



As part of CQDM **SynergiQc** program, and in addition to its regular and ongoing call for proposals, the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) and CQDM are combining forces to stimulate industrial research on **breast cancer** in the biopharmaceutical field within academic settings, to accelerate progress towards the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer.

Deadline to participate in the next round of selection (full application): October 5, 2018

A NEW COLLABORATION DEDICATED TO FINANCING INDUSTRIAL BIOPHARMACEUTICAL RESEARCH ON BREAST CANCER

With the **SynergiQc** program, CQDM offers funding not only to develop platforms and tools designed to improve biopharmaceutical R&D productivity, but also for the development of biopharmaceutical products with high industrial and commercial value, such as new molecules and other technologies considered more competitive. Its recent alliance with the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) allows CQDM to specifically target unmet needs in breast cancer research.

The intent of this partnership is to stimulate biomedical research in the breast cancer field by co-funding cutting-edge research in Quebec through the development of transformative biopharmaceutical products and tools, such as new medicines and next generation technologies, that will pave the way for new advances in breast cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment

SynergiQc offers the flexibility required to allow a broad network of diverse life sciences businesses to participate financially, either in groups or individually, in projects that meet their specific needs.

In addition, only the stakeholders in a project financed through the **SynergiQc** program will have access to the intellectual property (IP) resulting from that project.

SynergiQc, an overview

Details of the program are available after this section.

Program Information

Main objectives	Innovative biopharmaceutical technologies, tools, platforms, and products with high industrial and commercial value focusing on advancing the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer
Scope	Support and reinforce the innovative technological capabilities of Quebec businesses through the financing of large-scale industrial biopharmaceutical research projects on breast cancer
Important dates	Deadline to participate in the next round of selection: October 5, 2018
Intellectual property	Belongs to the researchers and their respective institutions
Targeted regions	Quebec
Eligibility	Quebec academic researchers and SMEs, public-private partnerships required

Project Specifics

Selection criteria	Scientific excellence, feasibility, competitive advantage, creation of value, and relevance to the needs of its industry partners, pertinence of the development and maturation plan, and potential impact for improving outcomes in breast cancer
Duration of projects	Minimum 1 year, maximum 3 years
Total amount	Minimum of \$500k, maximum of \$1.5M over 1-3 years

Submit a Project

Pre-selection	Send a scientific non-confidential summary to Marc Thibault , Director of Business Development, at the latest on September 7 . Then complete the SynergiQc CQDM/CCS Form and the Budget Form and submit them through CQDM's secure site after having obtained a username and password.
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SCOPE AND RESEARCH AGENDA

This CQDM/CCS SynergiQc initiative specifically focuses on breast cancer, with the intent of:

- Increasing the number of cooperative endeavours and partnerships between Quebec's universities and companies in the life sciences industry towards improved outcomes for breast cancer patients;

- Fostering technological maturation and the creation of industrial value, leading to economic benefits for both the project's stakeholders and for Quebec in general;
- Promoting the knowledge, capabilities, and the new technologies developed in public institutions and facilitating uptake by industry.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Eligible clients

Any researcher, or research team, working on breast cancer in an academic research institution in Quebec (universities and affiliated hospitals, research institutes, and College Centres for the Transfer of Technologies [CCTT]) working in close collaboration with one or more life sciences firms. In this instance, **a firm is described as any entity (private or public company, foundation, etc.)** with project financing funds that do not come from any government source. According to this definition, CCS is considered an eligible firm. However, at least one other firm having R&D or production activities in Quebec must be identified and willing to contribute to the project.

Eligible projects

Industrially oriented academic breast cancer research projects conducted in partnership with one or more firms. Economic benefits must be generated for all the project's stakeholders. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that the project's financing package meets the program's criteria (see the Financing section for details on the required amounts). The CQDM can assist applicants with this step, as detailed in the Application Submission Process section.

Biopharmaceutical research project encompassing Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of 1 to 3 evaluated at the beginning of the project (please refer to the [TRL Guide](#) on the website) are eligible:

Such projects, focusing on breast cancer, involve at least one additional firm being established in Quebec and engaging in internal research and development (R&D) or production, as well as at least one Quebec academic research institution; CCS represents the second eligible firm.

FUNDING

Only projects at TRLs of 1 to 3 are eligible to receive CCS's contribution

- The CQDM's financial support will represent no more than 40% of eligible project expenses;
- CCS's financial support will represent no more than 40% of eligible project expenses;

- In addition to CCS, which is considered private, one additional firm with research and development (R&D) or production activities in Quebec is required to participate in the financing of the research projects in cash for no less than 10% of the total budget and up to 20% of the total budget;
- If the firm's contribution is below 20% of the total budget, the remaining contributions necessary to achieve 100% of the total budget can come from government agencies;
- Combined support from government agencies cannot exceed 50% of the project's total expenses, including CQDM's 40% contribution.

For more information on potential funding structures for each TRL, please refer to Table 1 below.

