



Press Release

For immediate release

The 4th edition of the innovative partnership forum organized by the CQDM and Montréal InVivo was a huge success

Record attendance achieved with close to 190 people registered!

MONTRÉAL, QC, June 7, 2012 - The Québec Consortium for Drug Discovery (CQDM) and the life sciences and health technologies (LSHT) cluster of Greater Montréal, known as Montréal InVivo, organized today the fourth edition of their forum on innovative partnerships, which brought together Québec industry players associated with new opportunities for research partnerships and which addressed the challenges facing the industry, research and innovation in the field of drug discovery.

“The global pharmaceutical industry’s business model is currently undergoing a fundamental transformation. This change has already had major impacts on the Quebec industry,” stressed Max Fehlmann, President and Chief Executive Officer of the CQDM. “Participants’ interest in our forum is notably due to this year’s relevant theme, intended to explore new partnership opportunities between the industry and our scientific community,” he specified.

“This forum always creates an opportunity for constructive discussion with a view to fostering a better understanding of the challenges and constraints facing the various potential research partners. This year, I will specifically focus on the conclusions according to which the change in industry model represents a unique opportunity for Québec to become a leader in the field of drug research and development,” said Michelle Savoie, Chief Executive Officer of Montréal InVivo.

The forum notably welcomed as its keynote speaker, Uwe Schoenbeck, Chief Scientific Officer who leads Pfizer’s Worldwide Research and Development and the External R&D Innovation team. He is responsible for forging partnerships with biotechnology companies and academic centers. His knowledge of the new market trends in research partnerships was highly appreciated.

At the end of the forum, Christyne Tremblay reported the broad consensus that emerged at the Forum québécois des sciences de la vie held the week before in the presence of the Premier.

About the CQDM

The Québec Consortium for Drug Discovery (CQDM) is a non-profit organization whose principal mission is to fund research projects carried out in partnership between the academic and hospital milieus in the public sector and the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries in the private sector. An innovative Canadian initiative, the CQDM has a twofold goal: to accelerate the drug discovery process and to develop safer and more effective drugs. The funding of projects is made possible through the contributions of Pfizer Canada, AstraZeneca, Merck, Boehringer Ingelheim (Canada) Ltd., GlaxoSmithKline Inc., Eli Lilly Canada Inc., the Business-Led Networks of Centres of Excellence (BL-NCE), the Ministère du Développement Économique de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation (MDEIE) and the Fonds de recherche du Québec - Santé (FRQS). For more information, visit www.cqdm.org.

About Montréal InVivo

Montréal InVivo is the life sciences and health technologies (LSHT) cluster of Greater Montréal. This cluster is comprised of close to 620 organizations, including more than 150 research centres, 80 world-class subsidiaries and 41,000 individuals working in the sector. This creative cluster is a breeding ground for innovative ideas and is supported by four universities. It is ranked 1st in Canada in terms of the number of research centres.

The Montréal InVivo Secretariat is a non-profit business development organization focused on wealth creation. By mobilizing actors around critical issues like innovation, Montreal InVivo aims to ensure, through implementation of its actions and strategic plan, the sustainable development, durability and reputation of the LSHT sector of Greater Montréal.

Its activities are funded by the MDEIE, the MAMROT, the CMM, the DEC and private and institutional sectors.

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Sources:

Frank Béraud
Montréal InVivo
514 987 9389

fberaud@montreal-invivo.com
www.montreal-invivo.com

Diane Gosselin
CQDM
514 594-7286

dgosselin@cqdm.org
www.cqdm.org