

Montréal InVivo reacts to Québec's economic policy statement

MONTRÉAL, QC, October 7, 2013. Montréal InVivo, the life sciences and health technologies (LSHT) cluster of the Montréal metropolitan area, is pleased to see that research and innovation as well as support to SMEs are among the government's key areas of concern.

"Additional investments are expected in research and innovation, which should benefit our sector overall. Furthermore, I am pleased to see the government's willingness to foster synergies and encourage networking among the various research and innovation players and entrepreneurs. The LSHT sector had clearly identified such a need. We now impatiently await tangible details to be disclosed in the future Québec research and innovation policy and industrial policy," commented Michelle Savoie, Chief Executive Officer of Montréal InVivo.

Montréal InVivo points out that the consultations it carried out earlier in the year in connection with Québec's future research and innovation policy and industrial policy raised the following issues.

Québec must support more aggressively the priority niches of excellence in which it has critical masses both in terms of public and industrial research and develop real programs to support these niches and make them even more competitive internationally. This approach has already yielded results in the case of the cross-cutting niche of personalized health care and must be repeated.

Québec's economic development in LSHT depends on the growth of all members of its ecosystem, including its research centres, its large companies and its SMEs, whose growth is fuelled by research and development. To continue to innovate, they must be stimulated and encouraged through new tools and support programs in the different phases of their growth. Methods likely to facilitate such success include new financing, greater access to mentoring for entrepreneurs, etc.

Québec also needs to set itself apart in terms of its ability to integrate innovations in LSHT in the province's health care network. This is achieved through closer and more numerous research

/industry/health care network partnerships and through programs aimed at stimulating the integration of innovations in the health care system.

Finally, it is critical that Québec's excellence in LSHT be known and recognized internationally. An initiative to promote our priority niches of excellence, our strengths and our assets should be implemented.

About Montréal InVivo

Montréal InVivo is the brand name for the life sciences and health technologies (LSHT) cluster of the Montréal metropolitan area. The cluster comprises almost 620 organizations, including more than 150 research centres, 80 subsidiaries of world-class companies, and 41,000 people employed in the sector. A wellspring of great ideas, the cluster includes four universities and ranks first in Canada for the number of research centres.

The secretariat of Montréal InVivo is a non-profit economic development organization dedicated to the creation of wealth. By mobilizing the relevant actors in order to meet crucial challenges such as innovation, and through the actions it undertakes and the implementation of its strategic plan, Montréal InVivo aims to ensure the sustainable development, long-term survival and international renown of the LSHT sector in Greater Montréal.

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