



Press Release

For Immediate Release

**\$1,12 million to increase genomics' economic benefits
A research from Université Laval wins Genome Canada's Entrepreneurship
Education in Genomics (EEG) Competition**

Québec City, September 15, 2011 – Genome Canada, in partnership with Génome Québec and Université Laval, is pleased to announce that Denis J. Garand, Associate Professor at the Department of Management of the Faculty of Administration, and his team have been awarded \$1,12 million for the research project *Boosting Entrepreneurial Skills and Training: BEST in Genomics!*

This investment is part of the Genome Canada EEG pilot program, whose goal is to support initiatives that will teach Canadian genomic researchers how to capture and maximize the value of their research and convert their discoveries into marketable applications, products, technology, systems and processes. Genome Canada provided 50 percent of the total funding, while Génome Québec provided 25 percent; the remaining 25 percent came from other sources.

“After a decade of investments in genomics, it is only logical to now focus on how to translate this research into tangible results, even as we remain committed to funding excellent cutting-edge research. This will ensure that new knowledge is converted into innovations that will enhance prosperity in Québec and Canada,” explained Pierre Meulien, President and CEO of Genome Canada.

“We want to help the researchers we select turn their ideas into innovations and commercial successes by giving them customized entrepreneurship training, right in their workplaces and at their own pace (four levels) through the digital teaching environment offered by Université Laval,” stated Mr. Garand. “In three years, we will be ready to submit proposals to Genome Canada; this will eventually lead to the better commercialization of research results, patents and discoveries.”

Jean-Marc Proulx, President and CEO of Génome Québec added that “the tools that will be developed by Mr. Garand and his team will equip Québec researchers with a next set of skills that will round out their expertise in the field of science. It will also bring to fruition some of the projects in the Génome Québec portfolio by allowing for the translation of their technology.”

About the project

The goal of the project, which was selected from nine submissions made to Genome Canada, is to educate and support researchers, professors, research directors, research assistants and graduates in genomics (biotechnology, life sciences and animal and plant health) and help them develop their entrepreneurial skills and eventually learn to convert their discoveries into commercial successes. Researchers from various faculties, including medicine, forestry and agriculture, who are working in university and hospital research centres in Québec and the Maritime Provinces, will be identified and those selected will have access to various awareness, education, training, translational and support activities, based on their degree of openness to entrepreneurship and the status of their project.

Mr. Garand's team brings together 12 prominent professors-researchers from Québec universities, in addition to industrial partners, who will be working with some thirty genomics and bio-technology scientists.

About Genome Canada

Genome Canada is a non-profit corporation employing an innovative business model based on funding and managing large-scale, multidisciplinary, internationally peer-reviewed genomics research projects in sectors such as agriculture, energy, environment, fisheries, forestry, human health and mining. For more information, visit www.genomecanada.ca

About Génome Québec

Génome Québec is a private not-for-profit organization whose mission is to reinforce Québec's innovation system in genomics by financing major genomics research initiatives. The investments of nearly half a billion dollars since 2001 have contributed to accelerate the discovery of new applications, such as screening tests, therapeutic tools in human health or new environmental procedures in agriculture and forestry. The funds invested by Génome Québec come from the Ministry of Economic Development, Innovation and Export Trade of Québec (MDEIE), the Government of Canada through Génome Canada and from private partners. For more information, visit www.genomequebec.com

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