



Press Release  
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## **CQDM welcomes two additional Pharma members, Boehringer Ingelheim and GlaxoSmithKline Inc., and launches its Explore Program to drive innovation**

**Montréal, February 16<sup>th</sup> 2011** - Boehringer Ingelheim and GlaxoSmithKline Inc. have joined the Québec Consortium for Drug Discovery (CQDM) together with AstraZeneca, Merck and Pfizer Canada, the three founding industrial members of the CQDM, to strengthen innovative research in Québec. With the arrival of the new partners, the CQDM has launched the Explore Program, a new initiative aimed at testing new unconventional and highly innovative research projects that may strongly impact the drug discovery process.

“Our initial contribution into the CQDM Focus Program has allowed us to better understand the needs in funding innovation. We are very pleased to see the participation of these new important Pharmaceutical partners joining CQDM. The participation of Boehringer Ingelheim, GlaxoSmithKline will enable us to fill an important gap in funding highly innovative research,” said Bernard Prigent, Past Chair and Honorary Member of the CQDM Strategic Orientation Committee as well as Vice-President and Medical Director at Pfizer Canada.

“Explore is a unique vehicle to finance highly innovative ideas that have the potential to strongly impact the drug discovery process,” said Julie Edwards, Chairman of the CQDM Explore Advisory Committee and Manager, Scientific Affairs at Boehringer Ingelheim (Canada) Ltd. “This program addresses important needs of our industry and will benefit the whole scientific community.”

“There is without a doubt great research ongoing among Québec’s scientific community,” said Tjark Reblin, Vice President, Medical and Chief Medical Officer at GlaxoSmithKline Inc. “The Explore Program allows Pharmaceutical companies to collaborate and strive for a common goal – to foster Québec and Canadian innovation in Life Sciences.”

## **About the Explore Program**

The Explore Program is a new funding initiative for breakthrough technologies that have the potential to significantly improve the drug discovery or development process. It is aimed at supporting “smaller” projects that may carry more than the usual degree of scientific risk, and reinforce CQDM’s and its Pharma members’ commitment to funding disruptive research. The projects would “explore” (with proof of concept studies) the development of transformative enabling technologies impacting drug discovery.

The Explore Program is dedicated to early-concept validation and technical feasibility of creative or innovative ideas that when fully developed may address some of the most important bottlenecks faced by the pharmaceutical industry in the drug R&D process.

The Explore Program is open to the research community in Québec from both public and private research institutions. Annual calls for proposals to academic labs, hospital teams, Biotech companies or other private companies will be held. Selected projects will be eligible for up to \$150,000 per year per project for 2 years and each project will be accompanied by at least one mentor from the consortium Pharma members.

The first call for proposals has been launched today. The research projects must be submitted by April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2011. The detailed information is available on the CQDM web site ([www.cqdm.org](http://www.cqdm.org)).

## **About Boehringer Ingelheim**

The Boehringer Ingelheim group is one of the world’s 20 leading pharmaceutical companies. Headquartered in Ingelheim, Germany, it operates globally with 142 affiliates in 50 countries and more than 41,500 employees. Since it was founded in 1885, the family-owned company has been committed to researching, developing, manufacturing and marketing novel products of high therapeutic value for human and veterinary medicine. The company has a well established research centre in Laval (Quebec) Canada, dedicated to infectious diseases research to develop new therapies for diseases with a high unmet medical need. For more information, please visit [www.boehringer-ingelheim.com](http://www.boehringer-ingelheim.com).

## **About GlaxoSmithKline Inc.**

GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) is a leading research-based pharmaceutical company with a challenging and inspiring mission: to improve the quality of human life by enabling people to do more, feel better, and live longer. This mission gives GSK the purpose to develop innovative medicines, vaccines and healthcare solutions that help millions of people. GSK is consistently recognized as one of the 50 best employers in Canada and is a top 15 investor in Canadian research and development, contributing more than \$144 million in 2009 alone. With a proud tradition of

charitable and community support, GSK is designated a Caring Company by Imagine Canada. Discover more at [www.gsk.ca](http://www.gsk.ca).

### **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 Canada, Merck, Boehringer Ingelheim (Canada) Ltd., GlaxoSmithKline, 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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