



Press release

For immediate release

Montréal InVivo challenges the impact of a decision by the Minister of Health and Social Services

MONTREAL, QC, March 20, 2013. Montréal InVivo, the life sciences and health technologies (LSHT) cluster of the Montréal metropolitan area, wants the medium- and long-term impact of the decision to implement a therapeutic alternative measure, by imposing a maximum price payable to a class of drugs, to be more transparently documented.

Although strengthening the province's finances through reduced spending is important, such an initiative shouldn't be taken at the detriment of innovation in Québec. Montréal InVivo reminds us that health innovation benefits the entire population. By making screening, diagnostics, healthcare treatments and procedures available to people so they can deal with their illnesses, health innovation enables patients to receive better treatment and to age in good health.

As the government establishes a national policy on research and innovation (PNRI), whose purpose is to support innovation in Québec, it is very surprising that measures opposed to innovation in our sector are being taken without any discussion with community players.

Members of the LSHT sector are highly interdependent. It is therefore very important to measure the impacts of decisions that affect only some, taking into account the entire ecosystem. For example, the business environment's lack of predictability, which significantly impacts the current pharmaceutical industry, could have implications on the investments made by this industry in Québec in basic or clinical research, in local SMEs, in support of cutting-edge researchers or in major critical initiatives that ensure Québec distinguishes itself on the world stage. In this period of fierce competition to attract international investments, it is more important than ever that Québec be able to demonstrate its commitment to innovation.

Historically, the sector has always been able to take charge and face difficulties by working together with the governments in power. Cooperation and partnership form the very pillar of past success in our sector. We hope this approach is sustained and generates benefits for all partners involved.

We are intent on offering our full cooperation to the different players to ensure that tangible solutions fostering health innovation in Québec are implemented and result in increased investments in the province.

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 close to 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.

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, Montréal InVivo aims to ensure the sustainable development, long-term survival and international renown of the LSHT sector in Greater Montréal through the actions it undertakes and the implementation of its strategic plan.

Its activities are supported by funding from the MFE, MAMROT, CMM, DEC and private and institutional sectors.

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Source:

Frank Béraud

Montréal InVivo

(514) 987-9389

fberaud@montreal-invivo.com

www.montreal-invivo.com