

## 2016-2017 QUÉBEC BUDGET: MONTRÉAL INVIVO APPLAUDS THE IMPORTANCE GIVEN TO LIFE SCIENCES

Montréal (Québec), March 17, 2016 - Montréal InVivo applauds the Québec government for achieving a balanced budget, granting an important place to life sciences and health technologies (LSHT). "The creation of a Life Sciences Work Group in 2015 already demonstrates the government's commitment to our sector. The investments of several millions announced today confirm the sector's importance and significant contribution to Québec's economic growth," said Frank Béraud, Chief Executive Officer of Montréal InVivo. We recall that LSHT contribute more than \$5.3 billion to the province's GDP.

### **\$5.3 BILLION TO SUPPORT EARLY STAGE CLINICAL TRIAL RESEARCH**

The Early Stage Clinical Trial Initiative was central to the priorities formulated by Montréal InVivo as part of the 2016-2017 pre-budget meetings and had been the subject of a unanimous recommendation made by the Life Sciences Working Group. The Initiative will receive \$5.3 million in funding over five years, exceptional news for Montréal InVivo. This decision will enable the Montréal metropolitan area to generate revenue from its public research facilities by attracting \$240 million in private investments in the region, a conservative estimate, according to Mr. Béraud. "With this initiative, we're predicting that a clinical researcher involved in an early stage clinical trial will be in an excellent position to become one of the main investigators for subsequent clinical phases, which will generate further benefits for Québec." Beyond the economic impacts of the Initiative, more than 9,000 patients will be among the first in the world to access new treatments that would not be available otherwise. The acceleration of the evaluation of new drugs by the INESSS (Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux) provided in this budget also strengthens access by Québec patients to innovative treatments developed by the LSHT industry.

### **FUNDING TO SUPPORT COMPANIES**

Funding of companies continues to be a significant challenge, especially in the growth and development stage. "It is critical for Montréal InVivo to ensure that the footprint of jobs and companies is maintained on the territory. The 100 million dollars announced to facilitate the commercialization of discoveries by companies, the recapitalization of Teralys Capital and the creation of Amorchem II solidifies the local financing chain and helps keep companies in the province," added Frank Béraud. We also underscore the fact that the tax situation becomes even more attractive for innovative SMEs, which should result in increased growth in LSHT companies.

### **RECALLING WHAT THE LSHT SECTOR REPRESENTS:**

- An industry of close to \$1.950 billion worldwide and growing.
- 56,000 well-compensated jobs in the province.
- 1.5% of the province's GDP.
- + \$700 million of investments in public research since 2009 in Québec.
- \$1.2 billion in investments by Québec companies in 2015.

- A contribution per direct job to Québec's wealth of 70% more than the average of other productive sectors in Québec.

#### **ABOUT THE EARLY STAGE CLINICAL TRIAL (ESCT) INITIATIVE**

The ESCT Initiative aims to make the Montréal metropolitan area and Québec a global centre of effective and efficient expertise in the completion of early stage clinical trial and the establishment of clinical proof of concept, thereby positioning the region among the North American leaders in ESCT. Over a five-year horizon, the Initiative is aiming to allow more than 9,000 participating patients in early stage clinical trials to benefit from new therapeutic options, double the level of private investments in the Montréal metropolitan area in ESCT and create 500 new jobs. For more information, visit [montreal-invivo/vitrine-rcp](http://montreal-invivo/vitrine-rcp).

#### **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 (CED) and private and institutional sectors.

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