



GRAPPE DES SCIENCES DE LA VIE  
ET DES TECHNOLOGIES DE LA SANTÉ  
DU MONTRÉAL MÉTROPOLITAIN

**PRESS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION**

**LAUNCH OF GLOBAL CENTRE OF EXPERTISE IN EARLY STAGE CLINICAL TRIALS:  
More than half a million dollars for first phase**

Montréal (Québec), January 23, 2015 – With a hundred representatives present from the life sciences and health technologies (LSHT) cluster of the Montréal metropolitan area, Yves Bolduc, Minister of Higher Education, Research and Science, Robert Poëti, Minister of Transport and Minister responsible for the Montréal region, Pierre Desrochers, Chair of the Executive Committee of the Ville de Montréal and Vice-chair of the Committee on Economic Development, Metropolitan Infrastructure and Finance of the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal, and Russell Williams, President of Canada’s Research-Based Pharmaceutical Companies (Rx&D), announced today their financial support of the early stage clinical trials initiative implemented by Montréal InVivo and its partners. “Totalling more than half a million dollars, this investment, including the human contribution made by a number of partners, formally marks the launch of the first phase of the commitment of Montréal’s university hospital research centres as part of the November 17, 2014 initiative, “Je vois Montréal,” to position Montréal among the leaders in medical research,” said Michelle Savoie, Chief Executive Officer of Montréal InVivo.

This initiative will not only benefit Montréal’s reputation and reach, but will also capitalize on major investments made in public infrastructure, optimize efficiency of the research and development (R&D) activities in place and further attract foreign capital as well as create 500 new jobs. It is estimated that the spinoffs from this initiative will benefit more than 50% of companies in Montréal’s LSHT cluster active in the Montréal metropolitan area. As pointed out by Pierre Desrochers, “this project is a fine example of what can be accomplished when stakeholders in an industry work together. This is what our metropolitan clusters are all about. The CMM is proud to support the partnership put together through Montréal InVivo, whose excellent work must be acknowledged.”

“Our priority is to quickly develop a targeted marketing strategy to accelerate the implementation of the initiative, identify the sector’s key players in the international arena, specify their needs in terms of clinical research so as to respond more effectively and draw their investments to Montréal,” mentioned Michelle Savoie. “To achieve this objective, we are going to work closely with the subsidiaries of large international companies with a footprint in Montréal.”

As a result of these activities in connection with early stage clinical trials, Montrealers will eventually be able to be among the first in the world to access innovative treatments unavailable elsewhere. “We are proud to join this major initiative that will improve the competitive positioning of our key hospital research centres in Montréal and attract even more investments in clinical R&D by pharmaceutical research companies,” said Russell Williams. “We intend to intensify our efforts even further to promote Montréal’s strengths in medical research so patients in Québec may ultimately benefit from innovative treatments that would otherwise be unavailable and that have the potential to significantly improve

their health and save lives,” he continued. “Starting in June, we plan to begin a canvassing period,” said Montréal InVivo’s Chief Executive Officer. “We want to make it possible for even more patients to have access to clinical studies by the end of 2015.” The objective is do everything in our power to allow faster access to innovative treatments to twice as many patients involved in early stage clinical trials within the next five years.

### **About early stage clinical trials**

Early stage clinical trials aim to obtain, very early in the development cycle, the very first confirmations of the therapeutic value of a new treatment or of a new technology. Through these studies, attributes of new drugs or new technologies are identified in order to determine if they have the capacity to represent a therapeutic solution of scientific, medical, societal and commercial value.

### **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 600 organizations, including more than 150 research centres, 80 subsidiaries of world-class companies, and 40,000 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.

Montréal InVivo is a non-profit economic development organization dedicated to the creation of wealth. Its activities are supported by funding from the Ministère de l’Économie, de l’Innovation et des Exportations (MEIE), the Secrétariat à la région métropolitaine reporting to the Ministère des Affaires municipales et de l’Occupation du territoire, the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal (CMM), Canada Economic Development and private and institutional sectors.

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