

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Québec-France Partnership in Genomics Medicine A Tripartite Collaboration Agreement for Génome Québec

Saint-Étienne (France), November 13, 2018 – Daniel Coderre, President and CEO of Génome Québec, is pleased to announce that an international tripartite partnership agreement has been signed with the Université Jean Monnet de Saint-Étienne – Université de Lyon and the Cancéropôle Lyon Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes (CLARA).

The purpose of this agreement is to provide the partners with a framework for the launch of exploratory initiatives that will make genomics work for citizens and society. More specifically, it will focus on developing public education initiatives in French-speaking countries.

According to Daniel Coderre, “by transferring know-how and expertise and by developing outreach activities, we can help make this shift from the lab to the clinic a success for society.” Both Québec and France wish to strengthen their leadership in genome-based health research throughout the Francophonie and thus assert their position as global leaders. “This partnership is a strategic one for Génome Québec given that successfully leveraging the full benefits of genomics involves public education, knowledge building and social acceptance,” added Mr. Coderre.

For Michèle Cottier, President of the Université Jean Monnet, “genomics is a source of technological progress that will radically transform the way we diagnose and treat cancer and rare diseases. From the outset, therefore, it is crucial to make sure that breakthroughs in genomics are supported by education and training programs for both professionals and the public. Social acceptance is a key factor that must be considered when it comes to moving genomics forward.” It is against this backdrop that the Université Jean Monnet decided to develop a special partnership with Génome Québec, which has already created training and education programs of this nature.

Ms. Cottier is extremely pleased with the partnership, since it will help teams at Université Jean Monnet to leverage existing information in order to fast track the production of training and education programs. The partnership will also serve as an opportunity to spearhead joint research with Canadian teams.

As a result, Université Jean Monnet will have the chance to fully play its role of supporting the development of genomics in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region, at a time when the technology enjoys solid national support given the development of various platforms, one of which in this area.

Véronique Trillet-Lenoir, President of the CLARA Management Board, welcomes the partnership with Génome Québec and Université Jean Monnet: “This agreement represents one of the first achievements under the Oncopole du Québec signed in March 2018 at the Alternating Meeting between the Premier of Québec and the Prime Minister of France. The meeting established genomics and personalized health as priority issues in collaboration with our Québec partners involved in the fight against cancer. The agreement aims to create health training and education tools to support professionals and the public in adjusting to these technological revolutions.”

The agreement was signed at the Saint-Étienne City Hall during the 31st edition of the Entretiens Jacques Cartier (EJC). Organized every year alternatively in the Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes region and in Québec, the EJC are the largest gathering of French-speaking researchers, academics, policy makers, business leaders and cultural actors. They focus on promoting the synergy of the network, enhancing the reputation and appeal of the regions involved and fostering discussion on bilateral business practices.

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 et de l'Innovation du Québec (MEI), the Government of Canada, through Genome Canada, and private partners.

To learn more, visit www.genomequebec.com

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