



An original response to the drug industry challenges



BioContact 2009
Salon Bellevue

October 7th, 2009

Consortium québécois sur la découverte du médicament



CQDM funding program

The objectives

- Bring new tools to facilitate biopharmaceutical research
- Capitalize on Quebec strengths in research for the benefit of all stakeholders
- Increase the competitiveness of therapeutic research in Quebec

The program

- Promotes enabling technologies aligned with the research agenda of each competition
- Not intended for the development of specific molecules
- Addresses major challenges of the drug discovery/development process
- Brings applied results at the end of the project
- Promotes innovation and scientific excellence
- Encourages strong collaborations between private and public sectors
- Intended for research in Quebec

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Funding specifics

Amount and duration

- \$1,000,000- \$2,000,000/project for 3 years (under the form of grants)
- Funding of up to \$3,000,000 under exceptional circumstances, if well justified

Number of projects funded

- 3 -5 projects per year

Eligible Costs

- Salaries of research personnel, materials and supplies, travelling, specific services, user fees for equipment, administrative costs (up to 15%)

Non-eligible Costs

- Salary of the PI and co-investigators, equipment (purchase or rental)

Payment Schedule

- Quarterly disbursement subjected to milestones achievement and satisfactory follow-up
 - ❖ Quarterly financial report
 - ❖ Bi-annual scientific progress report



Research agenda (2009-2010)

This year, priority will be given to the following enabling technologies:

- 1) Innovative technology platforms**
- 2) Translational technologies**
- 3) Cutting edge drug delivery technologies**



Research agenda (2009-2010)

1) Innovative technology platform

Examples

- Novel therapeutic approaches for biologics
- Breakthrough in protein expression systems
- Innovative chemistry platform
- Cutting edge technologies improving the productivity of synthetic chemistry
- Innovative system biology with a strong impact on translational research
- Enabling cell-based research tools
- Novel approaches for drug repositioning



Research agenda (2009-2010)

2) Translational technologies

Examples

- Knowledge management, data mining, modeling and predictive analysis
- New biomarkers or imaging tools for:
 - Predictability of efficacy or safety
 - Development of surrogate markers
 - Diagnostic and stratification of diseases
 - Monitoring of diseases
- Precision (personalized) medicine
- Validation of new therapeutic targets



Research agenda (2009-2010)

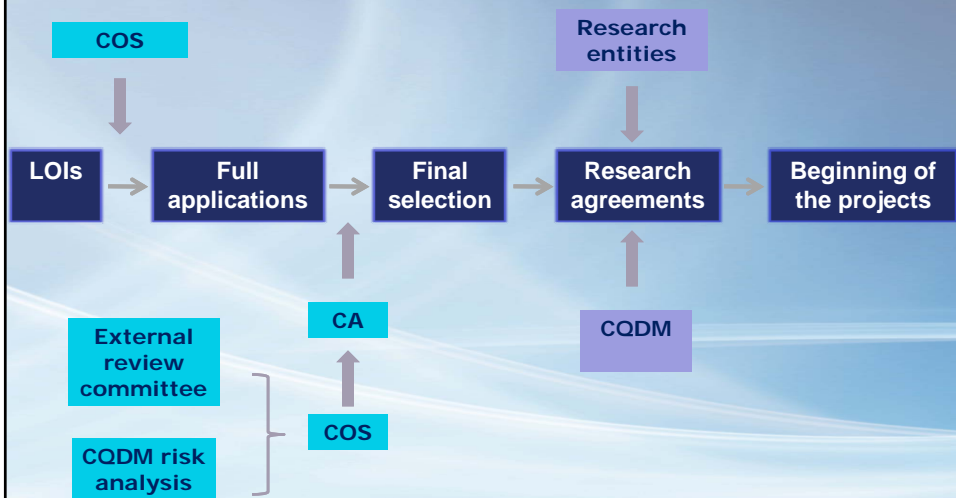
3) Cutting edge drug delivery technologies

Examples

- RNAi
- Increased drug absorption
- Vaccine delivery
- Crossing the blood brain barrier
- Delivery systems for biologics
- Oral protein delivery
- Innovative formulations



CQDM funding process





Timetable for 2009-2010 competition

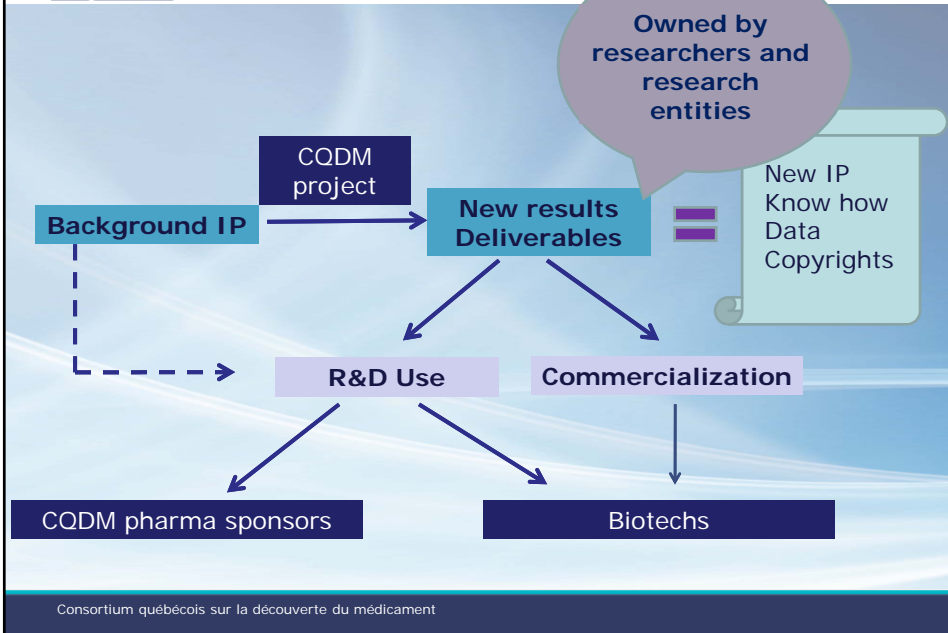
Call for proposals launched	August 20th 2009
Letters of intent submission	October 21st 2009
Selection of the letters of intent	November 30th 2009
Full proposal submission	February 15th 2010
Final selection announcement	May 3rd 2010
Signature of the research agreement	August 3rd 2010
Funding release & beginning of the projects	September 1st 2010



