

THREE EXCEPTIONAL WOMEN JOIN THE GÉNOME QUÉBEC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Montréal, September 21, 2021 — Génome Québec is extremely proud to welcome Dr. Caroline Quach, Ms. Marie-Paule Jeansonne and Ms. Geneviève Guertin to its Board of Directors.

“I am delighted and proud of these appointments, especially since the three new members, each of them very experienced in their respective areas, will not only help us move forward with our plan to embrace an even more innovative, competitive approach in the coming years but also support our goal of achieving gender equality in keeping with our values,” said Anie Perrault, Chair of the Board.

Meeting the challenge of future pandemics

Dr. Caroline Quach is a professor in the Department of Microbiology, Infectious Diseases and Immunology and the Department of Pediatrics at Université de Montréal. Named one of Canada’s most influential women in science and technology in 2019, Dr. Quach became a leading and most trusted voice of the past year. Until recently, she chaired the National Advisory Committee on Immunization of the Public Health Agency of Canada.

Her vast expertise will make a significant contribution to the development of the organization’s vision in the coming years, particularly in pathogen surveillance and control. The number of biobanks, where anonymized biological samples and virus samples are safely stored and managed, is currently growing. Through her involvement in Génome Québec’s governance, Dr. Quach will be able to steer in the right direction the organization’s priorities in such matters involving public health.

Building a bridge between genomics and artificial intelligence

Ms. Marie-Paule Jeansonne is President and CEO of Forum IA Québec, an organization that supports the development of the Québec artificial intelligence ecosystem. The forum spearheads projects aimed at enhancing the international competitiveness of Québec artificial intelligence producers. Previously, she worked for the Québec government on the adoption of public policies in research, science, and innovation. More specifically, she took part in Québec’s initial efforts to structure its rising artificial intelligence ecosystem.

Ms. Jeansonne’s expertise and network in this rapidly growing field, where Québec is making a name for itself at the national and international levels, constitute a major strategic asset for Génome Québec. The convergence of genomics and artificial intelligence is essential to ensure Québec’s competitiveness in research and innovation and its strong position in anticipation of the coming pan-Canadian genomics strategy that the federal government wishes to adopt.

Diversifying sources of funding

Ms. Geneviève Guertin is Vice-President, Investments – Life Sciences at the Fonds de solidarité FTQ. She is recognized for her expertise and in-depth understanding of funding issues in research and innovation. Before joining the Fonds de solidarité FTQ, Ms. Guertin was honing her skills as Investment Director – Life Sciences at Société générale de financement du Québec.

It goes without saying that her track record will go a long way toward helping Génome Québec consolidate its investment strategy. This is especially significant given that genomics is in full growth mode now. Its real-world applications are on the rise and align even better with Québec’s social and economic priorities. Against this backdrop, her vast experience will bolster Génome Québec’s vision, while meeting the challenge of attracting private investment. Ms. Guertin’s expertise will be most valuable as we enter a new strategic cycle.

Added value for Génome Québec's vision

The past year has marked a turning point for many organizations, including Génome Québec, which is now more emboldened than ever by recent achievements and lessons learned. The organization hopes to contribute to Québec's economic recovery by proposing solutions to the major challenges in the coming years. "It is such an honour to welcome among us these three highly skilled women. Their expertise will make it possible to take our level of competitiveness to the next level," said Daniel Coderre, President and CEO of Génome Québec.

Quotes

Dr. Caroline Quach

"The COVID-19 pandemic made it so clear that we need genomics—whether it's to better understand the virus and how it spreads or to have a clearer picture of clinical presentations that differ significantly from one person to another. There's also a very clear need for a deeper understanding of antibiotic resistance and possible solutions. Being a member of the Génome Québec Board is a way for me to push things forward—by bringing together clinical research and public health and expanding my own horizons and knowledge, because challenges are what life is all about."

Ms. Marie-Paule Jeansonne

"When it comes to artificial intelligence and genomics, Québec has leading-edge expertise. The convergence of these two transformational technologies should accelerate scientific discoveries that will benefit all Quebecers, as we currently see with projects on new and effective treatments for COVID-19 and cancer. The Génome Québec Board is a natural fit for me, more specifically to promote access to genomic data for research and to develop talent capable of building a bridge between artificial intelligence and genomics."

Ms. Geneviève Guertin

"I am honoured to join the Génome Québec Board of Director. I was attracted by the number of sectors that the organization is involved in—everything from health, agriculture and agrifood to forestry and the environment. These are five critical areas for the Fonds de solidarité FTQ, and I am very enthusiastic at the idea of supporting the organization's success on this front."

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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