



Dr. Anne Marie Salapatek with Ontario Lieutenant Governor Hilary Weston at the John Charles Polanyi Awards reception.

## *Big pay off for studying*

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Years of study have paid off for a Port Credit resident.

Dr. Anne Marie Salapatek was recently named by Ontario Education and Training Minister David Johnson as one of five 1998 recipients of the John Charles Polanyi Prizes.

The prizes were set up by the Ontario government in 1986, in recognition of the achievement of Dr. Polanyi, a University of Toronto professor who was a co-recipient of the Nobel Prize in chemistry that year.

Up to five Polanyi Prizes worth \$15,000 each may be awarded annually to post-doctoral students at Ontario universities in the fields of chemistry, literature, physics, physiology and medicine, and economics. The prizes are paid from the interest on a \$1-million trust fund.

Salapatek, 33, a researcher with the University of Toronto and The Toronto Hospital, received her prize in the physiology and medicine category for her work in studying the cells of the esophagus and pancreas.

She was among the first to show how muscles in the esophagus can control themselves without instructions from the brain.

Her current work is aimed at finding out how the cells of the pancreas release insulin, and may help researchers develop new treatments for diabetes.

"It's a thrill just to be associated with someone as accomplished as Dr. Polanyi," said Salapatek. "Receiving an award like this is a real boost when you are starting a career."

Salapatek hopes that her research will lead to a full-time faculty position with a university.