

Memorandum

Office of the Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation)

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TO: Board of Governors
FROM: Professor Martha Crago, Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation)
SUBJECT: Interinstitutional Agreement – CFI MSI
DATE: October 5, 2017
DOCUMENT #: GD17-13

ACTION REQUIRED: INFORMATION APPROVAL/DECISION

ISSUE & EXPECTED OUTCOME Approval is sought to execute an interinstitutional agreement between McGill University, the Hospital for Sick Children and the University of British Columbia for a Canada Foundation for Innovation-Major Science Initiatives Award for CGEn (*Canada's Genomics Enterprise*), valued at \$11.9 million.

BACKGROUND & RATIONALE **CGEn (Canada's Genomics Enterprise):** CGEn links three nationally funded genomics centres in Montreal (The McGill University and Genome Québec Innovation Centre-MUGQIC), Toronto (The Centre for Applied Genomics) and Vancouver (Canada's Michael Smit Genome Science Centre). CGEn is a coordinated framework for open access and collaborative genome sequencing across Canada, with a goal to ensure that the highest quality and the most cost-effective whole genome sequencing is available to Canadian researchers. CGEn enables research in agriculture, forestry, fishery, environment, and medical sciences.

CFI-MSI Award: The Canada Foundation for Innovation (CFI)-Major Science Initiatives (MSI) Award program supports the operations and maintenance of national research facilities. The Hospital for Sick Children, an affiliate of the University of Toronto, along with McGill and the University of British Columbia, submitted an application to the CFI-MSI program for CGEn. The application was successful and was awarded funding on September 19, 2016.

The release of funds by CFI is conditional upon executing an interinstitutional agreement (IIA) among the lead institution, the Hospital for Sick Children, and the two partners, McGill and the University of British Columbia. The total project cost for CGEn for the three sites is \$111.2 million over five years; McGill's portion of this amount will be \$30.6 million over five years.

CFI-MSI awarded \$32 million for CGEn, split amongst all three institutions. \$11.9 million of the \$32 million will be transferred to McGill to support the operation and maintenance costs of MUGQIC, under the leadership of Dr. Mark Lathrop.

Institutional Commitments: Co-funding for the McGill portion of the award will come from forecasted user fees generated from MUGQIC, estimated at \$8.4 million, and secured federal grants from Genome Canada, estimated at \$8.6 million, and the CFI Infrastructure Operating Fund, estimated at \$1.2 million, in addition to \$500,000 from the MUGQIC's operating funds.

ALIGNMENT WITH MISSION AND STRATEGIC PRIORITIES	This project is aligned with McGill's Strategic Research Plan 2013-2017 with a focus on research in genomics, proteomics, and epigenetics. In addition, this project will strengthen McGill's leadership in the pan-Canadian network of genomic research and reputation as a world-class leading, research-intensive institution.
COMPLIANCE WITH UNIVERSITY POLICY	The grant agreement is presented to the Board in accordance with the provisions of the <i>Regulations Relating to the Approval of Contracts and Signing Authority</i> . The agreement has been reviewed by the Office of the Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation) and Legal Services.
COMPLIANCE WITH LEGISLATION/ EXTERNAL REGULATIONS	The IIA is provided by the Hospital for Sick Children. It conforms to the CFI standards for agreements.
RISK FACTORS	There are minimal risks associated with the project. The agreement stipulates that " <i>Each Institution, including the Lead Institution, shall comply with the CFI Policies</i> ". McGill, the Hospital for Sick Children, the lead institution as well as the University of British Columbia, each have a respective institutional agreements in place directly with CFI to comply with CFI policies.
SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS	The research under this grant will be carried out according to McGill's current policy and procedures for sustainability. Genomics research is not expected to have significant impact on the environment.
IMPACT OF DECISION AND NEXT STEPS	The transfer of the Award to McGill University is conditional upon approval by the Board of Governors. CFI requires that IIA be executed by October 15, 2017.
MOTION OR RESOLUTION FOR APPROVAL	<i>Be it resolved that the Board of Governors, on the recommendation of the Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation), approve the Inter-Institutional Agreement between The Royal Institution for the Advancement of Learning/McGill University, the Hospital for Sick Children, and the University of British Columbia, in support of the Canada's Genomics Enterprise (CGen), and authorize the Vice-Principal (Research and Innovation) to sign the Agreement and any related documents, provided that they are reviewed by Legal Services.</i>
APPENDICES	Interinstitutional Agreement is available from the Secretariat upon request.