



News Release

Government of Canada invests in world leading health research on personalized medicine

For immediate release

Ottawa, Ontario (January 31, 2012) – Leona Aglukkaq, Minister of Health, and Gary Goodyear, Minister of State (Science and Technology), today announced funding for a research initiative that offers the potential to dramatically change the delivery of medicine and healthcare.

The research agenda, dubbed “personalized medicine,” will investigate the application of new tools such as genomics to identify specific and accurate methods of diagnosing disease and to gain a much better understanding of why certain drugs and treatments work well for some patients but not others. Using this approach, research will create information to help doctors determine the optimal treatments for their patients.

"Personalized health is one of medicine's great frontiers," Minister Aglukkaq said. "The potential to understand a person's genetic makeup and the specific character of their illness in order to best determine their treatment will significantly improve the quality of life for patients and their families and may show us the way to an improved health care system and even save costs in certain circumstances."

"I applaud Genome Canada and the CIHR for their leadership in supporting research in personalized medicine," said Minister Goodyear. "It's an innovative approach that in the long run will help create new jobs and companies, build international markets and highlight Canadian knowledge and competitiveness."

Genome Canada is leading the landmark research competition, with significant collaboration from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and the Cancer Stem Cell Consortium (CSCC). To qualify for funding, researchers must obtain matching funding that is at least equal to that provided through the competition. Matching funding is typically derived from provincial, academic, private sector or international sources.

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Fact Sheet

Further information:

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*The **Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)** is the Government of Canada's health research investment agency. CIHR's mission is to create new scientific knowledge and to enable its translation into improved health, more effective health services and products, and a strengthened Canadian health care system. Composed of 13 Institutes, CIHR provides leadership and support to more than 14,100 health researchers and trainees across Canada. www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca*

***Genome Canada** is a non-profit corporation employing an innovative business model based on funding and managing large-scale, multidisciplinary, internationally peer-reviewed genomics research projects in areas such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, the environment and human health. For more information, visit www.genomecanada.ca*

*The **Cancer Stem Cell Consortium** is a not-for-profit corporation that was incorporated in 2007 to coordinate an international strategy for cancer stem cell research and related translational activities. For more information, visit www.cancerstemcellconsortium.ca*