



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CCRM receives \$15M from Government of Canada

NCE funding will enable CCRM to continue growing a pipeline of opportunities in RM

July 30, 2018 (Toronto, ON) -- CCRM has been awarded \$15 million from the Networks of Centres of Excellence (NCE) program to continue with its efforts to generate sustainable health and economic benefits for Canadians through global collaboration in regenerative medicine (RM) technologies, and cell and gene therapies. Launched in 2011 with funding from the NCE and support from its industry and academic networks, CCRM has grown to over 80 personnel and 40,000 ft² (~3,700 m²) of space supporting new technology development, new company creation, process optimization and scale-up, and advanced manufacturing. The funding from the Government of Canada reflects the impact of CCRM's past achievements, future plans and Canada's leading role in RM.

"We're thrilled to support CCRM as they continue to integrate Canada's strength in stem cell research and bioengineering with dynamic leadership," says Jean Saint-Vil, Associate Vice-President, Networks of Centres of Excellence. "Since the NCE first funded CCRM in 2011, we have watched with pride as they excelled in their pursuit to accelerate promising and potentially life-saving technologies to reach the market. We look forward to seeing the ongoing impacts of their work as a premier global enabler of regenerative medicine commercialization."

"Although CCRM has been ambitious in its scope from day one, we have executed in a stage-wise manner on our strategic promise to leverage resources, support industry and accelerate commercialization of medical innovations that will impact patients for generations," says Michael May, President and CEO, CCRM. "We are grateful to many groups, including our host institution, the University of Toronto, our other research and industry partners, and especially the NCE, alongside the Canadian granting agencies, for their show of faith that our bold vision for the next five years will continue to deliver measurable impacts."

CCRM has supported the launch and scale of five emerging companies, including two clinical stage companies: ExCellThera, which is engineering cell transplants with best-in-class blood stem cell expansion technology; and, AVROBIO, a leading gene therapy company targeting lysosomal storage disorders and one of the newest listed companies on the NASDAQ. CCRM-associated companies have raised \$446 million in the past two years. With this new funding from the NCE, CCRM will launch more new companies, scale emerging companies and attract existing companies to capitalize and scale Canada's regenerative medicine, and cell and gene therapy, ecosystems.

In 2016, CCRM established the Centre for Advanced Therapeutic Cell Technologies (CATCT), a collaborative partnership with GE Healthcare that was financially supported with \$40 million in equally-matched funds from GE Healthcare and the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario. CATCT is developing advanced manufacturing solutions that will improve and industrialize the cell manufacturing process for therapy developers around the world.

In two years, CATCT has established a comprehensive track record, completing more than 25 projects and capturing over \$4 million in contract services with industry customers, as well as securing a client satisfaction rate of 100 percent. Importantly, many customers have returned for additional projects.

In fall 2018, CCRM and the University Health Network will open a facility for delivering cell and gene therapies. The Centre for Cell and Vector Production (CCVP), a Good Manufacturing Practices facility, will manufacture clinical-grade cells for Phase 1 and 2 trials. The 14,000 ft² (~1,300 m²) CCVP is located at CCRM's facility in the heart of Toronto's world-class Discovery District.

“The University of Toronto has been pleased to support CCRM for the last seven years and we are delighted that its funding will continue with this new grant from the NCE,” says Vivek Goel, Vice-President Research and Innovation, University of Toronto. “While the university community has benefited directly from CCRM's presence, we also recognize that CCRM has helped to raise Canada's global profile in regenerative medicine and cellular therapies. We look forward to continuing our partnership role as CCRM positions Canada as a global leader in cell manufacturing, while also launching companies and creating new jobs.”

Regenerative medicine, including cell and gene therapy, harnesses the power of (stem) cells, biomaterials, molecules and genetic modification to repair, regenerate or replace diseased cells, tissues and organs. This approach is disrupting the traditional biotechnology and pharmaceutical industries with the promise of revolutionary new cures for devastating and costly conditions such as heart disease, diabetes and cancer.

The current global market for regenerative medicine is USD\$36B and forecasted to grow to reach USD\$49.41B by 2021.¹ There were 959 clinical trials in cell, gene and tissue therapy underway worldwide at the close of the first quarter of 2018.² In 2017, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the first cellular immunotherapies and gene therapies, alongside reimbursements by the U.S. Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. This has resulted in record-breaking investment and acquisitions in the sector.

¹ Regenerative Medicines Market by Therapy (Cell Therapy, Gene Therapy, Immunotherapy, Tissue Engineering), Product (Cell-based, Acellular), Application (Orthopaedic & Musculoskeletal Spine, Dermatology, Cardiovascular, Central Nervous System), Region - Global Forecast to 2021. marketsandmarkets.com. Website, July 2016.

² Alliance for Regenerative Medicine Q1 2018 Data Report

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, investors and entrepreneurs, CCRM aims to accelerate the translation of scientific discovery into new companies and marketable products for patients, with specialized teams, dedicated funding, and unique 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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