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MEDIA RELEASE

P³G TO UNVEIL LANDMARK RESULTS IN HUMAN GENOMICS RESEARCH

**AFTER ONLY THREE YEARS, P³G SCIENTISTS IMPLEMENT BREAKTHROUGH
TOOL THAT ACCELERATES INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH**

MONTREAL (CANADA), April 26th, 2010 – Montreal-based international consortium Public Population Project in Genomics (P³G), will announce today a remarkable achievement: the development of the first P³G international harmonization project which will accelerate human health research. P³G provides the international population genomics and epidemiology communities with easy access to wide-ranging of tools and expertise in all areas of lifespan and lifestyle biobank studies. P³G is funded by Genome Canada and Génome Québec.

This afternoon, Dr. Isabel Fortier, Director, Research and Development at P³G will release the results of an international initiative based on 50 large studies from 18 countries and representing more than five million participants. The results will be made public during Session 3: Harmonization Platform – Successes & Ongoing Developments, chaired by Dr. Tom Hudson, co-Principal Investigator of P³G and President & Scientific Director of the Ontario Institute for Cancer Research. Using tools developed by P³G over the last three years, the platform demonstrates the capacity to synthesize data across large studies thereby revealing its full potential for genomic and epidemiological studies.

A true engine for collaboration, this new platform is a major driver for efficient international research. It also offers a solution to the problems of under-usage of research data and the difficulty of reaching adequate sample size within a single project. The next generation of gene-environment interactions research causing complex diseases such as diabetes and cancer will benefit.

Dr. C. Thomas Caskey, Chair of the Board of Directors of Genome Canada declared: “We are very proud to be a lead funder of P³G. This project milestone demonstrates the real benefits of what open international collaborations under Canada’s strong leadership can achieve. These harmonized tools will leverage the full potential of genomics technologies to accelerate the advancement of population health research, spur new product development by the life sciences industry and help address significant health issues for the global benefit of society as a whole.” Over 120 internationally-renowned experts from the fields of biobanking, epidemiology, ethics, law, and information technology are meeting in Montreal today and tomorrow to discuss the significant implications and contributions this innovative research delivers to population and epidemiological research.

Mr. Jean-Marc Proulx, President and CEO of Génome Québec said: “When we provided funding to P³G, we felt confident the investment would bring the anticipated results despite the challenges P³G members and the leadership team had to face. Today, we are applauding their successes.”

Dr. Bartha Maria Knoppers, P³G Chair and Principal Investigator said, “When Dr. Hudson and I co-founded P³G, we knew there were unmet needs to access valid data on the causes of common diseases to inform scientists, public health researchers and policy makers. We believe the cooperative environment created by P³G will transform health research for years to come.”



About the Public Population Project in Genomics (P³G)

P³G is a Montreal-based, not-for-profit international consortium that provides the international population genomics and epidemiology communities with easy access to the expertise, resources, innovative tools and most up-to-date information from all areas of lifespan and lifestyle biobank studies. P³G works with experts from 48 countries around the world to empower the research community to achieve the full potential of high-quality, large-scale research data. P³G brings the genomics, epidemiological, policy-making and information technology communities closer through its workshops and Observatory - a publicly accessible knowledge database. Principles of transparency and collaboration are integral to the P³G approach. P³G is hosted by University of Montreal. www.p3g.org

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For additional information, please contact:

Jacques C. Gagnon
(514) 713-7303
icgagnon@icgcom.ca

Tamarah Feder
(514) 343-7001, ext. 33497
tfeder@p3g.org