

COVID-19 – A New Initiative from the Québec Research Sector ***Creation of the Québec COVID Biobank***

Montréal, March 26, 2020 — As part of the initiatives put forward to find solutions to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Fonds de recherche du Québec and Génome Québec have tasked a group of researchers with establishing the Québec COVID Biobank.

The primary objective of this Québec-based infrastructure, which will be governed by a strict legal and ethical framework, is to make available to Québec researchers the samples and data they need to support their research on COVID-19. Additionally, the Biobank will serve to catalyze and facilitate the coordination of research on COVID-19 here in Québec, but also in Canada and around the world.

According to Dr. Vincent Mooser, Canada Research Excellence Chair in Genomic Medicine of the Faculty of Medicine at McGill University, and Director of the Biobank's working group, "this initiative will help support research efforts focused on discovering and developing new biomarkers of the disease and its progression, as well as medications and vaccines. Moreover, it will promote the development of new technologies required for the analysis of large databases."

Carole Jabet, Scientific Director of the Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé, who also chairs the Biobank's governance committee, added that "the Biobank will stimulate research in health and precision medicine on an unprecedented scale in Québec, in support of health care, innovation and research."

"This decentralized infrastructure will enable us to pool the research efforts of all institutions in Québec and facilitate partnerships for research on a national and international scale," said Serge Marchand, Vice President, Scientific Affairs at Génome Québec.

Discussions are underway at the federal level to eventually include this Biobank in a pan-Canadian network. The collection of data and samples will begin on April 1, 2020.

About Fonds de recherche du Québec

Fonds de recherche du Québec, which report to the Québec Minister of Economy and Innovation, are tasked with nurturing the strategic and coherent development of research in Québec, funding Québec research and researcher training, creating partnerships that will enable them to fulfill their mission, and promoting and supporting knowledge mobilization. To learn more, go to: [FRQSC](#), [FRQS](#), [FRQNT](#)

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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