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***FOCUS PROGRAM***  
***CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2011-2012***  
***PRELIMINARY APPLICATIONS (LETTERS OF INTENT)***  
***DEADLINE: OCTOBER 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2011***

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*August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011*

## SCOPE OF THE PROGRAM

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The CQDM funding program is aimed at developing innovative technologies or tools that can facilitate the discovery or the development of new drugs.

CQDM's program does not intend to fund research on new drugs for specific therapeutic segments. Instead, it is meant to finance the development of new technologies that will have the power to enable the discovery process across several therapeutic fields.

This program covers all fields directly related to drug research and also all research areas that could bring new tools for biopharmaceutical research (for example, engineering, nanotechnologies, medical devices, diagnostics, translational medicine, imaging, etc.).

To be eligible for CQDM funds, research must be performed in Quebec within one of the following organizations:

- Universities or affiliated research institutions, hospitals or academic research institutions
- Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) from the private sector established in Quebec (organizations in the field of life sciences, biotechnologies, biopharmaceuticals, medical devices, diagnostics, engineering, imaging or others or contract research organizations (CROs)). Please note that multinational pharmaceutical companies are not eligible for CQDM's funding and cannot be considered as private collaborators in this program
- Not-for-profit organizations established in Quebec with important research activities

Although not mandatory, projects involving strong collaborations between academic and private (SMEs, Biotechs/CROs) organizations are of great importance for CQDM. Therefore, public/private partnerships will be prioritized in the selection process. The proposals can be led either by an academic institution or a private organization.

The CQDM program encourages creativity, multidisciplinary and collaborative efforts between public (universities, hospital, research centre) and private (SMEs, Biotechs/CROs) organizations.

## RESEARCH AGENDA

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As the priority of the CQDM funding program is to bring solutions to the most urgent needs of biopharmaceutical research, a strong emphasis will be put on novel and potentially transformative next-generation technologies with an immediate and strong impact on the drug discovery or development process.

The research agenda of the 2011-2012 competition is broad and covers all therapeutic fields and all research areas that could bring new tools for biopharmaceutical research, such as engineering, nanotechnologies, medical devices, diagnostics, translational medicine and imaging. A list of examples of the research projects that can be funded by CQDM is provided on our Web site at [www.cqdm.org](http://www.cqdm.org).

## **DURATION AND AMOUNT OF THE GRANT**

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### **Duration**

Maximum 3 years

### **Total amount**

\$1,000,000-\$2,000,000 (for 3 years). Please note that the amount requested must be well justified and it will be taken into account in the final selection of the projects.

### **Eligible costs**

Eligible costs are defined as reasonable costs for items that directly support the objectives of the project. Budget must not include items for which funding has been already approved from other sources, unless the proposal includes co-funding. If this is the case, this must be discussed with CQDM beforehand.

- Salary of research personnel necessary for the project (students, post-doctoral fellows, technical/professional assistants)
- Material and laboratory supplies necessary for the realisation of the project
- Travelling expenses (field work, collaborations, conferences)
- Intellectual property costs (patent application, maintenance fees during the funding period)
- Administrative costs (overheads), up to 15% of the eligible research expenses

### **Non eligible costs**

- Equipment or facilities (purchase or rental)
- Salary of the principal investigator and co-investigators

### **Payment schedule**

Quarterly disbursements will be subject to milestone achievement and satisfactory follow-ups (quarterly financial reports and six-monthly scientific progress reports).

## CONDITIONS FOR CQDM'S FUNDING

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Pre-existing intellectual property (IP) necessary for carrying out the proposed project must be free of all encumbrances.

IP generated under this funding program will belong to the inventors and their affiliated research entities.

A non-exclusive license option (royalty-free) will be granted to the CQDM industrial sponsors for the use of the results for R&D purposes only. If background IP is needed to use the results, a non-exclusive license option to use the background IP will also be granted to the CQDM industrial sponsors. In this case, a financial consideration for the use of the background IP could be negotiated between the parties. The CQDM industrial sponsors will have no right to commercialize the results or the background IP.

