

Génome Québec Applauds the Implementation of Non-Invasive Genomic Testing into the Québec Prenatal Screening Program

Montréal, April 23, 2018 – Daniel Coderre, President and CEO of Génome Québec, is applauding Health and Social Services Minister Gaétan Barrette’s decision to improve the Québec trisomy prenatal screening program by implementing second-line non-invasive genomic testing (NIGT), which may reduce the number of amniocenteses performed in Québec by 90% in the context of this program.

NIGT requires the taking of only one blood sample from the mother and may detect certain chromosome abnormalities, including trisomies 13, 18 and 21.

The reliability of this test was confirmed in the PEGASUS project, led by Dr. François Rousseau of the CHU de Québec–Université Laval research centre and funded by Génome Québec and Genome Canada. This project involved 30 investigators and collaborators from several Canadian and European university centres, including the CHU Sainte-Justine–Université de Montréal.

The PEGASUS-provided medical and economic validation data and information tools for patients contributed to this decision being made by ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux authorities by showing, with the aid of conclusive and independent data, the importance of providing NIGT to women at high risk in order to confirm that risk before performing an amniocentesis, which involves risks of a miscarriage.

“Génome Québec is very proud of this major achievement made by Dr. Rousseau’s team. It is a success that shows the vital importance of investing in research to put genomics at patients’ service and allow them to benefit from the advances in precision medicine. Breakthroughs in genomics research can be implemented only with the production of solid, conclusive data and with government support. Implementation of this genomic testing in the public health care system is proof of the leadership of a government that sees genomics as a booming sector for people’s health and wellness,” said Mr. Coderre.

About Génome Québec

Génome Québec’s mission is to catalyze the development and excellence of genomics research and promote its integration and democratization. It is a pillar of the Québec bioeconomy and contributes to Québec’s influence and its social and sustainable development.

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

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