

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

**LAUNCH OF GENOVALIA, THE FIRST NON-HUMAN
GENOMIC DATA EXPLOITATION CENTRE IN QUÉBEC**

Québec City, April 12, 2022 – Génome Québec and Université Laval are proud to announce the launch of Genovalia, the very first centre dedicated to the production, processing and exploitation of non-human genomic data in Québec. This initiative will create value by building on the synergy between artificial intelligence and genomic data in sectors such as agrifood, forestry and environmental sciences.

The goal of Genovalia is to support work in genomics, from the pre-project planning to the exploitation, structuring and storage of data. The FAIR principles—findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable—will guide how data is managed. Claude Robert, a professor at Université Laval’s Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences, will ensure the scientific oversight of the centre, which will complement and enhance the services offered by the Centre d’expertise et de services Génome Québec.

Genovalia will benefit from Université Laval’s expertise and exceptional research facilities, notably in artificial intelligence. The centre will also be able to respond more efficiently to the numerous challenges in genomics, such as improving standardization in data collection, increasing information sharing among different areas of research, growing computational capacity, and developing more efficient analytical tools. Better use of genomic data will provide many advantages for the industry, help guide public policies and further advance scientific research.

Quotes

“To lay the groundwork for Genovalia, Génome Québec invested \$500,000 over the last year. This innovative approach involving artificial intelligence and genomic data, in fields other than health, will allow us to optimize this investment to benefit Québec society. The synergy will propel scientific research by making use of a huge volume of complex data, and this will ultimately serve as a catalyst for Québec innovation and boost our competitiveness both in Canada and internationally.”

Daniel Coderre, President and CEO, Génome Québec

“Non-human genomics, which touches on agricultural, food, ecosystem and forestry sciences, is a field with major scientific and economic potential that warrants further development. The partnership with Génome Québec, which made possible the creation of Genovalia, showcases Université Laval’s willingness to put its expertise and research facilities at the service of Québec society.”

Sophie D’Amours, Rector, Université Laval

“While there is still room for growth in the production of genomic data, the advances made in the last two decades in this field and in the acquisition of associated metadata now allow for many new avenues in the processing of these data. Genovalia is in line with this vision to create a favourable environment for the production, use and storage of non-human genomic data.”

Claude Robert, Professor at Université Laval’s Faculty of Agriculture and Food Sciences and Scientific Director of Genovalia

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.

About Université Laval

University of impact, driven by innovation and the pursuit of excellence, Université Laval is one of Canada's leading research universities, ranking 7th in the country, with over \$426 million in research funding last year. A leader in distance education, it boasts more than 1,650 professors as well as 2,300 lecturers and other academic and research staff who share their knowledge with some 55,000 students annually, 27% of whom are enrolled in graduate studies. The university values diversity and is proud of the members of its community, who hail from 130 countries. The oldest French-language university in North America, Université Laval has, to this day, educated more than 326,000 people who each contribute in their own way to the advancement of society. www.ulaval.ca

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