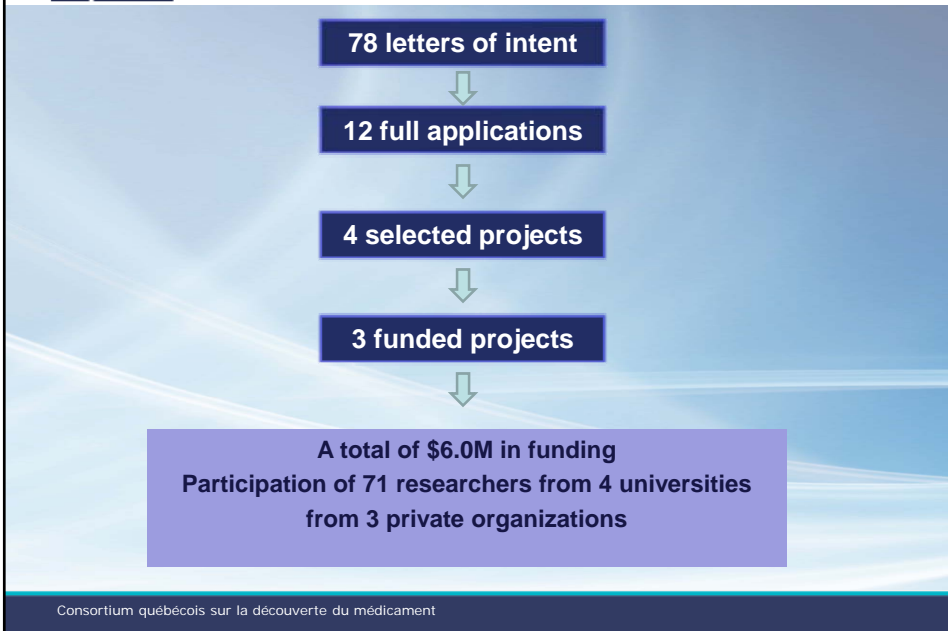
Main evaluation criteria

- 1) Scientific excellence**
- 2) Applicability and impact on biopharmaceutical research**
- 3) Feasibility/ project management**
- 4) Quality of the collaboration**

cqdm CQDM licensing policy



cqdm 2008-2009 competition



2008-2009 competition

78 letters of intent received

Organizations

Université de Montréal (23) - McGill University (20) - Université Laval (14) - Université de Sherbrooke (6) - Université du Québec à Montréal (2) - Université du Québec à Chicoutimi (1) - Biotechnology Research Institute (NRCC)(1) - Private organizations (11)

Fields of expertise

Informatics (5) - instrumentation (10) - imaging (9), target and biomarker identification platform (13) - discovery platform (2), molecular biology (14) - cellular biology (10) - chemistry (8) - pharmacology (7)

Therapeutic areas

Oncology (14) - neurosciences (13) - metabolic disorders and cardiovascular diseases (13) - infectious diseases (2) - broad therapeutic applications (29) - others (7)

2008-2009 competition

Research themes of the funded projects

1) Biomarkers in diabetes (E. Paramithiotis, Caprion Proteomics)

- Early diagnosis
- Better monitoring of the progression of the disease
- Evaluation of response to treatments

2) Discovery platform for new vaccine VLP antigens (L. Vézina, Medicago)

- Generic high-throughput expression & purification platform for VLP antigens
- Rapid identification of immunogenic VLP vaccine candidates among several classes of viruses
- Generation of genetic engineered virus-virus chimeras

3) Biosensors to dissect GPCR induced signalling pathways (M. Bouvier, IRIC)

- Monitoring of multiple signalling pathways
- Signalling signature for the prediction of activity and side effects of new drugs

Mentorship program

In the scope of the mentorship program, an industrial advisory committee will be formed

- Specific to each CQDM project
- Composed of industrial mentors from CQDM pharma sponsors
- Advisory role in orienting the project toward the needs of the biopharmaceutical research industry
- 2 meetings /year coordinated by CQDM
- Continuous informal interactions throughout the year between the mentors and researchers
- An opportunity for researchers to get closer and collaborate with the pharma industry

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A new source of funding for Biotechs

Non-dilutive funding

- No matching funds required

Complementary funding

- Not intended to replace VC investments

Capacity to finance high risk projects

- Technology maturation
- New product development
 - Diagnostics – Biomarkers – Imaging tools - Devices
- Tools that gives a competitive edge to the biotechs
 - New formulations – Manufacturing processes
- Technologies to speed up the discovery or development of therapeutics
 - New discovery platform – Surrogate markers

Closer links with pharmas

- Allows validation of the technology
- Stronger collaborations with pharmas

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