



GenomeCanada



GenomeQuébec

News release
For immediate release

**GENOME CANADA AND GÉNOME QUÉBEC APPLAUD THE PUBLICATION OF THE
SECOND GENERATION OF THE HAPLOTYPE MAP OF THE HUMAN GENOME (*HapMap*)
BY NATURE MAGAZINE**

Montreal, October 17, 2007 – The *International HapMap Consortium* is publishing the results of **phase II of the “haplotype map” of the human genome (HapMap)** in the October 18, 2007 issue of *Nature*. Genome Canada and Génome Québec, partners in HapMap, are pleased to salute the success of this major international project. A number of Canadian scientists have been part of the success of this international project since its beginnings, including Dr. Thomas J. Hudson while scientific director of the Génome Québec / McGill University Innovation Centre and Bartha Maria Knoppers, professor in the Université de Montréal’s faculty of law.

The HapMap project has made large-scale genomic association studies possible. This publication exemplifies the important role of the HapMap project in our understanding of human genetic variations and their connection with disease.

The second generation of the “haplotype map” of the human genome contains **three times more genetic markers** than the first version unveiled in 2005. In the prestigious magazine *Nature*, the Consortium explains that the higher resolution of this second version offers a greater ability to detect the genetic variations involved in certain illnesses; studies the structure of human genetic variation and makes it possible to learn how certain environmental factors influence the human genome. This research could result in new methods for the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of disease.

“The research results apply to all individuals and represent an invaluable contribution for scientists the world over,” said Martin Godbout, President and CEO of Genome Canada. “The HapMap Consortium is truly an example of international collaboration involving players from the industrial, academic and government sectors in the study of the minute fraction of human genetic material that varies among individuals and that could explain the differences observed in disease susceptibility, drug response and reactions to different environmental factors.”

“HapMap is a real scientific revolution that phenomenally enhances our capacity to analyse genetic variations. The success of HapMap illustrates our desire to promote the expertise of our scientists on the international stage,” said Paul L’Archevêque, President and CEO of Génome Québec. “We are proud to pay homage to the two Québec scientists who have played a leadership role since the beginning of the project. This project is fully consistent with the strategic objectives for innovation established by Québec’s Ministère du Développement économique, de l’Innovation et de l’Exportation.”

The *International HapMap Consortium* is a partnership of scientists and financing organizations from Canada, China, Japan, Nigeria, the U.K. and the United States, the objective of which is to develop a public resource that will allow scientists to establish links between genetic variations and the risk of contracting certain diseases.

About Genome Canada:

Genome Canada is a private, non-profit corporation, and the primary funding and information resource relating to genomics and proteomics research in Canada. Its principal goal is to position Canada among the world leaders in genomics and proteomics research. Its mandate is to develop and implement a national strategy in genomics and proteomics research for the benefit of all Canadians in key selected area such as agriculture, environment, fisheries, forestry, animal and human health, and new technology. For this purpose, it has received \$700 million in funding from the Canadian government and co-funding from other partners over seven years, allowing it to invest a total of \$1.5 billion in 115 innovative research projects and technology platforms. To learn more about Genome Canada, please visit our Web site at www.genomecanada.ca

About Génome Québec:

The mission of Génome Québec is to mobilize academic and industrial sectors with regard to genomics and proteomics research. This private non-profit organization invests and manages funds totalling over \$380 million from both the private and public sectors. Génome Québec currently manages projects in six major sectors: human health, bioinformatics, ethics, the environment, and forestry and agricultural sciences. To find out more about Génome Québec and genomics, visit its Web site at www.genomequebec.com.

Information:

Claudine Renauld
Vice President, Communications and Public Affairs
Génome Canada
613 751-4460 ext. 129

Louise Thibault
Project Manager, Communications
Génome Québec
514 398-0668 ext. 232