



Press Release
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Philippe Walker is appointed chairman of CQDM's Strategic Orientation Committee

MONTREAL, QC, January 17th, 2011. - The Québec Consortium for Drug Discovery (CQDM) is pleased to announce the nomination of Philippe Walker as Chairman of its Strategic Orientation Committee (COS). The role of the Committee is to establish CQDM's strategic and scientific orientations. It establishes the research agenda of all CQDM's competitions, approves the evaluation criteria of submitted projects and selects the letters of intent.

"The COS is the real heart of the strategic development and the innovation policy of CQDM. Philippe has been a member of the COS since the creation of the CQDM and has contributed significantly to all its discussions and initiatives and hence to the initial successes of CQDM "said Max Fehlmann, President and CEO of CQDM.

Philippe Walker succeeds Bernard Prigent as Chairman of the COS, who held this position in a remarkable way for 2 years and remains an honorary member of the committee.

Philippe Walker is Vice President and Director of the AstraZeneca research center (AZRDM) in Montreal, specializing in the discovery and development of new drugs against pain and other neurological disorders. He is also a member of the management committee of global research for AstraZeneca in the fields of the central nervous system (CNS) and pain research and is a member of the Board of Director of AstraZeneca Canada Inc. and Arginetex Inc

About Philippe Walker

Philippe Walker is a staunch defender of education and scientific research in Canada, his influence was decisive in establishing public-private partnerships with leading universities in Quebec. He is an active member of the Board of Directors or Scientific Advisory Boards of several organizations focused on research, including the Fonds de la recherche en santé du Québec (FRSQ), CQDM, the Biotechnology Research Institute / NRC and the Institute of Pharmacology of Université de Sherbrooke.

In 1994, Philippe Walker was recruited by Astra to help select a location in North America for the company's activities related to the discovery of analgesics. The high quality of research conducted in Quebec was one of the factors that led to the company's decision to build a research center here.

Philippe Walker, a native of Switzerland, first studied at the University of Fribourg and the University of Lausanne, where he received his PhD in 1986. His research focused on studying the regulation of gene expression by estrogens. From 1986 to 1988 he worked at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center in Seattle, USA. His work focused on the isolation and characterization of proteins that interact with the promoters of gene expression and control of gene transcription.

About AstraZeneca

AstraZeneca is a global, innovation-driven biopharmaceutical business with a primary focus on the discovery, development and commercialisation of prescription medicines. As a leader in gastrointestinal, cardiovascular, neuroscience, respiratory and inflammation, oncology and infectious disease medicines, AstraZeneca generated global revenues of US \$32.8 billion in 2009. For more information please visit: www.astrazeneca.com

About CQDM

The Québec Consortium for Drug Discovery is a meeting ground for all stakeholders in biopharmaceutical research. Its 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. The funding awarded by CQDM is made possible by the contributions from: Pfizer Canada, AstraZeneca Canada, Merck the 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

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