

PRESS RELEASE

Québec's life sciences ecosystem is thriving

Montréal, March 16, 2021 – The second edition of [EFFERVESCENCE](#) – The Future of Life Sciences is taking place from March 15 to 17, 2021 completely virtually, and brings together **575 participants**. Involving 17 organizing partners, EFFERVESCENCE is recognized as a key event for Québec life sciences and health technologies (LSHT) professionals intent on developing new collaborations and business opportunities. Winner of the award for Best Conference in Canada in 2019, it proposes this year an international-calibre program and showcases discoveries and innovative technologies of the future of life sciences.

EFFERVESCENCE 2021 started strong yesterday with a live interview with Luc Sirois, Québec's Chief Innovator, Sophie D'Amours, Rector of Université Laval and Chair of the Board of Innovation, and three entrepreneurs, namely, David Cotnoir-White, Co-Founder of Modulari-T, Catherine Lunardi, Chief Executive Officer of GenAlz and Dr. Mariève Blanchet, Founder of Nimby.

Several organizations then attended the press conference organized by Montréal InVivo in collaboration with [The Coolest Hotspot](#) – an initiative that brings together Québec's LSHT industry players with the objective of achieving international visibility and attracting investments, to make important announcements, the scope of which extends far beyond Québec borders. Moderated by Frédéric Alberro, Director - Québec, Médicaments novateurs Canada, it is a choice forum for announcing good news, positioning Québec as a critical hub in North America. Pierre Fitzgibbon, Québec Minister of Economy and Innovation also took the opportunity to unveil the new identity of the new Société de valorisation et de transfert du Québec (SVTQ).

AMGEN

Philip Tagari, Amgen's Vice President of Research, Therapeutic Discovery, Brian Heath, Vice President and General Manager of Amgen Canada and Stéphane Létourneau, Executive Vice President at Mila announced today a multi-year partnership between Amgen and Mila – Quebec Artificial Intelligence Institute. As one of the world's leading biotechnology companies, Amgen uses cutting-edge science and technology to discover and develop innovative therapeutics, with artificial intelligence (AI) currently deployed across several of its R&D and manufacturing activities. Based in Montreal, Mila is a world-renowned research institute in AI that rallies over 700 researchers specializing in deep learning. This new partnership will permit Amgen to expand its knowledge of AI and deep learning by interacting and engaging with experts in Mila's unique ecosystem, both virtually and (eventually) on the Mila campus in Montreal. Through this collaboration, both parties aim to maximize AI's full potential for health innovation and advance drug discovery and development.

[Learn more](#)

MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND INNOVATION

“During the Effervescence event, I had the opportunity to highlight the many steps taken by the Government of Québec to position ourselves as a leader in innovation. With Axelys, our new organization promoting public research, we will be in a better position to lead research towards commercial success”, Mr. Pierre Fitzgibbon, announce the minister of Economy and Innovation of Québec.

[Learn more](#)

MINISTER OF LABOUR, EMPLOYMENT AND SOCIAL SOLIDARITY

“Some sectors, like life sciences and health technologies, are still facing major recruitment challenges, and as you know, health is a priority sector for our government. I’d like to commend Montréal Invivo’s proactive approach in offering stakeholders from these sectors the opportunity to discuss their challenges during EFFERVESCENCE 2021. It is crucial that we continue to offer these opportunities for meetings and conversations to the various partners and collaborators involved, so they can discuss things like managing human resources, raising the qualifications of workers and attracting new talents that will help businesses remain competitive,” said M. Jean Boulet, Minister of Labour, Employment and Social Solidarity and minister responsible for the Mauricie region.

EFFERVESCENCE will end tomorrow with a Canada-wide start-up pitch competition, which will help to propel 10 Canadian start-ups whose innovations aim to transform the life sciences and health technology community.

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