A research agreement will need to be signed between CQDM and all the research entities involved in the project within 3 months following the final selection announcement (before July 23<sup>rd</sup> 2012). The research agreement will include, without limitations, the following aspects:

- A clear description of the project including main steps, milestones, deliverables and the role of each investigator
- A detailed budget and payment schedule (quarterly) including the portion that will be allocated to each research entity
- A commitment from all the research entities and the investigators involved in the project to perform the research
- The main terms and conditions of the licence option in favour of the CQDM industrial sponsors for the use of the results generated by the project (and background IP, if necessary) for research and development purposes
- Basic representations and warranties by the research entities including the required rights, consents and/or approval to perform the research project
- Disclosure and publication requirements
- Confidentiality obligations

## TIMETABLE

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Call for proposals – launching	August 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2011
Deadline for submission of the letters of intent	October 26 <sup>th</sup> , 2011
Announcement of the selected letters of intent	December 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2011
Deadline to submit full proposals	February 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2012
Final selection announcement	April 25 <sup>th</sup> , 2012
Signature of the research agreement	July 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 2012
Funding release & beginning of the projects	September 1 <sup>st</sup> , 2012

## SUBMISSION PROCEDURES

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An electronic version must be submitted on CQDM's secure site **by October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011, at 5:00 PM** (<https://cqdm.firmex.com>). Applicants must contact Lise Beauchemin at [lbeauchemin@cqdm.org](mailto:lbeauchemin@cqdm.org) before **October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011** to obtain their username and password.

The electronic PDF version must include:

- The signed application form in PDF format. The file must be identified as follow: *Last name of PI\_application*.
- Updated and complete common Canadian CV (FRSQ format) of the principal investigator (PI) and all the co-investigators. The file must be identified as follow: *Last name of PI\_Last name of co-investigator\_CV*. Investigators working in a private company may provide a standard CV.

Please remove all the security features on the PDF version of the documents.

The application form is available on internet at [www.cqdm.org](http://www.cqdm.org).

The font "Arial" size 11 must be used to fill in the application form. The text must be typed at 1.15 line spacing. The text should be limited to the space allowed for each section. The application must be signed by the principal investigator, the co-investigators and their respective research entities.

In order to help the applicants in the preparation of the letters of intent, CQDM will organize information sessions on September 12<sup>th</sup> (14:30-16:00) in Montreal (Ecole polytechnique de Montreal, Pavillon J.-Armand Bombardier, room J-1035), September 21<sup>st</sup> (13:30-15:00) in Quebec (offices of Québec International, 1175 Lavignerie Avenue, suite 300) and September 15<sup>th</sup> in Sherbrooke (location and time to be confirmed).

## REVIEW AND DECISION PROCESS

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CQDM's funding will be awarded following a competitive process in two stages.

### 1) Preliminary application (Letter of intent)

Applicants must submit a letter of intent (using the form available on our Web site [www.cqdm.org](http://www.cqdm.org)) describing the project before October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The selection of the letters of intent will be overseen by the CQDM's Strategic Orientation Committee. Only applicants whose letter of intent will be selected will be invited to submit a full project proposal.

### 2) Full proposal

Evaluation of the full proposals will involve an international peer review led by the FRSQ (Fonds de la recherche en santé du Québec) and a risk analysis performed by CQDM. The results of both assessments will be presented to CQDM's Board of directors which will make the final selection of the research projects to be funded.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

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The following criteria will be used for the evaluation of the applications.

- Scientific excellence
- Creativity and innovation
- Clear deliverables, milestones and schedule
- Feasibility of the project (deliverables, timetable, human and financial resources)
- Capacity to generate applicable results at the end of the project
- Potential of impact in drug research:
  - direct impact on drug discovery or drug development;
  - capacity to address important unmet needs.
- Track record of the participants
- Multidisciplinary and multi-organizational aspects of the research

Given that CQDM's funding program is meant to bring solutions to the most urgent needs of the biopharmaceutical drug research industry, a strong emphasis will be put on the capacity to generate applicable results (after the funding period) with an immediate impact on the drug discovery or development process.

Although not mandatory, projects involving strong collaborations between multidisciplinary research teams from both the academic and private (SME, biotech/CRO) sectors will be prioritized. The proposal can be either led by an academic institution or a private organization. Please note that multinational pharmaceutical companies cannot be considered as eligible private collaborators in this program.



Since CQDM's funding program implies large scale projects oriented towards applicable results that will require significant multidisciplinary resources, project management aspects will also be important in the evaluation process.

The amount requested will be taken into consideration in the final decision. Within its budget constraints, CQDM will attempt to maximize the number of projects funded and their potential impact on biopharmaceutical research.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**

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