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solutions are in the genes

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Two Québec projects win under the Canadian partnership program between academics and industry

Montréal, October 11, 2016 — Daniel Coderre, President and CEO of Génome Québec, is proud to announce the results of the 6th funding round of the Genomic Application Partnership Program (GAPP), a pan-Canadian Genome Canada competition.

GAPP was created to promote partnerships between university researchers and industry end users. It is a major financial lever to ensure the real-world application of genomics innovations and increase their economic and social impact.

“Once again, Québec has emerged as a leader with promising projects in a range of sectors. This variety illustrates the cross-sectoral nature of genomics, a disruptive technology that is transforming everything from human health and agrifood to natural resources and the environment. The growing capacity of genomics to meet social and industry needs is proof of its key contribution to Québec’s economy. It is a major catalyst for economic growth that is revolutionizing the world as we know it, even faster than the digital wave,” Daniel Coderre said.

The first winning research team is spearheaded by Pierre Thibault of Université de Montréal with Jean-Jacques Dunyach of Thermo Fisher Scientific. The second team is led by Claude Robert of Université Laval with Brian Sullivan of the Canadian Centre for Swine Improvement Inc., Marquis Roy of Olymel S.E.C./L.P. and Claude Vielfaure of HyLife Ltd.

The two teams together were awarded a total of $8.2 million, with the first team winning $1.7 million and the second, $6.5 million. The projects represent a major investment in Québec, earning 42% of the funding envelope earmarked for Canada as a whole under GAPP.

Personalized health: a partnership between Université de Montréal and Thermo Fisher Scientific

The emergence of new genomics technologies has played a decisive role in the evolution of personalized medicine, which aims to offer patients care specifically tailored to their needs.

As part of their recent research, Thermo Fisher Scientific and Pierre Thibault’s research team at Université de Montréal have discovered a new form of ion mobility with the potential to address the limitations of mass spectrometry. They are using these findings to develop a new tool capable of detecting subtle mutations in cancer cells of patients. The application would be of valuable help in immunotherapy-based cancer treatments.

In fact, the new technology could revolutionize the way we detect and target disease biomarkers from human cancer cells. This will accelerate the pace of discoveries in human health and medicine.

Swine industry: a partnership among Université Laval, the Canadian Centre for Swine Improvement Inc., Olymel S.E.C./L.P. and HyLife Ltd.

The swine industry generates $23.8 billion in economic activity in Canada and employs over 100,000 people. The industry is also one of Canada’s major economic drivers, since two thirds of pork production is exported.

Claude Robert and his collaborators are working on integrating into existing genetic assessment programs genomic data on targeted traits in order to improve the efficiency of swine production and produce a higher quality meat that is better adapted to the needs of pork producers, processors and consumers. The project aims to integrate current genomics technology into the Canadian Swine Improvement Program.

About Génome Québec

In partnership with national and international stakeholders in life sciences, Génome Québec promotes the competitiveness of the genomics innovation system in order to maximize its social and economic benefits for Québec. It does so by funding large-scale research initiatives in genomics and implementing the tools required for the scientific and strategic development of the sector.

The funds invested by Génome Québec are provided by the Ministère de l'Économie, de la Science et de l'Innovation du Québec (MESI), the Government of Canada, through Genome Canada, and private partners. For more information, visit www.genomequebec.com.

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