

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

Partnership agreement between Ville de Montréal and Montréal InVivo for the support of women's entrepreneurship in life sciences!

Montréal, October 1st, 2019 – Montréal InVivo is pleased to announce a partnership agreement with the Ville de Montréal aimed at supporting women's entrepreneurship in life sciences.

Although there are many women completing general education programs in life sciences, only a small number end up moving into positions of president-CEO of an SME or founding or co-founding start-ups. Also, we see very few women holding management positions in large companies in our sector. Women's entrepreneurship is therefore an important issue for the life sciences sector and for Montréal InVivo in particular.

The **Life Sciences Entrepreneurship Development Program (LSEDP)** is an initiative developed through a collaboration between Montréal InVivo, the John Molson Executive Centre of Concordia University and the Faculty of Pharmacy of Université de Montréal. IRICoR and TransMedTech Institute have also joined this collaboration, supporting the students in this program. With a view to improving the LSEDP, Montréal InVivo is proud to enter into a partnership with the Ville de Montréal in connection with its "Accelerating Entrepreneurship" program. The agreement will provide better support for the development of women's entrepreneurship in life sciences and health technologies by offering grants that cover registration fees for the LSEDP for women entrepreneurs in life sciences and biomedical engineering.

In addition to this financial support from the Ville de Montréal, Pfizer Canada will add a contribution to this project, spread over two years. Through this financial support and to the support of other partners of the Program, namely IRICoR and TransMedTech Institute, eight women will receive grants to support them in developing their entrepreneurial skills and eventually start a business. In addition, these entrepreneurs will have access to the support and guidance of recognized experts, industry specialists, and to mentoring through the BIOSUCCÈS Mentoring Network to support them in their business projects.

"We would like more women to participate in the LSEDP and we are confident that the project supported by the "Accelerating Entrepreneurship" program of the Ville de Montréal, Pfizer Canada, IRICoR and TransMedTech Institute will make a real difference in developing bright

ideas related to start-ups in the next 36 months,” said Frank Béraud, Chief Executive Officer of Montréal InVivo.

Through this partnership, women’s entrepreneurship will also be enhanced through different initiatives over the next two years. An annual event will be implemented to celebrate the achievements of our female entrepreneurs in the sector. Finally, the Life Sciences Entrepreneurship Development Program will be further strengthened with the addition of a session on equity, diversity and workplace inclusion management, in order to raise in future cohorts an awareness of this reality.

“I would like to thank the Ville de Montréal for its “Accelerating Entrepreneurship” program as well as all our partners for having believed in this initiative and supporting it,” concluded Mr. Béraud.

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 630 organizations, including more than 150 research centres, 80 subsidiaries of world-class companies, and 56,000 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’Habitation, the Communauté métropolitaine de Montréal (CMM), Canada Economic Development (CED) for the regions of Québec and private and institutional sectors.

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Contact:

Véronique Rochefort

Communications Manager

T: (514) 987-9387

rochefort@montreal-invivo.com