

Tripartite Agreement with the United Kingdom Québec Embraces Specialized Training in Genomics

Montréal, November 8, 2017 — Daniel Coderre, President and CEO of Génome Québec, and Daniel Bouthillier, Chief Executive Officer of the Quebec Network for Personalized Health Care (QNPHC), are pleased to announce that a tripartite agreement has been reached with Health Education England (HEE), who work across England to deliver high-quality education and training for the health and health care workforce.

This international partnership will provide Québec with access to the recognized expertise of the United Kingdom, a pioneer in the development of training and education tools in the area of genomics and precision medicine. Génome Québec and the QNPHC have obtained translation and distribution rights for an introductory training program in genomics pertaining to its current impact in clinical practice and its influence on the future of health care.

For Génome Québec, the democratization and integration of genomics are important driving forces behind the economic and social development of Québec. Its latest strategic plan includes a section on education, training, ethics and social acceptability – all major challenges in the years to come.

“The genomics revolution has led to more personalized health care, improved prediction and better disease prevention. To continue down this path, we need to actively work on training both the professionals of today and those of tomorrow by providing them with the tools and knowledge they need. Forward-looking countries such as the United Kingdom came to this conclusion early and implemented strategies and mechanisms to embrace the social shift. Québec, too, must join the international effort: training our health professionals in genomics is one of the cornerstones of its successful integration into our health care system. Given this backdrop, we are extremely proud of this collaborative agreement with the United Kingdom, since it will help us to learn from their tremendous experience in the delivery of specialized training and education in genomics,” said Daniel Coderre, President and CEO of Génome Québec.

Through a partnership with the QNPHC, the introductory genomics training program for professionals will be adapted and integrated into continuing education curricula as early as Spring of 2018: “Along with the HEE agreement, several partners have already confirmed their participation in the project, including many faculties of medicine, professional orders, researchers and physicians. The program will be accredited so that continuing education units may be earned and updated on a regular basis to remain at the cutting edge of practices and knowledge in the field,” explained Daniel Bouthillier, Chief Executive Officer of the QNPHC.

Dr. Anneke Seller, Scientific Director of the Genomics Education Programme added: “We are delighted to share a selection of our introductory education resources with Génome Québec. As the use of genomics and personalized medicine increases in health care, the need for a skilled and confident genomics literate workforce also increases, not only in our own health system but around the globe. By working in collaboration with our international partners to develop educational resources and interventions we can learn from each other and achieve so much more.”

About Génome Québec

Génome Québec is an economic development organization that contributes to strengthening the competitiveness of the genomics innovation system in order to maximize its socioeconomic impact in Québec. It does so by funding major research initiatives in genomics and putting in place the tools necessary for scientific and strategic development in the field.

The funds invested by Génome Québec are provided by the ministère de l'Économie, de la Science et de l'Innovation du Québec (MESI), the Government of Canada, through Genome Canada, and private partners.

To learn more, visit www.genomequebec.com.

About the Quebec Network for Personalized Health Care

The Quebec Network for Personalized Health Care (QNPHC) is a not-for-profit organization created in 2011 to promote the development and implementation of personalized health care in Québec. It provides a focal point and a platform for concerted action and promotion for all stakeholders working in research, development, deployment and management of personalized health care in Québec with significant benefits for the health of Quebecers, the efficiency of the health care system, the sector's economic growth and research excellence. The QNPHC currently brings together some 40 Québec organizations, both public and private, as well researchers and opinion leaders.

About HEE

HEE was established on 28 June 2012, working as a shadow Special Health Authority from 1 October 2012. It took on its full operational responsibilities from 1 April 2013. It has five national functions:

- providing national leadership on planning and developing the health care and public health workforce;
- promoting high-quality education and training that is responsive to the changing needs of patients and local communities, including responsibility for ensuring the effective delivery of important national functions such as medical trainee recruitment;
- ensuring security of supply of the health and public health workforce;
- appointing and supporting the development of LETBs; and
- allocating and accounting for NHS education and training resources and the outcomes achieved.

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