordon Guyatt at 905 628-4303.