



News Release  
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## **CQDM Welcomes Eli Lilly Canada, A Leading Innovative Pharmaceutical Company, to Support the Explore Program**

**Montreal - June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011** – We are pleased to announce that Eli Lilly Canada has joined the Québec Consortium for Drug Discovery (CQDM) as the newest member supporting the Explore Program. A new initiative, the Explore Program, is aimed at testing new unconventional and highly innovative research projects that may strongly impact the drug discovery process.

Eli Lilly Canada joins with a three year commitment. Dr. Loren Grossman, Eli Lilly Canada's Vice President of Research and Development, will sit on the Explore Advisory Committee participating in the selection of projects and monitoring the scientific progress of the research, along with representatives from the other Explore financial partners. CQDM now benefits from the industrial contributions of six major global pharmaceutical companies including AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim (Canada) Ltd., GlaxoSmithKline Inc., Merck, Pfizer Canada and now Eli Lilly Canada Inc.

"The participation of a key player such as Eli Lilly Canada is very important for CQDM as it creates additional value for our funded research projects and it reinforces our commitment to foster innovative research in Québec" said Max Fehlmann, CEO of CQDM. "The active participation and involvement of six strong pharmaceutical members in CQDM creates a very powerful leverage effect for all our members and the whole scientific community in Québec."

"At Lilly, we value partnerships such as this one with CQDM and the Explore Program. Our history has proven that by working together, we can discover, develop, and deliver the innovative pharmaceutical therapies that will help people live longer, healthier, and more active lives," said Dr. Grossman. "We're proud to support research in Canada and work in collaboration with other innovative pharmaceutical companies in support of the CQDM and the Explore Program."

### **About Eli Lilly Canada Inc.**

Lilly, a leading innovation-driven corporation, is developing a growing portfolio of first-in-class and best-in-class pharmaceutical products by applying the latest research from its own worldwide laboratories and from collaborations with eminent scientific organizations. Lilly provides answers – through medicines and information – for some of the world's most urgent medical needs. Additional information about Eli Lilly Canada can be found at [www.lilly.ca](http://www.lilly.ca).

## **About the Explore Program**

The Explore Program is a new funding initiative for disruptive technologies that have the potential to dramatically improve the drug discovery or development process. It is aimed at supporting early stage projects that may carry more than the usual degree of scientific risk and reinforce CQDM's and its pharmaceutical member's commitment to fund innovative research. The projects will "Explore" (with proof of concept studies) the development of transformative enabling technologies impacting the capacity to develop safer and more efficient drugs. CQDM received a total of 51 applications in the first round of competitions that closed on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The final selection will be announced in September 2011 following a two step evaluation process. Detailed information is available on the CQDM web site ([www.cqdm.org](http://www.cqdm.org)).

## **About CQDM**

Québec Consortium for Drug Discovery (CQDM) is a meeting ground for all stakeholders in biopharmaceutical research whose principal mission is to fund research projects carried out in partnership between the academic and hospital milieus in the public sector and the pharmaceutical and biotechnology industries in the private sector. An innovative Canadian initiative, CQDM has a twofold goal: to accelerate the drug discovery process and to develop safer and more effective drugs. Project funding is made possible through contributions from: Pfizer Canada, AstraZeneca, Merck, Boehringer Ingelheim (Canada) Ltd., GlaxoSmithKline Inc., Eli Lilly Canada Inc., the Business-Led Networks of Centres of Excellence (BL-NCE), the Ministère du Développement Économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation (MDEIE) and the Fonds de la Recherche en Santé du Québec (FRSQ). For more information, please visit [www.cqdm.org](http://www.cqdm.org).

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