Communiqué

Stem Cell & Regenerative Medicine Leaders Join Forces to Advance Canada's Position in the Field

(March 10, 2017) Montreal - Stem cell science belongs to Canada and it is powering regenerative medicine. Today, leaders from across this emerging sector have joined forces to advance the field, through the newly created Regenerative Medicine Alliance of Canada (RMAC).

The global market for regenerative medicine is expected to exceed US$49 billion by 2021. Canada is well positioned to compete by moving its innovative treatments and therapies out of the lab and into the clinic. Countries around the world, including the U.S., Japan and the U.K., have already taken bold steps through investment and regulatory modernization to capture a significant piece of the market. *Now is the time for Canada to act*.

RMAC will serve as a mechanism to support strategic activity across the regenerative medicine sector. Members will work collaboratively to share information and identify strategies that will benefit the growth of the sector. Bolstering and aligning programs, training, policy and communication will all be central themes addressed by RMAC.

The initial concept for this alliance was conceived by members of the regenerative medicine community during a workshop on the state of regenerative medicine in Canada. The workshop was held by the Council of Canadian Academies in 2016. Their newly released report notes the importance of strategic coordination amongst the stem cell and regenerative medicine community.

"On behalf of RMAC members we welcome the Council's report, which details Canada's global strength in stem cell research," said Dr. Michael Rudnicki, Interim Chair of RMAC. "It comes as no surprise that Canada continues to punch above its weight and that Canadian researchers are producing high impact work. *Science is our competitive advantage.*"

"CCRM's mission is to accelerate the commercialization of Canada's rich discovery pipeline in stem cell biology and bioengineering through its strong innovation ecosystem," said Dr. Michael May, President and CEO, CCRM. "Coordinating the key elements of Canada's Regenerative Medicine cluster and pursuing sustainable support from government, industry and other stakeholders is critical to achieving global leadership in the field."

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About the Regenerative Medicine Alliance of Canada

RMAC is a voluntary organization comprised of national, provincial and regional organizations that are committed to building a robust regenerative medicine sector in Canada. All members have mandates relevant to stem cell research and/or regenerative medicine. The founding members include: CCRM; the Centre for Drug Research and Development; CellCan; Medicine by Design; Ontario Institute for Regenerative Medicine; ThéCell; Canadian Stem Cell Foundation, and Stem Cell Network. Regenerative Medicine is commonly described as the process of replacing, engineering or regenerating human cells, tissues or organs to establish or restore normal function.

About CCRM

CCRM, a Canadian not-for-profit organization funded by the Government of Canada, the Province of Ontario, and leading academic and industry partners, supports the development of regenerative medicines and associated enabling technologies, with a specific focus on cell and gene therapy. A network of researchers, leading companies, strategic investors and entrepreneurs, CCRM aims to accelerate the translation of scientific discovery into marketable products for patients with specialized teams, funding, and infrastructure. CCRM is the commercialization partner of the Ontario Institute for Regenerative Medicine and the University of Toronto's Medicine by Design. CCRM is hosted by the University of Toronto. Visit us at ccrm.ca

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