



## **The CQDM announces the results of its 2011 competition in the joint CQDM/Alsace BioValley program**

Septembre 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011. It is with great pleasure that the CQDM announces that at the end of its 2011 competition of the joint CQDM/Alsace BioValley program, 2 outstanding research projects were selected:

1) «Visualization and monitoring of receptor-effector complexes activity *in vivo*», involves a private-public partnership between Michel Bouvier (IRIC, Université de Montréal), the organization Mispro of Montreal and two Alsatian collaborators.

*This project aims to generate genetically modified mice that will allow direct observation of the action of molecules on the G protein-coupled receptors using an innovative microscopic imaging technique. These new animal models will permit the visualization of the effects of target molecules at the cellular and molecular level hence facilitating the development of drugs with greater therapeutic efficacy and less undesirable side effects.*

2) The project «Development and validation of two synergistic platforms based on imaging and biosimulation to visualize the action of drug candidates at the subcellular and molecular levels» involves collaboration between the private organizations Photon etc. (Quebec) and Rhenovia (Alsace) and Université Laval.

*The synergy between the expertise of the collaborators will lead to the development of two innovative platforms to facilitate drug discovery and development: 1) an imaging platform used to study the effect of drugs on the dynamics of neuronal proteins and 2) a biosimulation platform for integrating signaling mechanisms at the synapse level to model and predict the effect of candidate drugs on neuronal functions.*



"The enormous success we achieved following our pilot study has led to a partnership with Alsace BioValley in order to co-finance R&D projects between public and private companies in Quebec and Alsace" said Mounia Azzi, Ph.D., programs director at the CQDM. The above-mentioned projects were selected after the 2011 joint CQDM/Alsace BioValley competition, launched in December 2010, which aimed to promote the development of new technologies and processes to facilitate biopharmaceutical research, and for SMEs based in Quebec and Alsace to open up to new markets.