

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

**MINISTER CLÉMENT GIGNAC AND GÉNOME QUÉBEC ANNOUNCE THE PROJECTS
SELECTED AS PART OF A \$27.5 MILLION INVESTMENT IN GENOMICS**

Montréal, October 12, 2010 - Mr. Clément Gignac, Minister of Economic Development, Innovation and Export Trade, and Génome Québec President and CEO Mr. Jean-Marc Proulx today announced the results of competitions designed to support and foster nineteen innovative research projects in the area of genomics. These initiatives will be cofunded, on one half from a \$13.75-million investment from the total \$30 million dollar envelope granted to Génome Québec in the fall of 2009 by the Government of Québec. The other half comes from funding amassed from various public and private investors, for a total investment of \$27.5 million over the next three years.

The competitions, unveiled last fall by Génome Québec, specifically aim to boost research in the genomics sector. The nineteen projects selected cover a wide range of applications linked to human health. A good number of them seek to improve cancer screening, diagnostic and treatment procedures, while others focus on the environment's impact on genes related to diseases. Technological development projects are also of interest, particularly those concerning portable tools for genomics analyses. Generally speaking, these projects shed new light on complex health problems such as neurological, metabolic and infectious diseases, with the goal of offering the public effective and appropriate health care options.

The projects selected all have the potential to significantly change the traditional approach to medicine. By targeting advances in genomics technology, particularly in the area of human health, they are also designed to spur Québec's socioeconomic development. Genomics was identified as a strategic technology in Québec's Research and Innovation Strategy (QRIS) 2010-2013 announced last June by Minister Gignac.

"Genomics is one of the niches of excellence in which Québec excels, at both national and international levels, as a result of its innovative projects and the quality of its research," noted Minister Clément Gignac. "The life sciences sector, a key strategic factor in Québec's future prosperity, calls for a high level of expertise, which our research and development initiatives give us access to. DNA holds many secrets, not to mention previously un hoped for solutions to various problems and illnesses. Continuing our research efforts in this cutting-edge sector is thus pivotal to improving the health care services we offer," he added.

"Our vision entails transforming genomics into a driving force critical to Québec's future. As a catalyst of opportunities aimed at supporting Québec's scientific and socioeconomic development, Génome Québec is continually striving for excellence," stated Mr. Jean-Marc Proulx, Génome Québec's President and CEO. "Today's announcement, and the securing, in less than a year, of major funding for projects to develop technologies in search of innovative solutions, are a testimony to the quality and potential of Québec's expertise", he concluded.

The amount of \$13.75 million announced today is part of a global envelope of \$30 million granted to Génome Québec in the fall of 2009 by the Ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation (MDEIE). This sum is also an element of the measures proposed under the Québec Biopharmaceutical Strategy, also unveiled last fall, and for which the Government of Québec has earmarked a total of \$122.77 million over a three-year period. Québec was notably the first province in Canada to establish a strategy for this sector.

About Génome Québec

Génome Québec is a not-for-profit organization with the mission of supporting and spurring on genomics research through the funding of structuring research projects and the implementation of programs designed to integrate research results into the health and natural resources sectors. For more information about Génome Québec, please go to www.genomequebec.com.

For details on the Ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation programs and services, visit the MDEIE's Web page at www.mdeie.gouv.qc.ca/programmes.

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Appendix A

GÉNOME QUÉBEC COMPETITIONS **WINNING PROJECTS**

PILOTE PROJECTS COMPETITION

- Pierre Drapeau and Edor Kabashi – Université de Montréal
 - \$190,476
 - Chemical genetic screens for TDP-43 modifiers and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis therapeutics

- Jamie Engert – McGill University Health Centre
 - \$200,000
 - Data to better understand genes responsible for heart disease

- Zoha Kibar – Centre hospitalier universitaire Sainte-Justine, Université de Montréal
 - \$182,854 \$
 - Study of genes predisposing to neural tube defects

- Sarah Kimmins – McGill University
 - \$200,000 \$
 - Understanding causes of male infertility and paternal routes of disease in offspring

- Roger C. Lévesque – Université Laval
 - \$400,000
 - Genomics to better understand and control the spruce budworm

- Julie St-Pierre – McGill University
 - \$200,000
 - Discovery of new biomarkers for breast cancer

HUMAN HEALTH COMPETITIONS

General stream

- Gregor Andelfinger – Centre hospitalier universitaire Sainte-Justine, Université de Montréal
 - \$1,288,205
 - Finding genetic determinants for congenital heart disease

- Mark Basik – Lady Davis Institute Jewish General Hospital, McGill University
 - \$2,168,293
 - Overcome breast cancer resistance to chemotherapy

- Ken Dewar – McGill University
 - \$1,242,578
 - Study of intestinal microbes for a more effective treatment of infectious diseases and digestive disorders

- Michael Hallett – McGill University
 - \$2,899,560
 - Towards a personalized approach to breast cancers treatment
- Guy A. Rouleau – Centre hospitalier universitaire de Montréal
 - \$3,515,398
 - Towards a better understanding of bipolar disorder, more accurate ways to diagnose it and better ways to treat it
- Guy Sauvageau – Université de Montréal (IRIC)
 - \$4,002,649
 - Development of new markers for prognosis and treatment of acute myeloid leukemia
- John H. White – McGill University
 - \$1,273,155
 - Vitamin D to fight tuberculosis

Translational stream

- Michel G. Bergeron – Centre hospitalier universitaire de Québec
 - \$2,000,000
 - New simple automated tests to increase the efficiency of the healthcare system and reduce costs
- Paul Goodyer – McGill University Health Centre
 - \$989,700
 - Towards a new form of therapy for genetic diseases
- Pavel Hamet – Centre hospitalier universitaire de Montréal
 - \$2,000,000
 - Improvement of management care of diabetic patients thanks to genomics
- Alain Moreau – Centre hospitalier universitaire Sainte-Justine, Université de Montréal
 - \$2,000,000
 - Development of comprehensive diagnostic assays for scoliosis
- Gordon Shore and Michel L. Tremblay – McGill University
 - \$1,949,217
 - New method of therapeutic development for cancer
- Maryam Tabrizian – McGill University
 - \$795,000
 - Contributing to Québec's competitiveness and advances in public health