

Memorandum

Office of the Vice Principal (Research & International Relations)

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TO: Board of Governors

FROM: Rose Goldstein, Vice Principal (Research & International Relations)

SUBJECT: Interinstitutional Research Collaboration Agreement for project funded through the Genome Canada Genomics and Feeding the Future: 2014 Large Scale Applied Research Project Competition

DATE: October 8, 2015

DOCUMENT #: GD15-11

ACTION REQUIRED: INFORMATION APPROVAL/DECISION

ISSUE & EXPECTED OUTCOME: Board approval is sought to execute an Interinstitutional Research Collaboration Agreement valued at \$9.8 million dollars.

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE:

Genome Canada launched a request for applications in August 2014 in order to fund large-scale research projects focusing on the application of genomics in the agri-food and fisheries/aquaculture sectors to address challenges and opportunities related to global food safety, security and sustainable production, and thereby contributing to Canadian bio-economy and the well-being of Canadians.

The application co-led by Dr. Lawrence Goodridge, from McGill's Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Science and Dr. Roger C. Levesque (Université Laval) entitled: "A Syst-omics approach to ensuring food safety and reducing the economic burden of Salmonellosis" has been selected for funding. Drs. Goodridge and Levesque are leading a team that is using whole genome sequencing to identify the specific Salmonella strains that cause human disease and will use this knowledge to develop natural biosolutions to control the presence of Salmonella in fruits and vegetables growing in the fields. Further, they will develop tests to rapidly and efficiently detect the presence of Salmonella on fresh produce before it is sold to consumers, as well as tools to allow public health officials to determine the source of Salmonella outbreaks when they occur, so that contaminated food can be quickly removed from the food chain.

The project team is composed of researchers from other Canadian universities (UdeM, UBC, Dalhousie, Wilfrid Laurier), international universities (U of California, U of Florida) as well as governmental agencies (Institut national de Sante Publique du Quebec, Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Public Health Agency of Canada, Health Canada and Agriculture and Agrifood Canada) and various industry partners (Intralytix, ThermoFisher, bioMérieux, Qiagen)

The \$9.8 million dollars in funding is provided in part by Genome Canada, but also includes a substantial contribution from Genome Quebec, Genome British Columbia and in-kind contributions from many of the above-listed partners. McGill University is also providing a \$280K cash contribution to the project.

ALIGNMENT WITH MISSION AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

This agreement is for a project that is in line with the Office of the Vice Principal, Research & International Relation's mission to increase research intensity/revenues at McGill. It is also aligned with McGill's commitment to education and health research.

COMPLIANCE WITH UNIVERSITY POLICY:

This agreement complies with standard university policies (Intellectual Property and Conduct of Research). It is presented to the Board of Governors in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations Relating to the Approval of Contracts and Signing Authority.

COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION/ EXTERNAL REGULATIONS:

The Interinstitutional Research Collaboration Agreement is a standard template that has been developed by Genome Quebec and is used routinely for Genome Canada funded projects. The agreement has been reviewed by the Office of Sponsored Research and Legal Services.

RISK FACTORS:

A risk factor involves the identification of approximately \$137K in matching funds in support of this project. This condition will need to be satisfied within the first eighteen months of the project.

IMPACT OF DECISION AND NEXT STEPS:

The signature of this interinstitutional research collaboration agreement prior to the October 9, 2015 deadline set by Genome Quebec/Genome Canada is necessary to ensure that this funding is maintained and the project advances.

MOTION OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL:

Be it resolved that the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Vice-Principal (Research & International Relations), approve the Interinstitutional Research Collaboration Agreement (Agreement) resulting from the Genomics and Feeding the Future 2014 Large-Scale Applied Research Project Competition and authorize the Vice-Principal (Research and International Relations), to sign the Agreement and any other related documents subsequent to review by Legal Services.

APPENDICES:

Interinstitutional Research Collaboration Agreement is available upon request