Table 1. Summary of criteria to fund the projects

Characteristics	TRL 1-3
CQDM's maximum contribution	40% of eligible expenses or \$600k for projects with \$1.5M total budget
CCS's maximum contribution	40% of eligible expenses or \$600k for projects with \$1.5M total budget
Number of partnering firms required	In addition to CCS, at least one (1) firm with research or production activities in Quebec
Contribution required by partnering firms, excluding CCS	10% to 20% of the project's eligible expenses in cash One single partner cannot provide more than 80% of the amount contributed by all partnering firms, including CCS
Other counterpart funds*	Combined support from government agencies cannot exceed 50% of the project's total expenses, including CQDM's 40% contribution

* Combined governmental support (municipal, provincial, and federal) including financing from partners (associations, organizations, foundations, etc.) with funds provided by these government agencies cannot exceed 50% of the project's total expenses. In such cases, the financial support from CQDM will be reduced by a percentage equivalent to the surplus.

Added to the total project costs are indirect research costs (IRCs): a fixed rate of 27% of IRCs will be applied to CQDM portion for eligible expenditures (fellowships, studentships, salaries and benefits and materials and consumables). IRCs are excluded from the other participants' contributions ratio which appears in Table 1.

Duration

Minimum of 1 year, maximum of 3 years

Funding specifics

- Minimum budget: each project must have a budget of no less than \$500k with some exceptions, such as cases which indicate that significant value can be created with a smaller budget;
- Maximum budget: \$1.5M;
- Each budget item will be carefully analyzed and must be clearly justified.
- Applicant interested in applying for Mitacs funding for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows participating in the CQDM project, please fill the appropriate Mitacs internship section within the CQDM application form.

Eligible expenses

- Fellowships, studentships, salaries, and benefits for research personnel assigned to the project (technicians, research assistants and associates, postdoctoral fellows, and students);
- Laboratory material and fees paid to third party suppliers which are necessary to the completion of the project;
- Travel expenses (travel related to the project, collaborations, conferences) and knowledge dissemination costs;
- Costs related to intellectual property (patent applications, maintenance costs for the duration of the project).

Non-eligible expenses

- Equipment purchases and the rental or purchase of facilities;
- Salaries of researchers working at a university or one of its affiliated research centers.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION PROCESS

- Prepare a half-page, non-confidential scientific summary and send it to [Marc Thibault](#), Director of Business Development, **no later than September 7, 2018**;
- Complete the [SynergiQc](#) CQDM/CCS Application Form;
- Include the letters of support from Partnering firms in Appendix (letter from CCS is not required).

Applications must be submitted electronically through CQDM's secure site (<https://cqdm.firmex.com>). Applicants must first contact [Mathieu Perrée](#) at CQDM to obtain a username and password.

In addition, researchers are also strongly encouraged to call [Marc Thibault](#) at 514-766-6661 ext. 2190 should they have any questions or for help with any elements of the program, such as budgets and potential financing packages.

SELECTION CRITERIA FOR BREAST CANCER PROJECTS

- Scientific excellence: the innovative nature of the project, its contribution to the scientific community and the anticipated impact on the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer, and the quality and relevance of the proposed methodology in relation to the final product;
- The project's feasibility, the soundness of the schedule and of the proposed budget;
- The competitive advantage of the proposed technology;
- The creation of industrial value and the relevance between the project and the partners' needs;
- The partners' level of financial involvement;
- The synergy and complementarity between the researchers working on completing the project;
- The pertinence of the development plan and of the maturation of the technology required to release it to the end user;
- Economic benefits for Quebec;
- The training of a specialized and high-quality workforce.

EVALUATION PROCESS

The main steps of the evaluation are:

1. An independent scientific evaluation based on the selection criteria detailed above; CQDM and CCS will establish a joint external peer review committee that will be administered by CQDM in collaboration with CCS. The peer review committee will consist of scientific experts with broad expertise;
2. An evaluation of the non-scientific elements of the project, including the quality of the relationship and of the cooperation between the researchers and the firms, the added value of the cooperation, and the economic benefits for each of the stakeholders, including for Quebec;
3. The selection of the project by CQDM's Scientific Advisory Board and its recommendation to CQDM's Board of Directors;
4. Approval by CQDM's Board of Directors, and by the CCS Advisory Council on Research (ACOR) and CEO;

5. Approval of the necessary funding by the Ministry of Economy, Science and Innovation (MESI).

RESEARCH AGREEMENT

Researchers receiving funding in this CQDM/CCS initiative will be required to sign a **research agreement** with CQDM within 3 months after receiving the funding confirmation letter. This research agreement must be signed by all research entities involved in the project as well as all the private partners.

The research agreement will be based on the following principles:

- The intellectual property will remain the property of the researchers that developed it, in accordance with the existing policies of the research entities involved in the project;
- The research agreement will clearly define the milestones to be reached, the schedule (Gantt chart), and the products to be delivered at the end of the project;
- Any interinstitutional intellectual property agreement signed by all research entities involved in the project and of which the CQDM is not part, must be included in the research agreement as an appendix.