

Québec, a key driver of innovation in genomics

Eleven Québec projects to benefit from major investments

Montréal, February 4, 2019 – Major federal and provincial investments in the genomics sector were announced today in conjunction with three recent Genome Canada competitions.

Daniel Coderre, President and CEO of Génome Québec, is proud to recognize the results obtained by Québec, which secured \$18 million for 11 projects, a share of more than 30% of the overall federal funding available.

The strong performance by Québec researchers in Genome Canada's most recent competitions positions Québec as a key driver of innovation: "The funds awarded today give researchers access to the tools, technology and resources they need to leverage the full potential of genomics. This science is transforming our way of doing things by improving productivity and enhancing the quality of life for our citizens. These strategic investments reflect an innovative approach to problem solving and to decision-making by focusing on our capacity to master the use and processing of Big Data generated by genomics research," said Mr. Coderre.

For example, Dr. Régen Drouin, research fellow at Université Laval, received \$5.1 million to develop bioinformatics algorithms that will help deliver better clinical genomics diagnoses when screening for chromosomal abnormalities, including rare diseases in children. His research is expected to save the Canadian healthcare system some \$12 million.

The diagnostic tools resulting from this project are being developed in partnership with Fulgent Genetics, a leading developer of genetic tests in the United States. The company will be opening a laboratory in Québec City, undeniable proof that the integration of genomics-based solutions in health is now underway and contributing to our economic development.

Today's announcement included 11 projects funded in three competitions:

The GAPP program (Genomic Applications Partnership Program) created to promote partnerships between university researchers and end users to meet the needs of key sectors (human health, agriculture, forestry, environment)

- [Dr. Régen Drouin \(Université Laval\)](#)

The Disruptive Innovation in Genomics Competition launched to promote the development of next-generation technological innovations in genomics.

- [Pr. David Juncker \(McGill University\)](#)
- [Pr. Éric Lécuver \(Montreal Clinical Research Institute \[IRCM\]\)](#)

The Bioinformatics and Computational Biology Competition designed to support the development of approaches using artificial intelligence and other advanced computer-based techniques, as well as methods to process the massive sets of data generated by genomics.

- [Pr. Blanchette \(McGill University\)](#)
- [Pr. Bourque \(McGill University\)](#)
- [Pr. Butler \(Concordia University\)](#)
- [Pr. Baniré Diallo \(Université du Québec à Montréal\)](#)
- [Pr. Greenwood \(Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research\)](#)
- [Pr. Najmanovich \(Université de Montréal\)](#)
- 2 projects for Pr. Xia (McGill University)
 - [Development and validation of a web-based platform for environmental omics and toxicology](#)
 - [An integrative platform for metabolomics and systems biology](#)

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

- 30 -

Source

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