



PRESS RELEASE  
For immediate release

## **Pfizer Canada and Montréal InVivo Invest in Supporting Life Sciences Entrepreneurship**

KIRKLAND (Québec), March 29, 2018 – Pfizer Canada and Montréal InVivo are pleased to announce the creation of the *Fonds de soutien à l'entrepreneuriat en sciences de la vie* [Life Sciences Entrepreneurship Support Fund] to support Montréal InVivo's initiatives in the development of innovative life sciences companies. Pfizer Canada is investing \$300,000 in the Fund which will be managed by Montréal InVivo.

The Québec life sciences strategy includes a series of measures to stimulate and support entrepreneurship and the Government of Québec has confirmed its intention to support initiatives to this effect coming from the sector. Projects supported by the Fund are therefore part of a coherent entrepreneurial ecosystem development strategy and include the following initiatives: expansion of Réseau Mentorat bioSuccès [bioSuccès Mentorship Network], implementation of the Comité Aviseur bioSuccès [bioSuccès Advisory Committee], the creation of a unique life sciences entrepreneurship development program, practical and immersive training developed in collaboration with the Pharmacy Faculty of Université de Montréal and the John Molson Executive Centre at Concordia University.

The recent announcement by the Government of Québec of its 2017–2022 Entrepreneurship Action Plan (PAGE) further supports the Réseau Mentorat bioSuccès mission because it reflects the Government's desire to support and guide entrepreneurs by offering them quality mentorships.

### **John Helou, President, Pfizer Canada:**

"The life sciences community has indicated that the key issue for young companies in the sector is a shortage of talent and lack of entrepreneurial knowledge. We are pleased to meet the needs expressed by the industry across the country, including Québec, and to be able to count on the leadership of Montréal InVivo to implement concrete measures that will increase the innovative skill level of this vital industry."

### **Frank Béraud, CEO, Montréal InVivo:**

"It's a pleasure and an honour to realize this collaboration with Pfizer Canada and particularly a great joy for me to be able to provide more support to our entrepreneurs. We firmly believe that to build a world-class life sciences industry in Montréal and Québec, we must increase our efforts to help SME develop and become international players. This is what drives the initiatives set out in this Fund."

**Judith Lacoste, CEO, MIA Cellavie Inc.:**

“The Réseau Mentorat bioSuccès program has greatly contributed to my entrepreneurial path. First, it broke the isolation. Discussing with other entrepreneurs in the life sciences sector, a very diverse sector, is valuable, inspiring and motivating. It has also allowed me to develop and strengthen my entrepreneurial skills. I have been transformed; my company strengthened. I am more determined to pursue the vision of MIA Cellavie.”

**About Pfizer Canada Inc. – [www.pfizer.ca](http://www.pfizer.ca)**

Pfizer Canada Inc. is the Canadian operation of Pfizer Inc., one of the world's leading biopharmaceutical companies. Our diverse health care portfolio includes some of the world's best known and most prescribed medicines, infusion systems and vaccines. At Pfizer, we're working together for a healthier world. To learn more about Pfizer Canada, visit [pfizer.ca](http://pfizer.ca) or you can follow us on Twitter ([twitter.com/PfizerCA](https://twitter.com/PfizerCA)) or Facebook ([facebook.com/Pfizer.Canada](https://facebook.com/Pfizer.Canada)).

**About Montréal InVivo – [www.montreal-invivo.com](http://www.montreal-invivo.com)**

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 more than 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 la Science et de l'Innovation (MESI), 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) for the region of Québec and private and institutional sectors.

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