

**QUÉBEC LANDS AN IMPRESSIVE SHARE IN A FEDERAL
GENOMICS RESEARCH COMPETITION: OVER \$26 MILLION AWARDED
TO QUÉBEC SCIENTISTS**

Montreal, April 21, 2009 – Génome Québec recognizes the excellence of Québec scientists, who have once again demonstrated their talent as part of the competition on bioproducts and cultures, initiated by Genome Canada (ABC competition). Of the 12 projects chosen, two are from Québec, while a third is co-directed by a Québec scientist.

Génome Québec applauds the performance of Québec in this competition. For Jean-Marc Proulx, president and CEO, "the projects chosen hold extraordinary potential for Québec, in strategic and promising niches of expertise in green solutions. By obtaining 28.5% of the total research projects funded by Genome Canada in this competition, Québec demonstrates its ability to be highly competitive in sectors other than human health."

Adrian Tsang from Concordia University's Centre for Functional and Structural Genomics was awarded \$17.4 million for his project on the *Discovery of genozymes for developing bioproducts and bioprocesses*. Vincent Martin, also from Concordia, will receive \$13.5 million for the project he co-directs with Peter Facchini from the University of Calgary. Of the latter amount, \$4.6 million will be spent in Québec. Dr. Martin's project looks at *Synthetic biosystems for the production of high-value plant metabolites*. Thomas Bureau of McGill University will receive \$4.5 million for his project on the *Identification and experimental validation of new regulatory regions and new genes for improving cultures*.

Catalina Lopez-Correa, interim vice president, scientific affairs for Génome Québec, underscored the capacity for genomics research in Québec in a context where science and technology must be recognized and valued as tools for economic development. "I am very proud of the results obtained by Québec and remain entirely convinced that a society's wealth lies largely on the strength of its knowledge and its ability to support its development. Congratulations to everyone!"

In addition to the funding provided for Québec projects, the technology services requested from the McGill University and Génome Québec Innovation Centre will bring in a little more than \$6 million to Québec from projects conducted in other Canadian provinces.

About Génome Québec

Génome Québec is a private non-profit organization whose mission is to reinforce Québec's innovation system in genomics by financing major genomics research initiatives. The investments of more than 400 million dollars since 2001 have contributed to accelerate the discovery of new applications, such as screening tests, therapeutic tools in human health or new environmental procedures in agriculture and forestry. The funds invested by Génome Québec come from the ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation of Québec, the Government of Canada through Génome Canada and from private partners. To find out more about Génome Québec and genomics, visit its Web site at www.genomequebec.com.

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