



Press release

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The Forum québécois des sciences de la vie – a highly anticipated event!

The forum organized by the Québec Government generated exceptional communication and dialogue in Québec's life sciences and health technologies sector.

MONTRÉAL, QC, June 1, 2012 - The life sciences and health technologies (LSHT) cluster of Greater Montréal, known as Montréal InVivo, was invited to participate in the Forum québécois des sciences de la vie held on June 1st where it was represented by its Interim Chair of the Board of Directors, Dr. Jacques Gagné, and by several Board members.

The LSHT sector is known for its vitality; over the last few years, it has launched a certain number of innovative and critical initiatives (e.g. Consortium Québécois sur la Découverte du Médicament, the Québec Network for Personalized Healthcare, etc.). The sector has been intent on garnering recognition from the government for its value in Québec society and on inspiring a unifying vision and facilitating clear objectives to emerge from this Forum.

"The initiative to hold the Forum québécois des sciences de la vie demonstrates the importance the Québec Government attaches to our sector," commended Jacques Gagné, Interim Chair of Montréal InVivo's Board of Directors. "LSHT as a whole substantially contributes to Québec's economic health notably through the high-quality jobs it generates. However, we mustn't forget its contribution to the improved health of citizens, one of the unique features of the life sciences and health technologies sector," he continued.

"I am pleased to see that the general consensus emerging from the Forum has paved the way for the development of a strong local LSHT industry in Québec. A true local industry is made up of solid and diversified SMEs, large businesses well entrenched in the local ecosystem, research centres poised to feed the pipeline of industrial innovations, welcoming structures for advancing and developing the most promising innovations, and an effective funding stream engaged throughout this innovation process. The route has been mapped out and it is now time for us to get down to work to ensure that the tangible actions instrumental in achieving the set goals are

implemented as quickly and efficiently as possible," said Michelle Savoie, CEO of Montréal InVivo.

Québec's life sciences and health technologies sector has reached a turning point in its history. Big pharmaceutical companies' model of discovery and innovation is changing. They are evolving from a tradition of internal development to a model in which outsourced research is becoming quite prevalent because the traditional approach based on concentrated resources and economies of scale failed to generate the desired research productivity gains. The change in industry model presents a singular opportunity to review the approaches being used in Québec. Additionally, the discussions held at the Forum allowed a vision for Québec to emerge in an effort to make the most of this reality.

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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